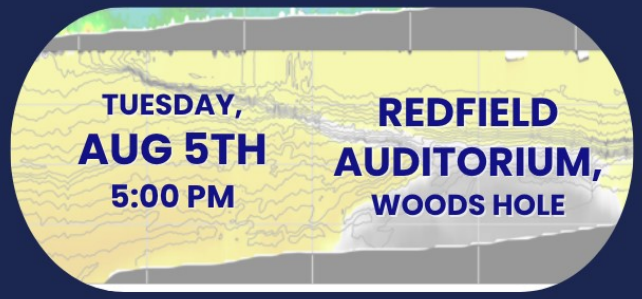
THE WHOI GEOPHYSICAL FLUID DYNAMICS PROGRAM PRESENTS

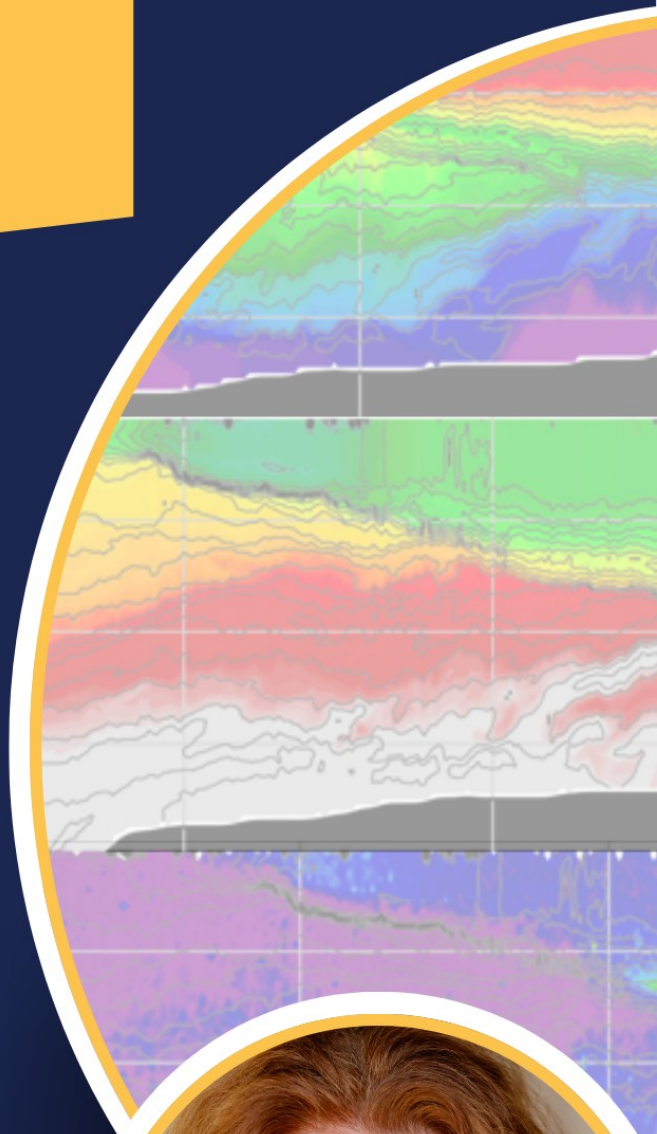
THE 2025 SEARS PUBLIC LECTURE

FRESH, SALTY OR SPICY:

HOW LAYERING OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF WATER CONTROLS HEAT, HURRICANES AND HABITATS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO



RECEPTION TO FOLLOW ON THE LAWN



The Northern Gulf of Mexico is unique because of the Mississippi River outflow: fresh water from the river is naturally much lighter than the salty ocean water, and remains on top of it. One of the implications is that large amounts of warm (but salty) water can be trapped below the surface, potentially to be released later to power approaching hurricanes. Another implication is that the fresh surface waters can effectively isolate the deeper waters, making them anoxic. Dr. McKinnon will describe the wide range of physical processes that lead to these peculiar conditions and show what we've learned about their impact on ocean physics and biology.

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