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The Sea Surface Temperature Variation during the Spring Tide and Neap Tide in the South China Sea

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The sea surface temperature (SST) data of MODIS/Terra (Moderate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) are used to analyze the SST difference between the spring tide and the neap tide in the South China Sea (SCS) from 2001 to 2013. The 4 stations from north to south in the SCS are used to investigate the variation of SST. The results show the lowest SST found on January and the highest SST found on June. The standard deviation of SST in shallow regions (St. 1 and St. 4) are larger than the deep regions (St. 2 and St. 3). During the winter and spring the standard deviation of SST at the neap tide are greater than the spring tide period. From the later winter to early summer, the SST during the neap tide period is greater than the spring tide period. They are more obvious in the shallow regions. Meanwhile the influence of tide action in the shallow regions is greater than it in the deep regions.