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David Pierce is a programmer/analyst in the Climate Research Division at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego.

He received his B.A. in physics, with honors, from the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1984, and his M.S. (1989) and Ph.D. (1993) degrees in physical oceanography, both from the University of Washington (UW). During his studies he conducted laboratory work examining how rotating fluids convect to carry cold surface waters to depth, along with matching computer simulations of the process so that the models could be compared to reality.

Pierce's research interests include variability in thermohaline circulation, which is the slow, global overturning of the ocean waters; predicting El Niño and its impacts, particularly on the western portion of the U.S.; multi-year climate variability over the North Pacific ocean and how it influences weather over North America by contributing to extended droughts, for example; and the regional effects of global climate change on the local climate of the western states. Recently, he has been working on bringing the results of climate science to the energy industry to help predict summer air-conditioning loads, among other applications.

Prior to joining Scripps in 1993, he worked as a research assistant at UW's School of Oceanography, and as a product engineer at the Intel Corporation.

Pierce and his family reside in San Diego.

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