



NOAA Technical Report ERL 379-AOML 24



STD Observations From the R/V COLUMBUS ISELIN During Phase III of GATE

**William McLeish
S. Michael Minton**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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**Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories
Miami, Florida**

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STD OBSERVATIONS FROM THE R/V COLUMBUS ISELIN
DURING PHASE III OF GATE

William McLeish¹
S. Michael Minton²

The R/V COLUMBUS ISELIN obtained 92 acceptable STD casts during Phase III of GATE. A computer processing scheme was modified for these particular data. Plots of temperature, salinity, and sigma-T versus pressure and temperature-salinity diagrams were prepared. The processed values at 1-decibar intervals were written on magnetic tape and placed in the archives of the National Oceanographic Data Center.

1. INTRODUCTION

In conjunction with the GATE operations during the period 9-19 September 1974 within the region Lat. $8^{\circ}29'$ to $9^{\circ}44'N$, Long. $19^{\circ}50'$ to $23^{\circ}13'W$, the R/V COLUMBUS ISELIN obtained 92 acceptable casts, measuring temperature and salinity vs. pressure in the upper ocean. Of these casts, 24 were obtained on 19 September in a rapid series of shallow lowerings. The data obtained during all down casts have been processed and are presented in this report.

2. THE INSTRUMENT

A Plessey Model 9040 S/T/D Environmental Profiling System generated a graph of temperature and salinity vs. depth during each cast. It also supplied these signals to a Plessey Model 8114A Digital Data Logger, which wrote the digital data onto magnetic tape. The digital data tapes were used in subsequent data processing.

The instrument recorded readings of temperature, salinity, and pressure at 4 scans/second, and the lowering rate was 20 m/min in some casts and 10 m/min in others. The range of

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the pressure sensor was 3000 decibars with a stated accuracy of 0.25% and a repeatability of 0.1% (Plessey, 1973). The stated accuracy of the temperature channel was 0.02°C with a repeatability of 0.01°C. The instruction manual stated that the accuracy of the salinity channel was 0.02 ‰ but that corrections could give an accuracy of 0.01 ‰ and that the repeatability was 0.01 ‰ (Plessey, 1973).

3. PROCESSING METHODS

While the methods used in processing STD data are generally similar to the system described by Scarlet (1975) and to the procedures used by others in CEDDA and in these laboratories, a number of modifications have been developed for processing the present data. This program uses correction equations recommended by the instrument manufacturer.

First, each measurement is converted to units of decibars (pressure), °C (temperature), or ‰ (salinity). Then the value of each data point and the difference between the data point and the previous one in the same channel are compared with an appropriate set of fairly wide limits. Any scan containing a data point outside the limits is deleted. Primarily this step removes digitizing and tape writing errors. Next, data in the pressure and temperature channels are filtered. A 0.33 Hz low-pass filter on pressure is used to reduce noise in the sink rate calculation described below. A 1 Hz low-pass filter on temperature removes digitization noise from that channel as well as the effect of the noise on the corrections to the salinity data.

The response of the temperature sensor is sufficiently slow that significant errors were produced by the conditions under which the casts were made. The temperature errors in turn introduced significant errors into the salinity channel, for which the calculated product depends on the temperature reading. The rate change of temperature is calculated by

$$\frac{\Delta T(1)}{\Delta t} = \frac{T(3) - T(1)}{2I},$$

where I = the sample interval, 0.25 sec. A forward difference calculation was selected in order to compensate in part for the time lag in the readings. The corrected temperature for each scan is given by

$$T(1)' = T(1) + \tau \frac{\Delta T(1)}{\Delta t}$$

The quantity τ is the time constant of the temperature channel quoted by the manufacturer as 0.35 sec. A protective shield about the temperature sensor was removed on 11 September, and a time constant of 0.15 sec was assumed for later casts. Salinity readings are corrected according to

$$S_c = S_o \left[1 - T_c \alpha \beta \right]$$

where T_c is the temperature correction, and α and β are coefficients calculated for each scan according to equations and laboratory data in the instruction manual (Plessey, 1973).

As the sensor assembly is lowered through a temperature gradient, a quantity of heat is conducted from the instrument case to the surrounding water. The present observations indicate that, when the descent rate is sufficiently decreased by the roll of the ship, heating of water around the salinity sensor can produce significant errors in that channel. The errors have a sign opposite to those induced by the slow response of the temperature sensor. Previous calculation procedures attempted to avoid errors resulting from decreased descent rate by deleting all except the first scan at each depth. Typically about 20 percent of the data are retained in that process. The present calculation determines the sink rate from the filtered depth values at each scan and deletes those scans with sink rates less than 24 or 12 m/sec or at pressures less than those of previously accepted scans. Typically this procedure retains approximately 40 percent of the scans.

Next, calibration offset values derived from external observations are added to the pressure and salinity values. The pressure offset is obtained by comparison of instrument readings near the surface with direct observation of depth, and the salinity offset is obtained by comparison of the salinities of water samples with the instrument readings at the same depth. Erratic salinity readings are detected by comparison with neighboring values. A least-squares linear fit to the six salinity values about each reading (3 before and 3 after) is determined, and the standard deviation of the six differences from the fit line is calculated. A weighted mean of the surrounding values is obtained and compared with the observed value. When the difference is greater than 2.5 times the standard deviation, the salinity value is replaced by the weighted mean. This procedure usually changes one to 7 percent of the salinity values. In a check for gravitational stability, any scans are deleted for which the sigma-T value is more than 0.05 units smaller than any such preceding value. Seldom are more than four scans in a cast rejected by this process.

In order to remove some remaining salinity errors, overlapping groups of 24 scans are selected, and a straight line-root mean square best fit to the salinity values is calculated for each segment. Scans are deleted for which the salinity value differs by more than 0.05% from the best fit line. The temperature values within each 1 decibar pressure interval are averaged, and the salinity values are treated similarly. Finally, a low-pass filter with a cutoff of 0.2 cycles/meter is applied to the averaged salinity readings.

4. PRESENTATION OF DATA

Table 1 lists the casts that have been processed, and includes the number assigned to each cast before processing, then the location, date, start time, depth range, lowering rate, and time constant used. Up-casts and special maneuvers have not been processed. Graphs for each cast include depth-temperature, depth-salinity, and depth-sigma-T plots and a temperature-salinity diagram.

The entire set of processed data at one-decibar pressure intervals is written on a magnetic tape labeled SGAT02 that was submitted to archives of the National Oceanographic Data Center, Washington, D. C.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mr. F. Ostapoff, Director, Sea-Air Interaction Laboratory, was the Chief Scientist aboard the R/V COLUMBUS ISELIN during the above period, and Dr. Ants Leetmaa, Physical Oceanography Laboratory, collected the data. Both furnished valuable advice in the processing of the data.

6. REFERENCES

Plessey Environmental Systems, "Model 9040 S/T/D Environmental Profiling System Instruction Manual," Plessey, San Diego, 1973.

Scarlet, R. I., A data processing method for salinity, temperature and depth profiles, Deep-Sea Research 22, 509-515, 1975.

Table 1

Catalog of STD Casts

Cast #	Lat.	Location Long.	Date 1974	Start Time	Depth Range m	Lowering Rate m/min	Time Constant sec
2	8°29.49'N	23°02.26'W	Sept. 9	0130	2-275	20	0.35
3	"	"		0230	1-276		
4	"	"		0330	1-514		
5	8°54.13'N	23°02.26'W		0430	2-530		
6	"	"		0620	2-508		
7	"	"		0720	2-548		
8	"	"		0815	3-056		
9	"	"		0910	141-532		
11	"	"		1105	2-538		
12	"	"		1200	2-494		
13	8°54.13'N	23°13.12'W	Sept. 10	0100	2-512		
14	"	"		0200	1-524		
15	"	"		0300	1-488		
16	"	"		0650	4-516		
17	"	"		0750	1-548		
18	"	"		0845	2-515		
19	"	"		0938	2-542		
20	"	"		1305	4-513		
21	"	"		1440	1-511		
22	8°54.13'N	23°13.13'W		1553	2-611		
23	"	"		1709	3-950		
24	"	"		1836	2-512		
25	"	"		1930	2-514		
26	8°54.42'N	22°50.30'W	Sept. 11	1043	3-516		
27	"	"		1139	2-532		

Table 1 (Continued)

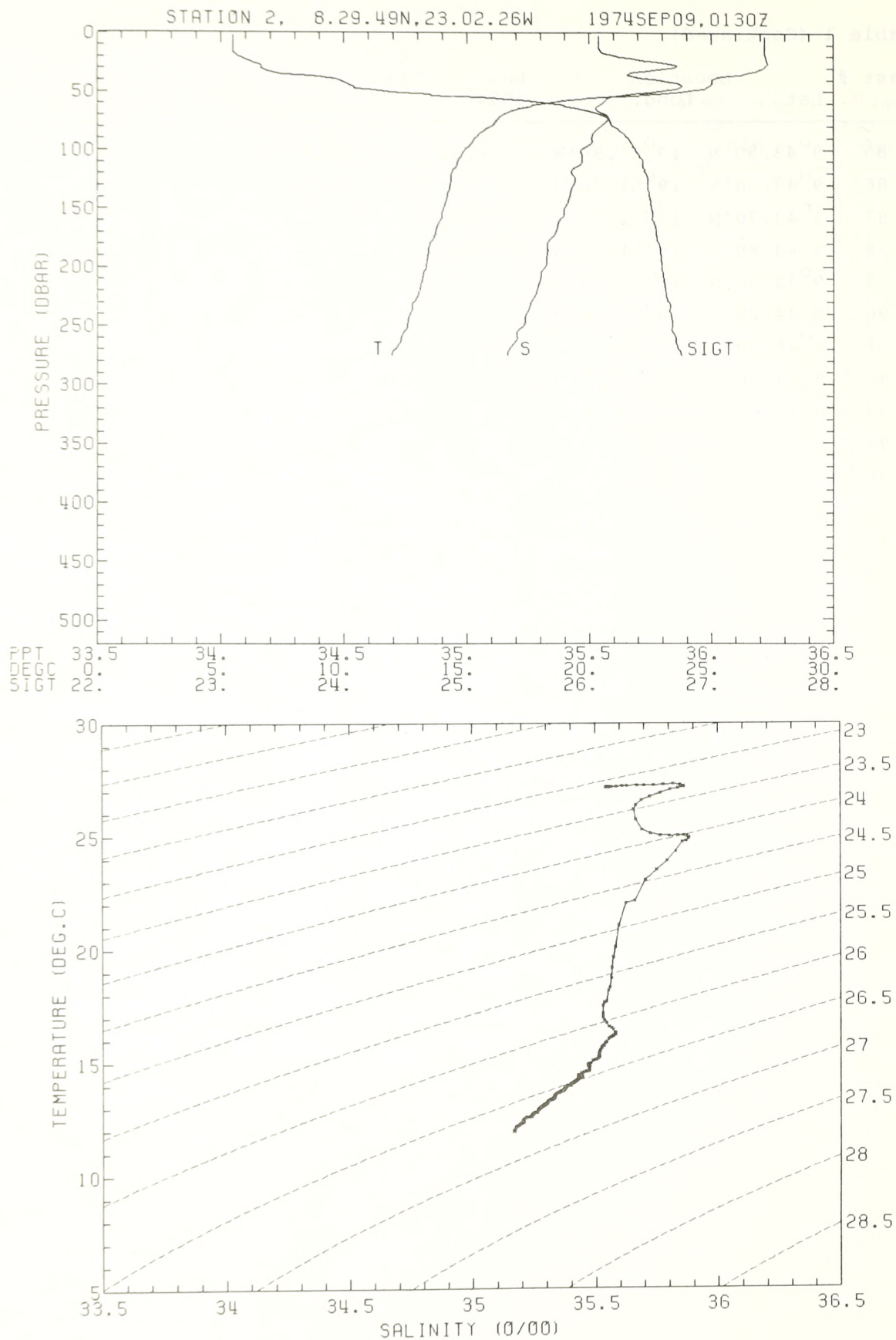
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28	8°54.42'N	22°50.30'W	Sept. 11	1238	1-514	20	0.35	
29	"	"		1348	1-511	↓	↓ 0.15 ↓	
30	"	"		1550	4-514			
31	"	"		1650	2-533			
32	"	"		1957	65-516			
33	"	"		2131	3-109			
34	"	"		2200	3-212			
35	"	"		2230	3-114			
36	"	"	Sept. 12	0110	16-216	10		
37	"	"		0210	2-199	↓		↓
38	"	"		0310	5-223			
39	"	"		0430	3-209			
40	"	"		0520	2-207			
41	"	"		0608	2-207			
42	"	"		0650	2-216			
43	"	"		0800	4-214			
44	"	"		0900	3-212			
45	"	"		1000	3-212			
46	"	"		1100	3-210			
47	"	"		1200	2-213			
48	"	"		1245	5-53	↓	↓	
49	"	"		1407	9-56			
51	9°11.40'N	23°12.00'W		1914	2-508			20
53	8°47.00'N	23°12.20'W	Sept. 13	0000	2-513	↓	↓	
54	8°36.50'N	23°12.70'W		0210	4-510			
55	8°25.90'N	23°13.40'W		0440	4-520			
56	8°29.49'N	23°02.26'W		0700	4-559			↓

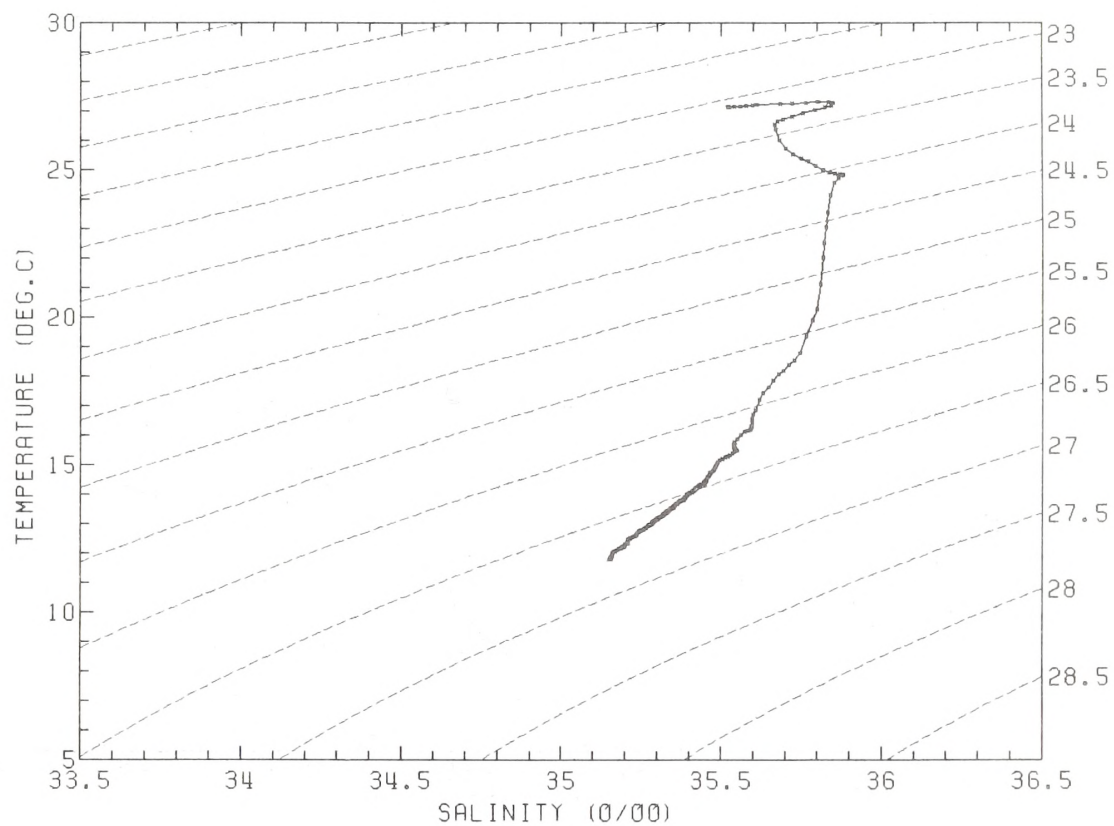
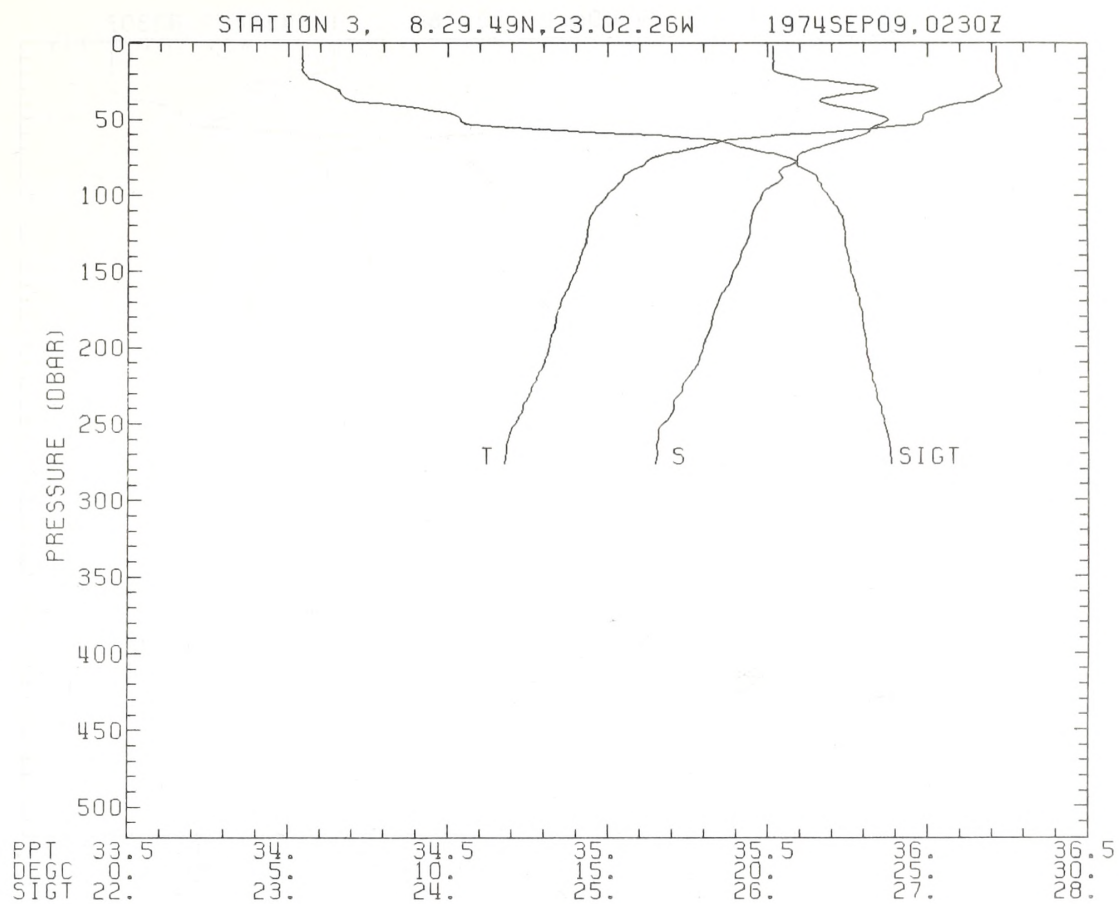
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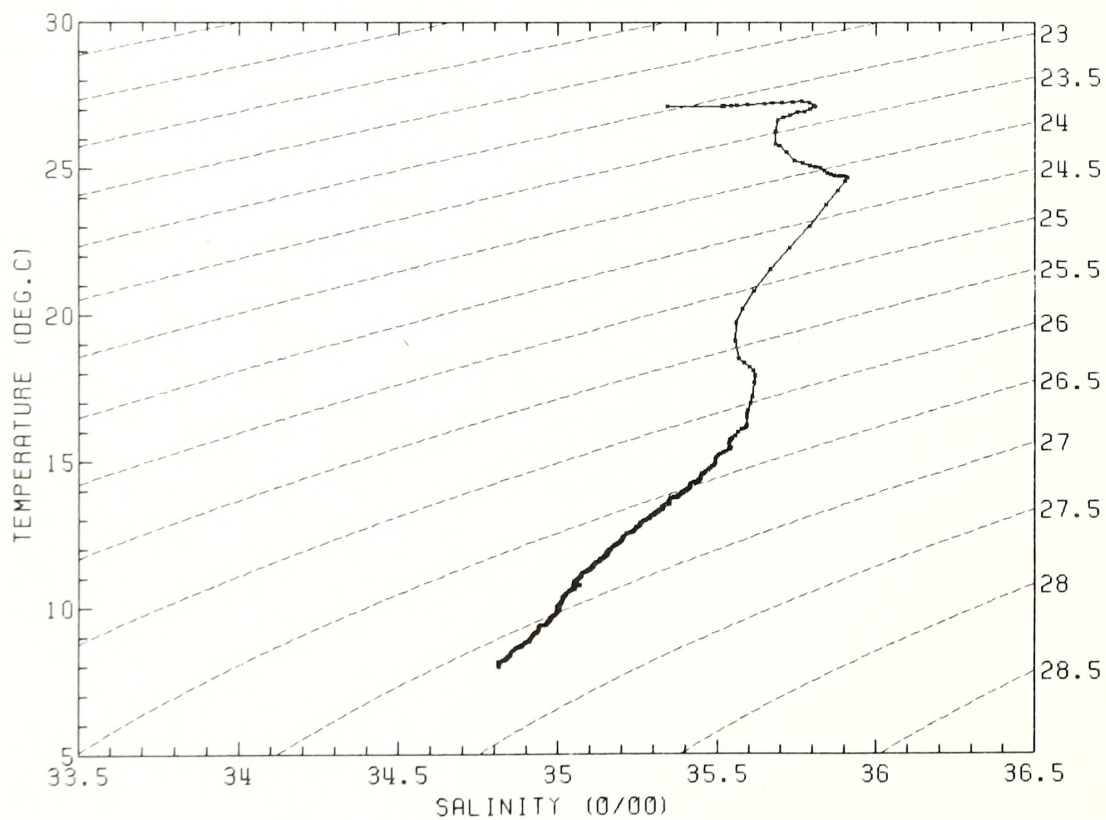
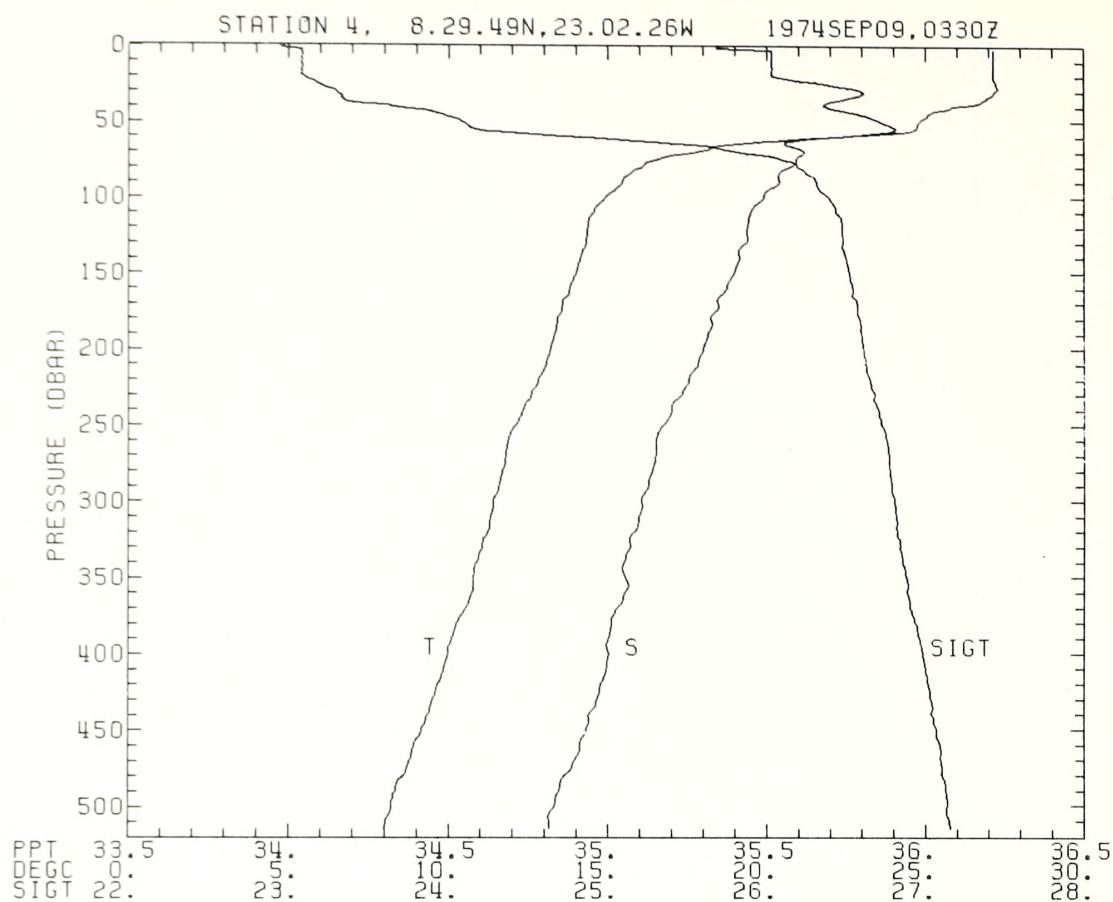
Cast #	Location Lat. Long.	Date 1974	Start Time	Depth Range m	Lowering Rate m/min	Time Constant sec
57	8°29.49'N 23°02.26'W	Sept. 13	0832	4-108	10	0.15
58	8°54.42'N 22°50.30'W	Sept. 14	0737	4-114	↓ 20	↓
59	"		0858	2-107		
60	"		0952	3-113		
61	"		1058	3-116		
62	"		1158	4-117		
63	"		1414	4-111		
64	"		1459	4-115		
65	"		1555	3-140		
66	8°56.09'N 22°47.03'W	Sept. 15	1745	4-231		
67	8°47.03'N 22°45.03'W		1958	2-217		
68	8°57.02'N 22°46.04'W		2225	3-221	↓	↓
69	8°48.06'N 22°45.05'W	Sept. 16	0105	3-210		
70	8°56.07'N 22°46.03'W		0351	2-214		
71	8°29.49'N 23°02.26'W	Sept. 17	2220	2-516		
72	"	Sept. 18	0008	4-538		
74	9°41.10'N 19°55.40'W	Sept. 19	1455	2-113		
75	"		1526	3-113		
76	"		1537	1-57		
77	9°41.40'N 19°54.90'W		1556	1-109		
78	9°41.60'N 19°54.70'W		1626	2-111		
79	9°41.90'N 19°54.30'W		1655	2-111		
80	9°42.20'N 19°53.90'W		1758	2-50		
81	9°42.90'N 19°52.70'W		1955	4-111		
82	9°43.10'N 19°52.60'W		2010	2-115		
83	9°43.20'N 19°52.40'W		2025	2-112		
84	9°43.30'N 19°52.52'W		2040	2-112	↓	↓

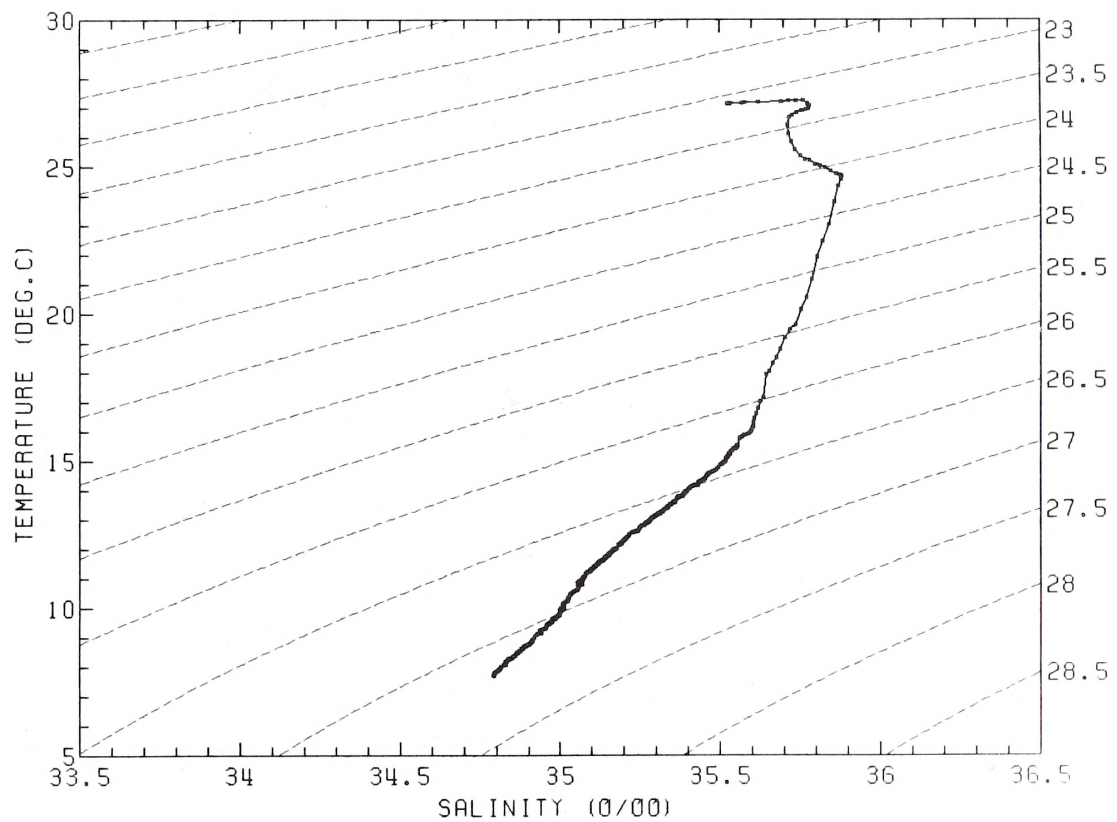
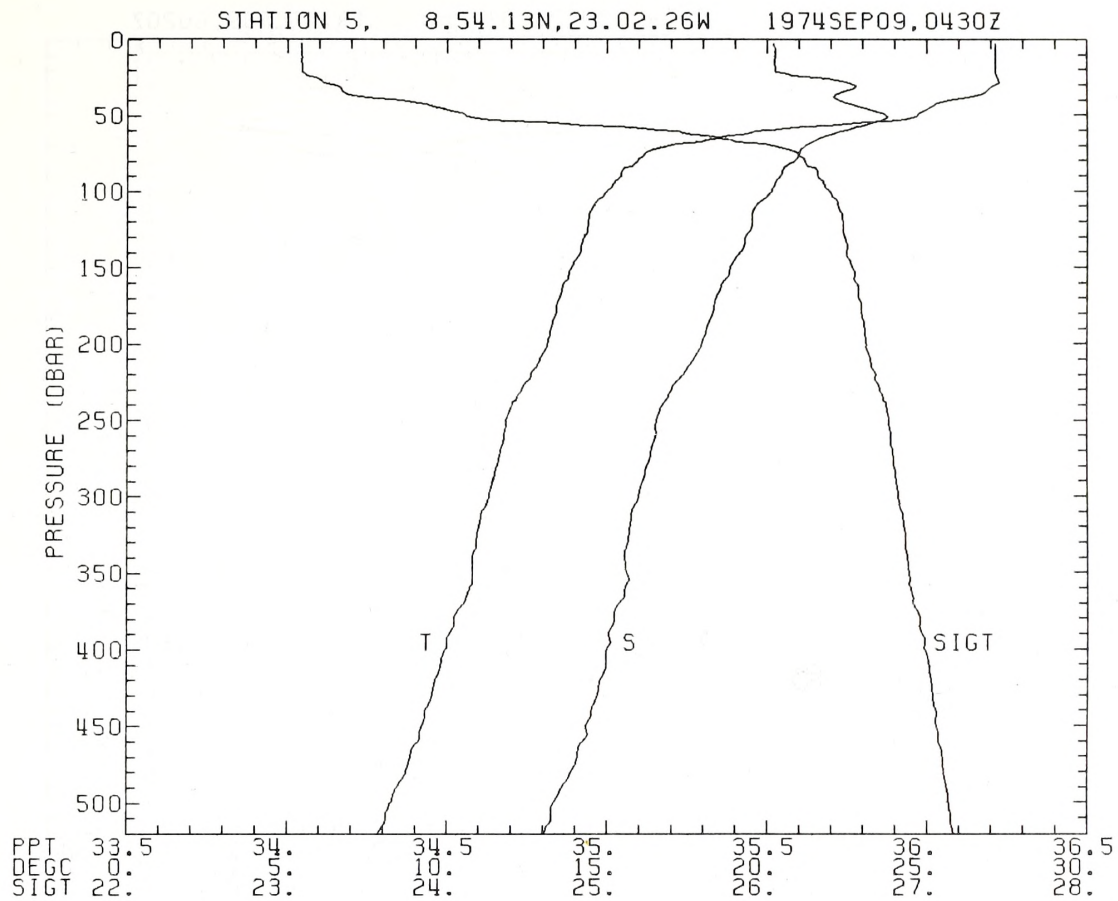
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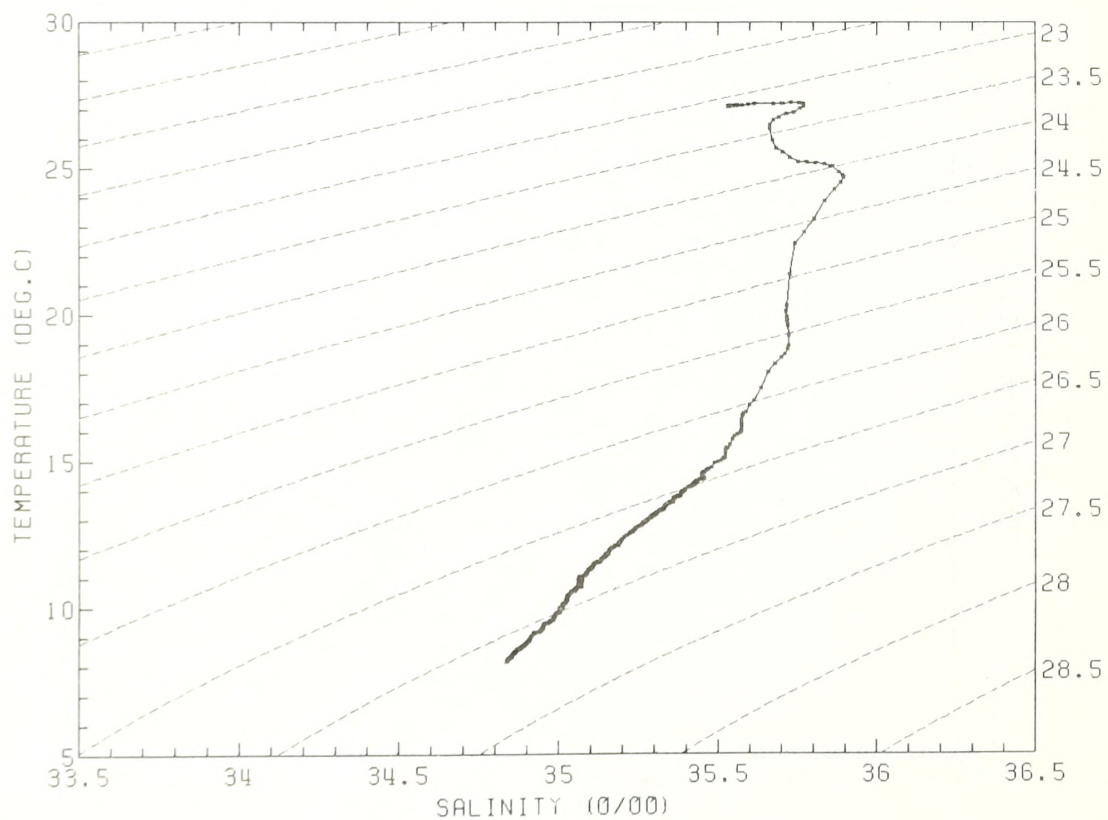
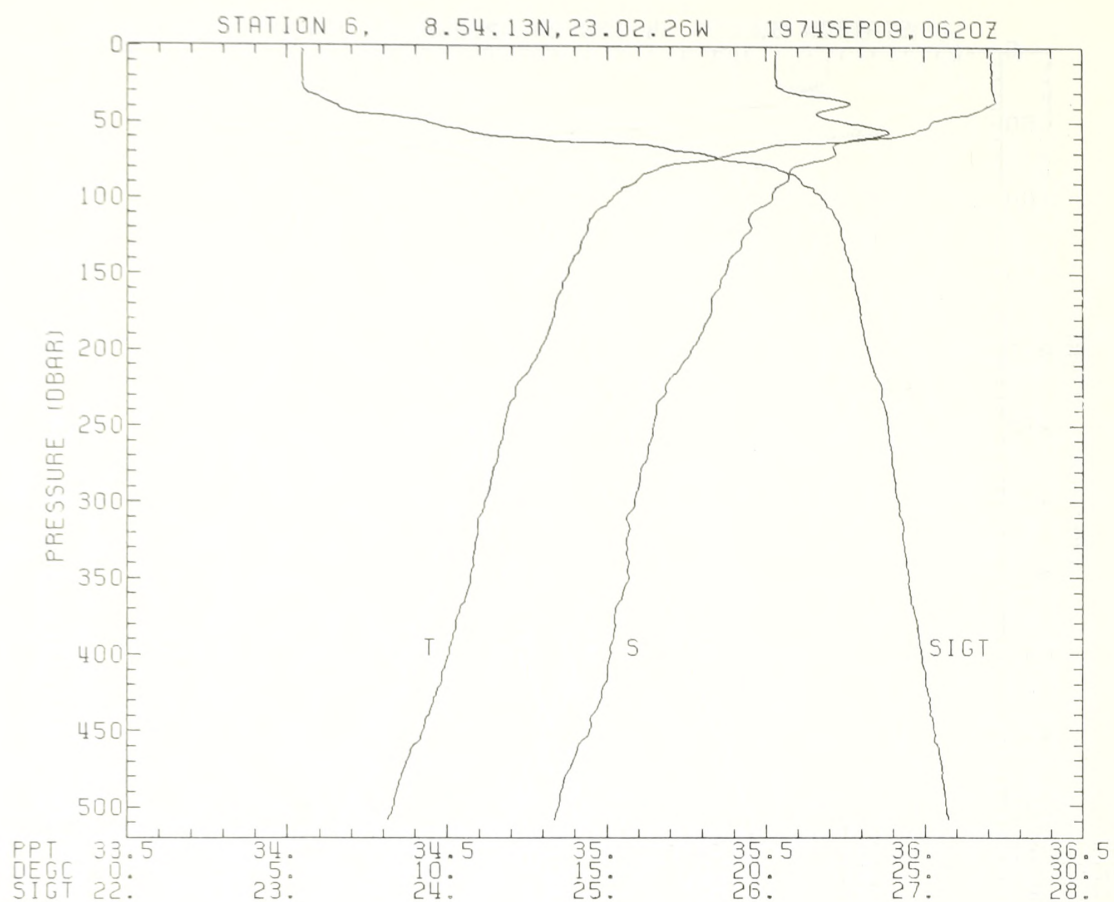
Cast #	Lat.	Location Long.	Date 1974	Start Time	Depth Range m	Lowering Rate m/min	Time Constant sec
85	9°43.50'N	19°51.90'W	Sept. 19	2055	2-113	20	0.15
86	9°43.60'N	19°51.70'W		2110	1-110		
87	9°43.70'N	19°51.50'W		2125	1-128		
88	9°43.80'N	19°51.30'W		2140	41-115		
89	9°43.90'N	19°51.20'W		2155	2-115		
90	9°44.20'N	19°51.10'W		2210	1-117		
91	9°44.30'N	19°50.80'W		2225	4-117		
92	9°44.30'N	19°50.70'W		2240	1-117		
93	9°44.60'N	19°50.40'W		2255	2-111		
94		"		2310	3-115		
95		"		2325	2-117		
96		"		2340	2-115		
97		"		2355	2-115		

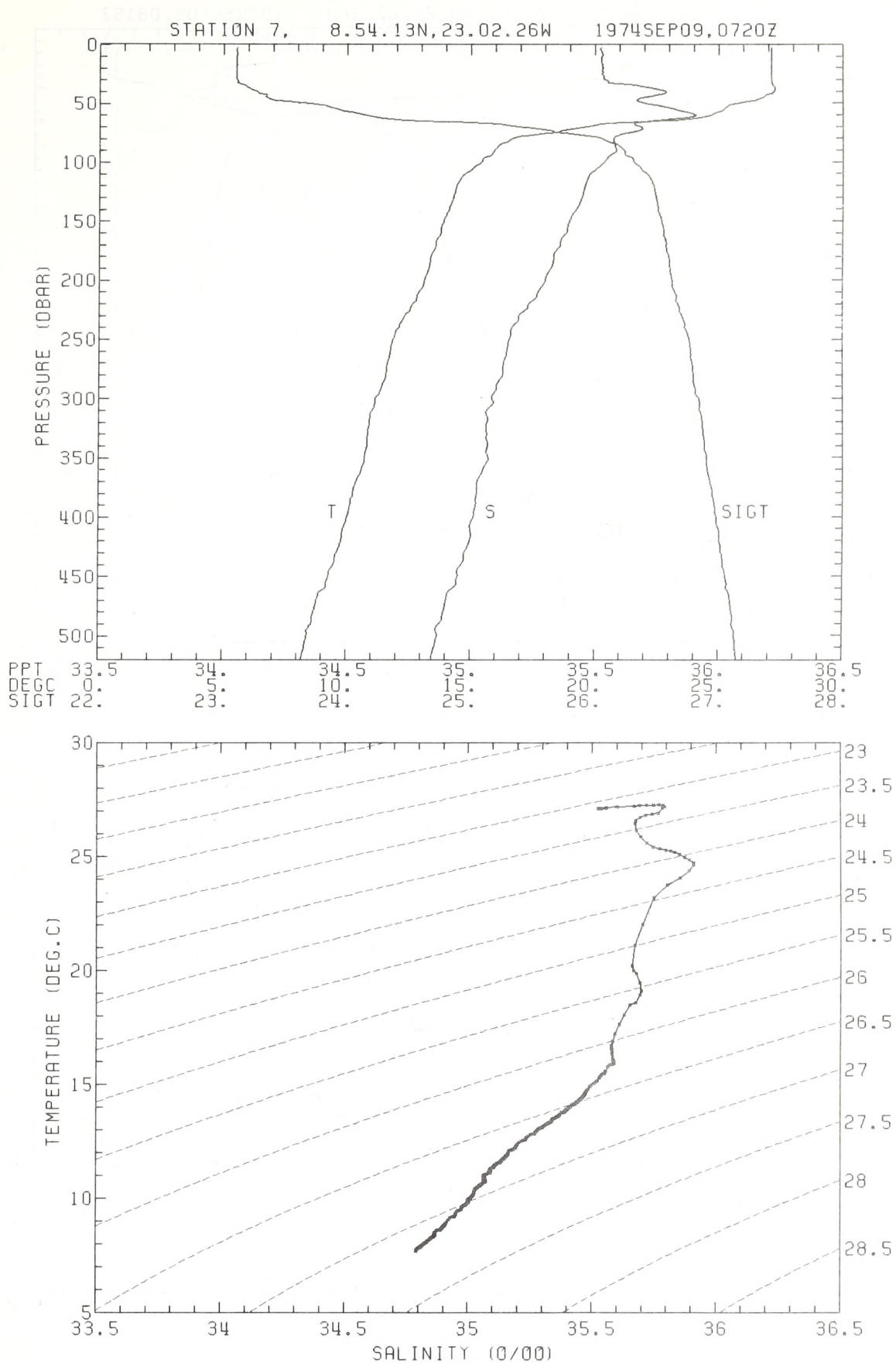


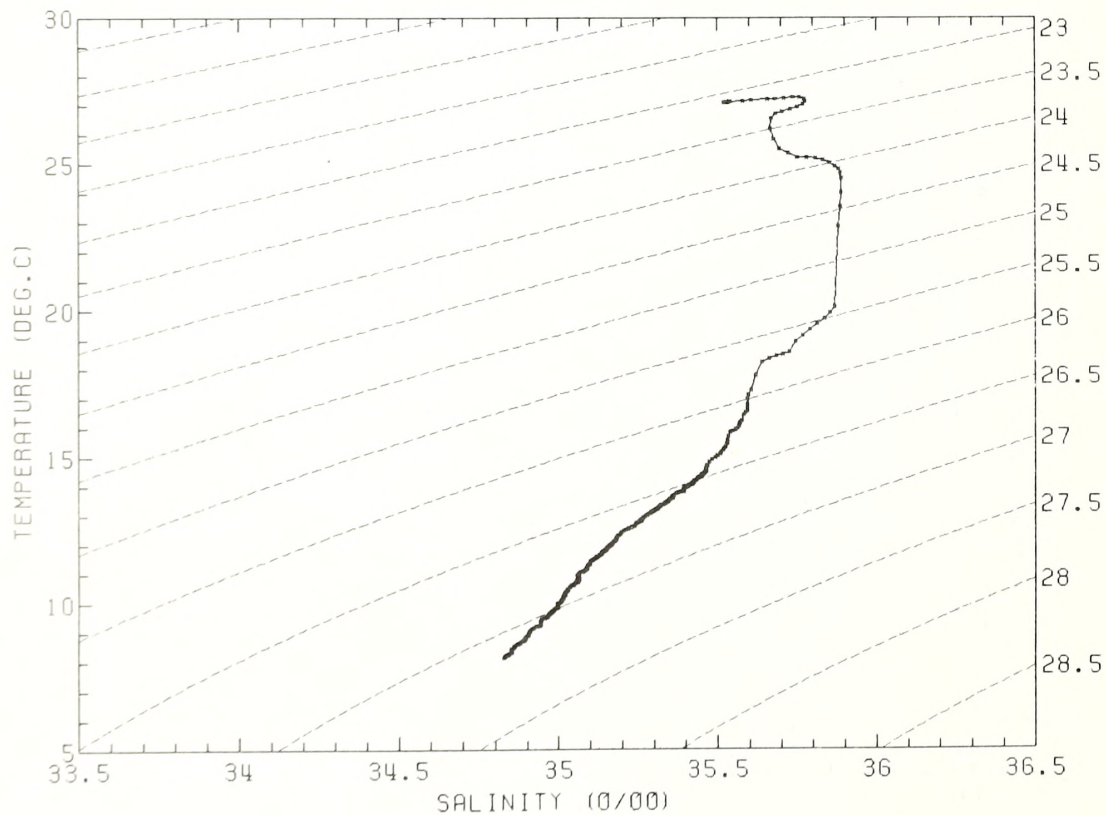
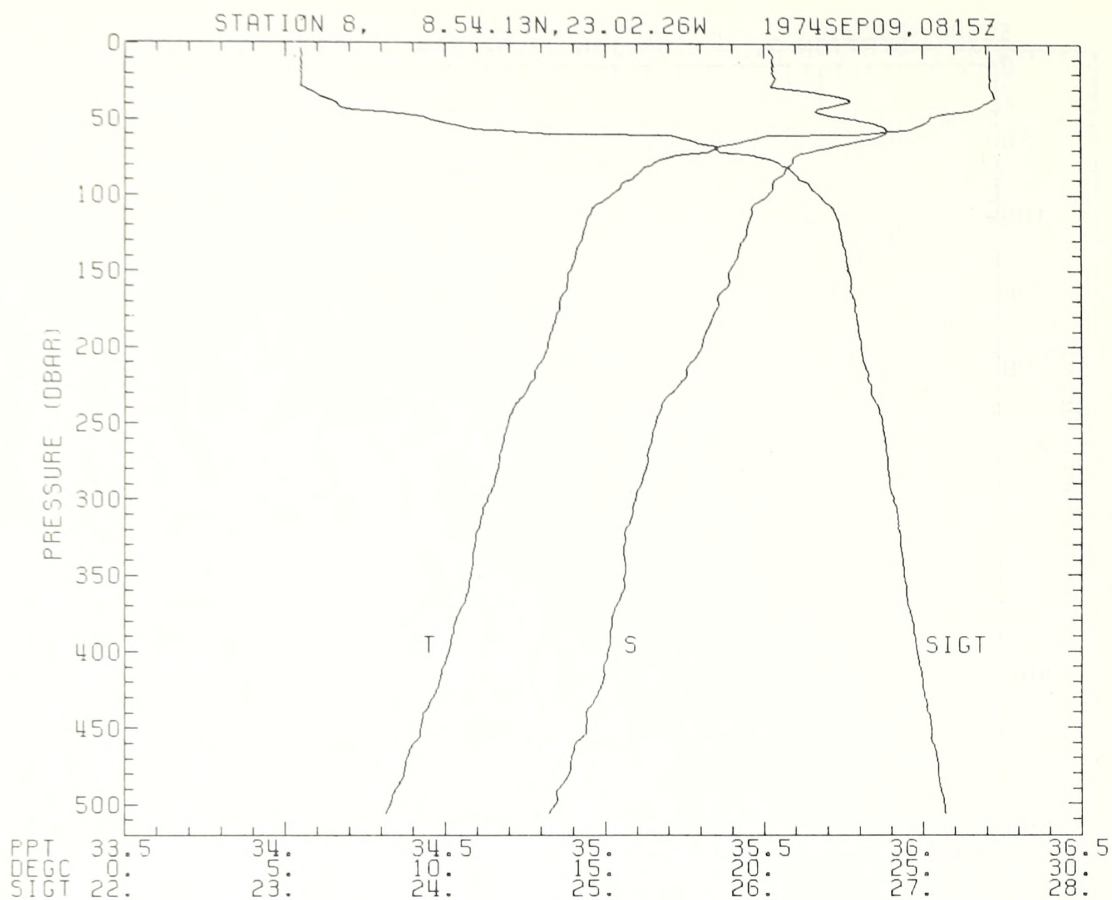


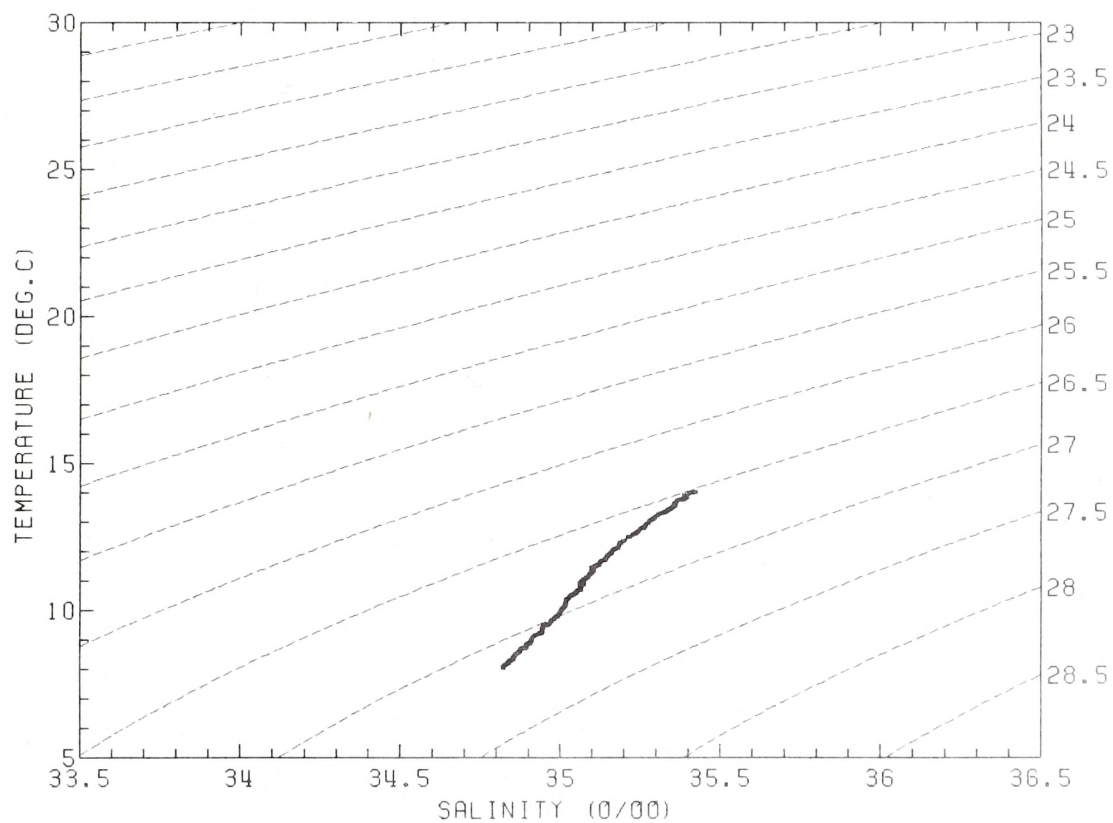
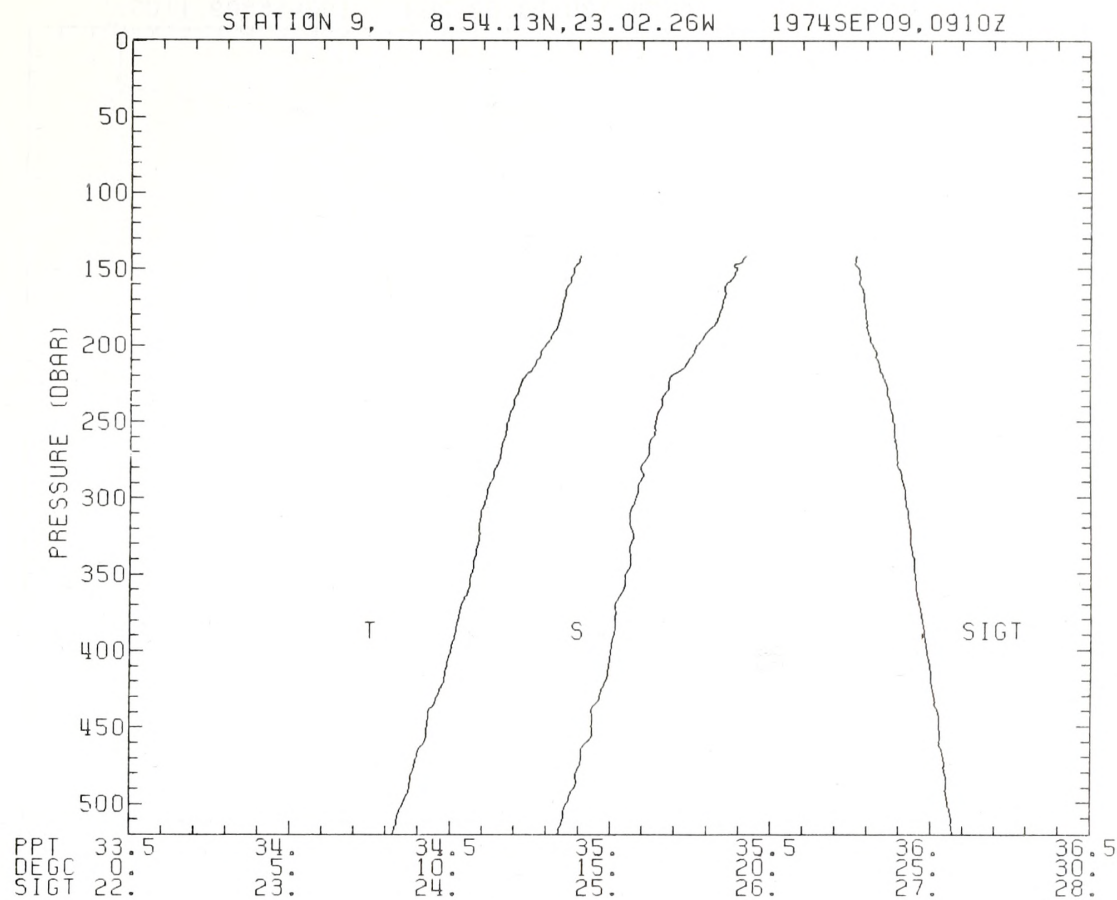


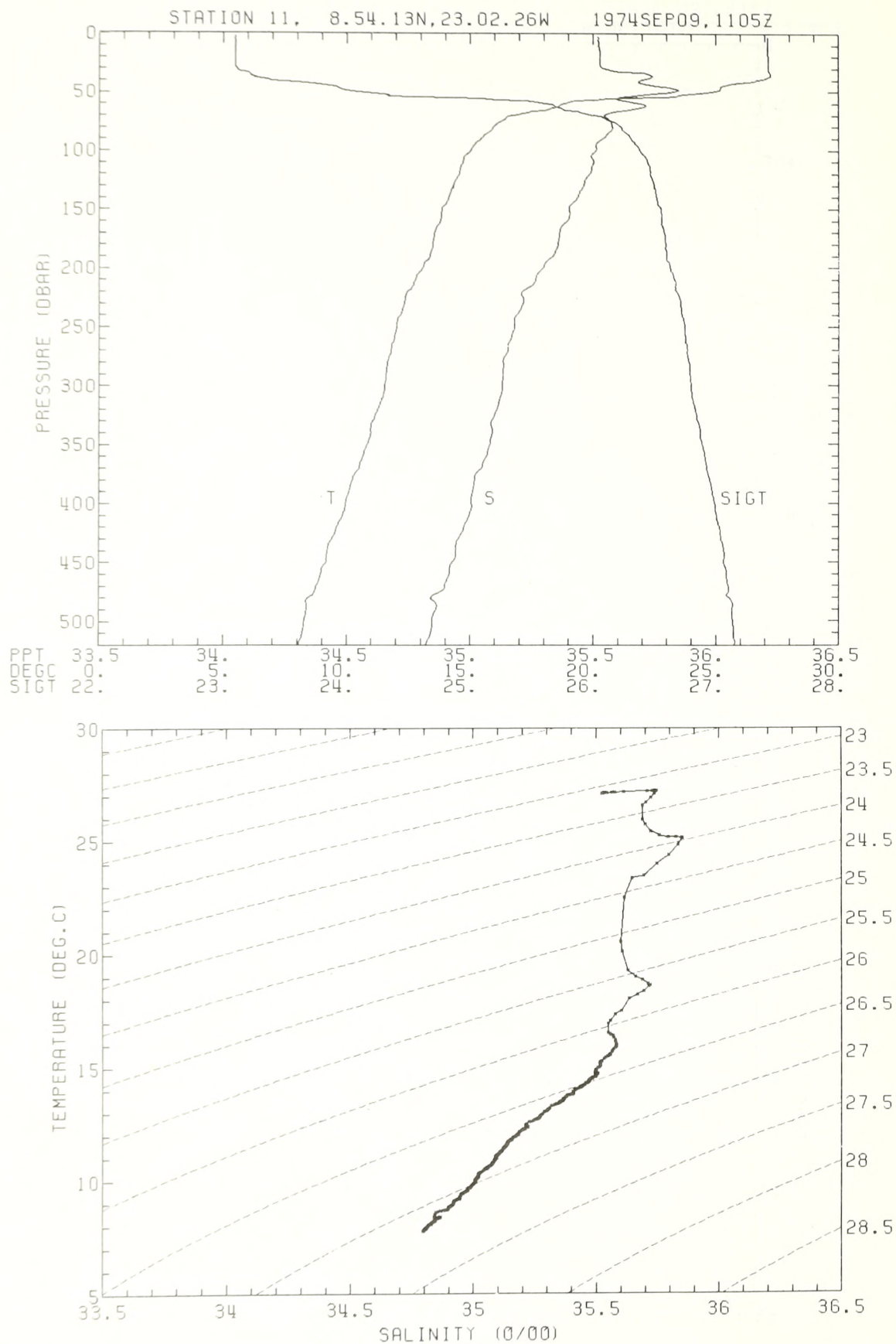


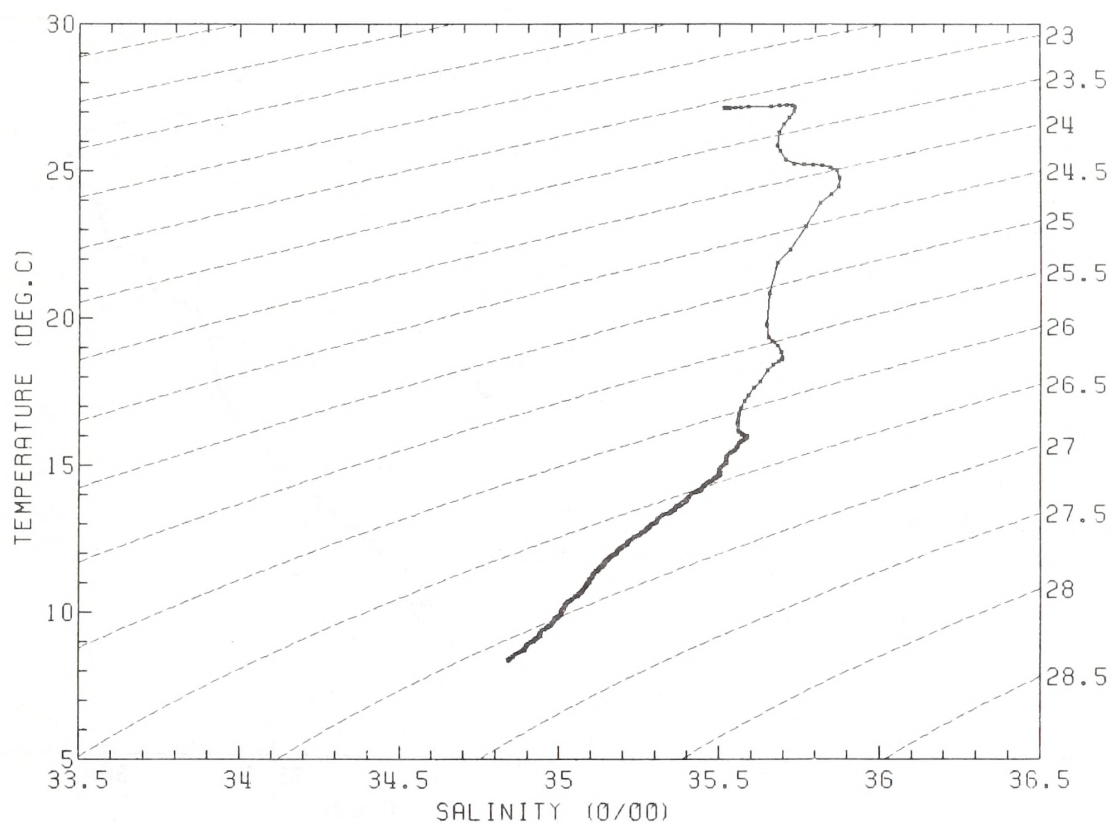
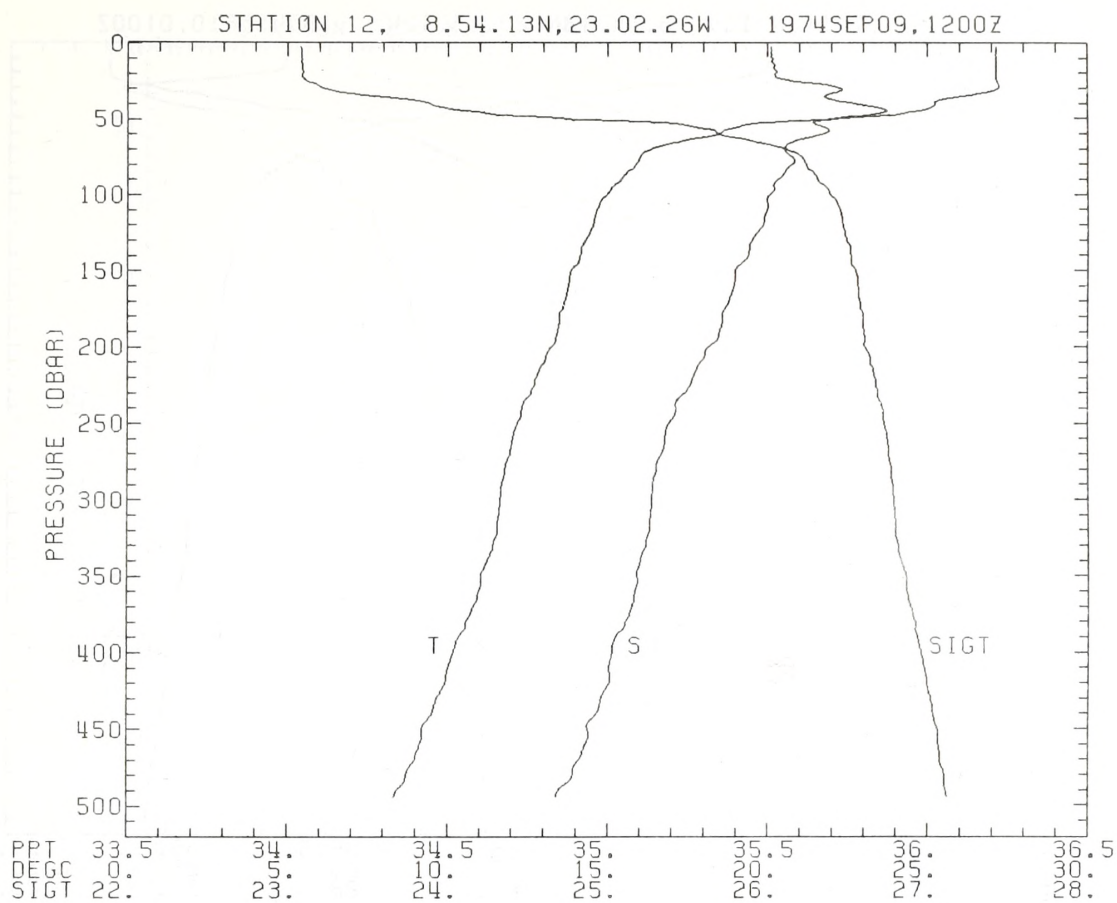


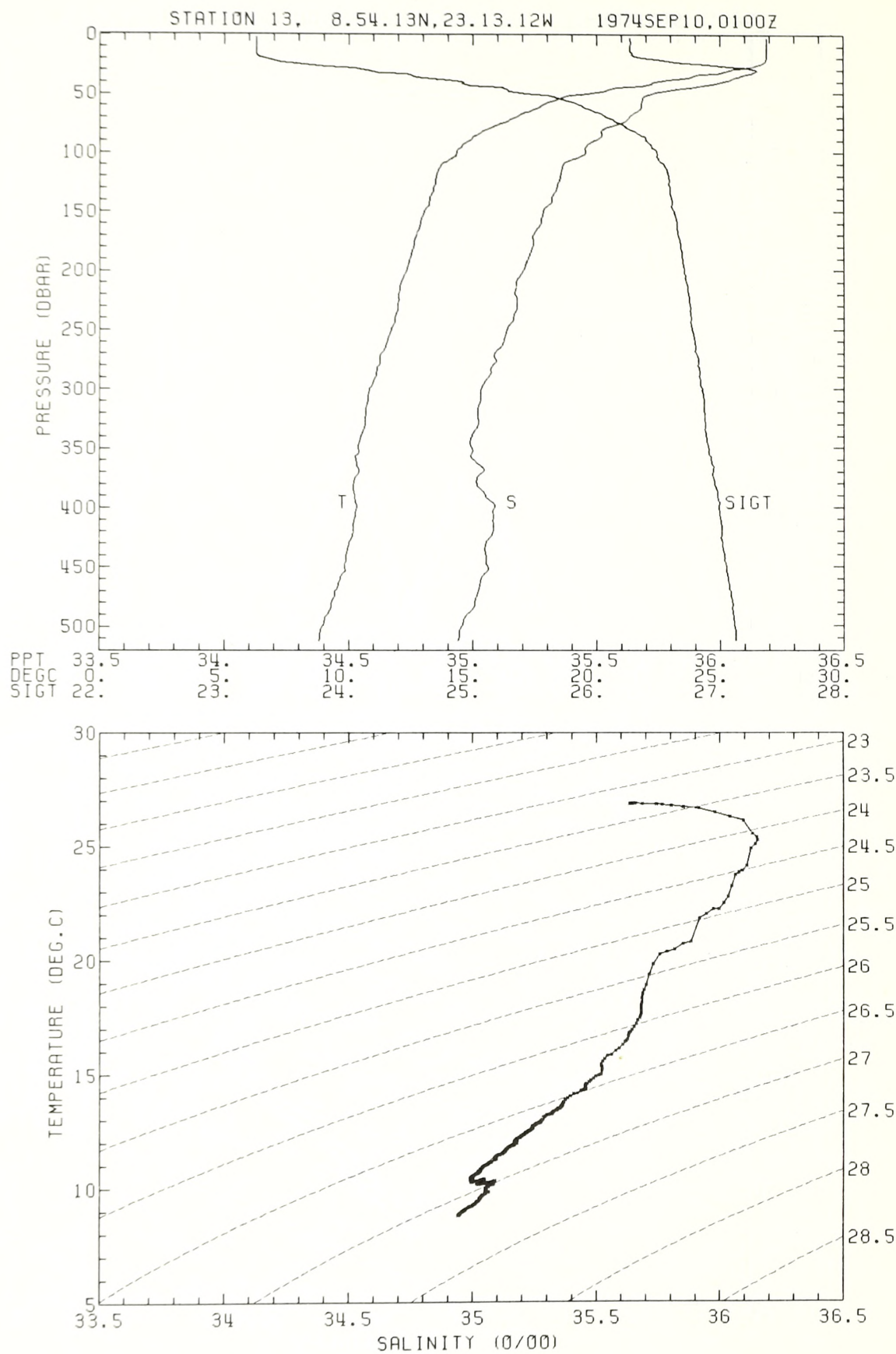


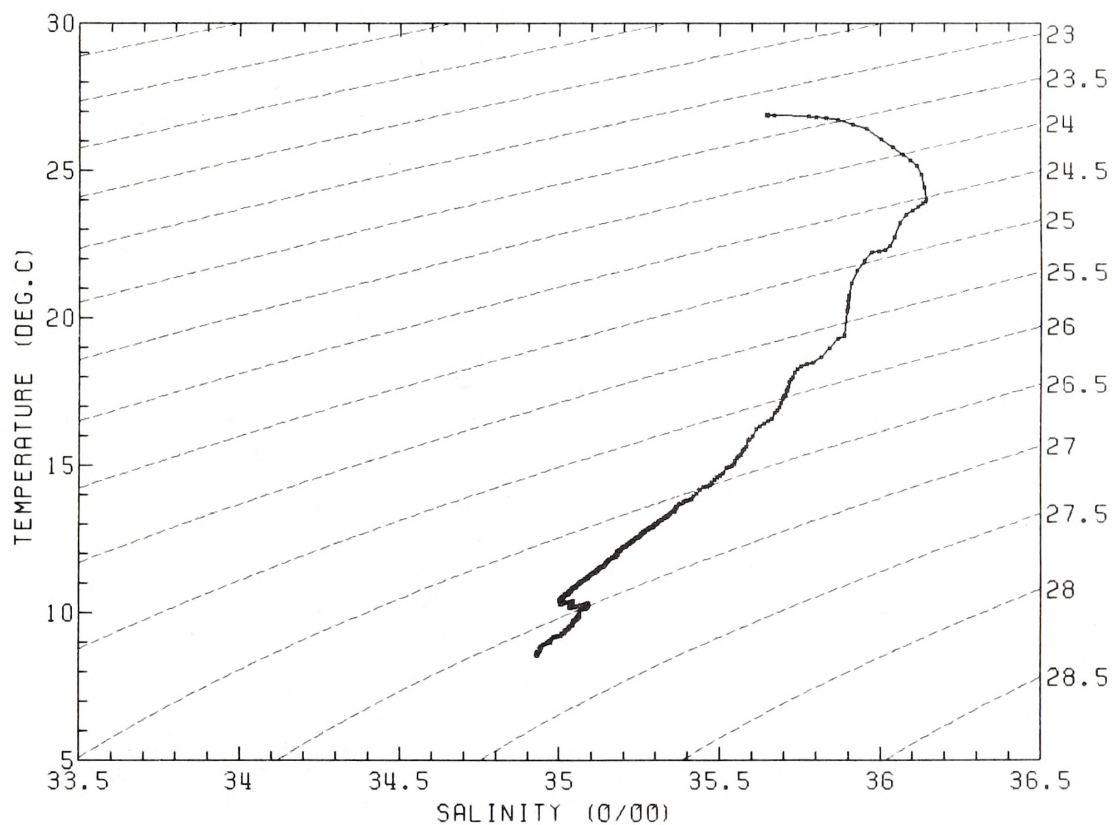
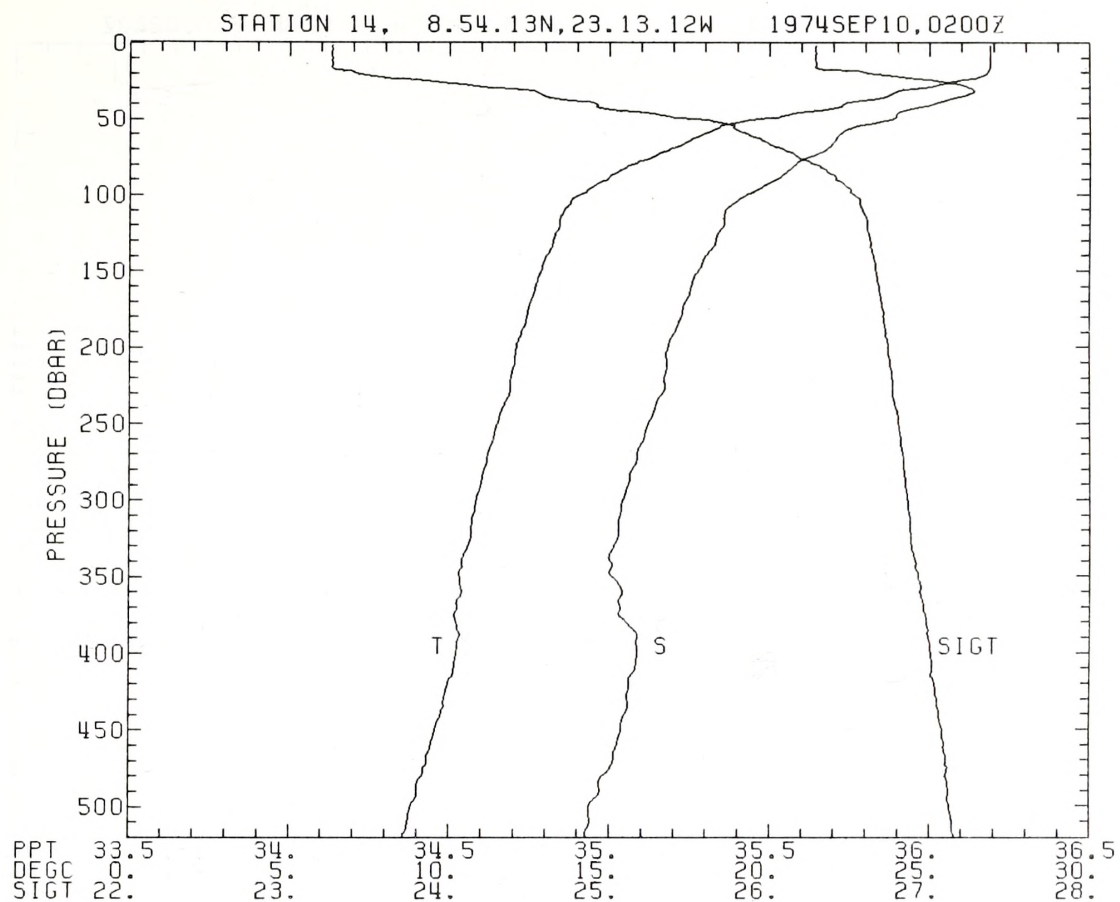


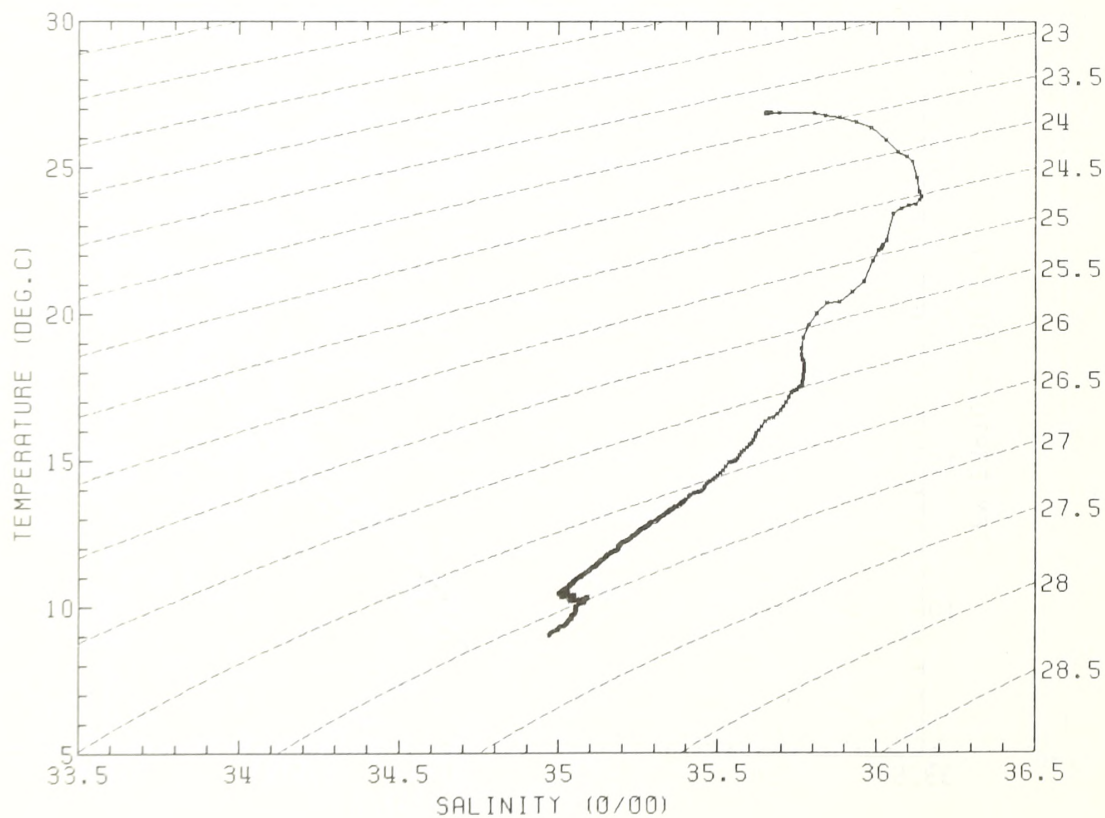
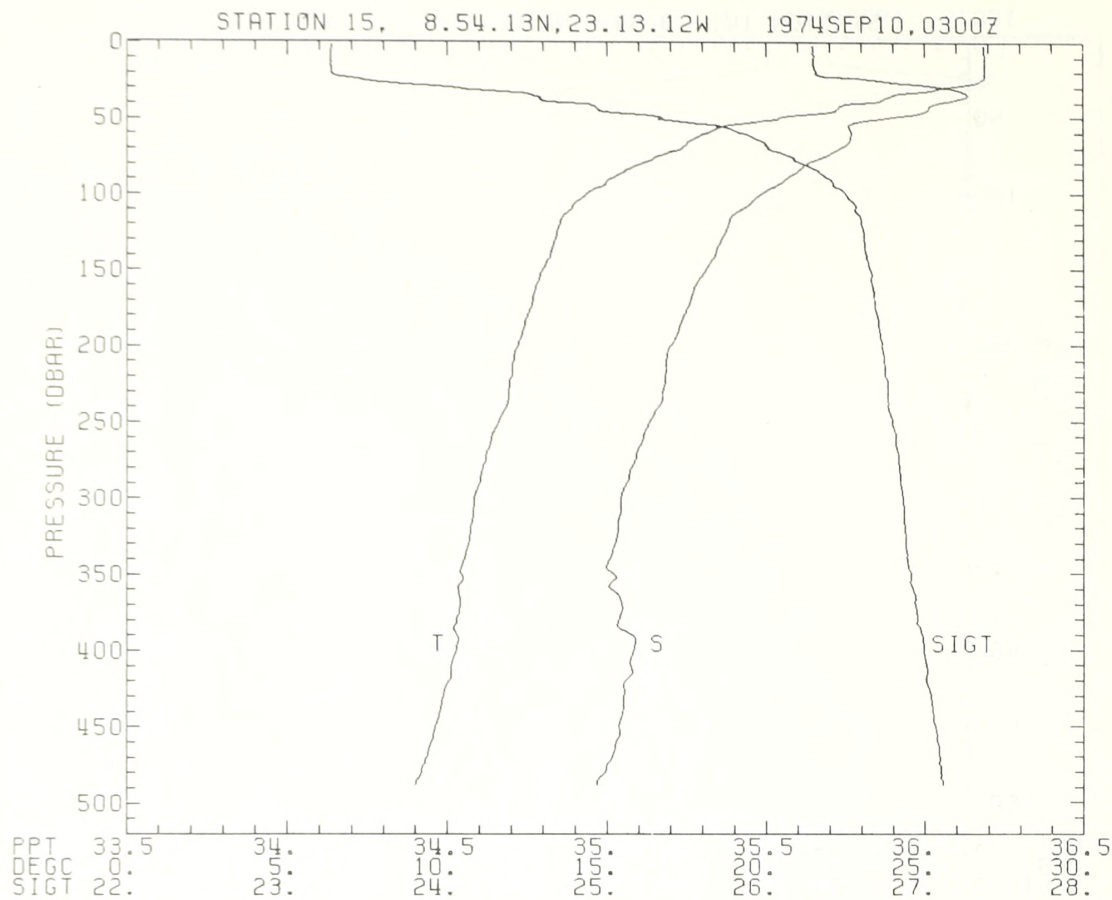


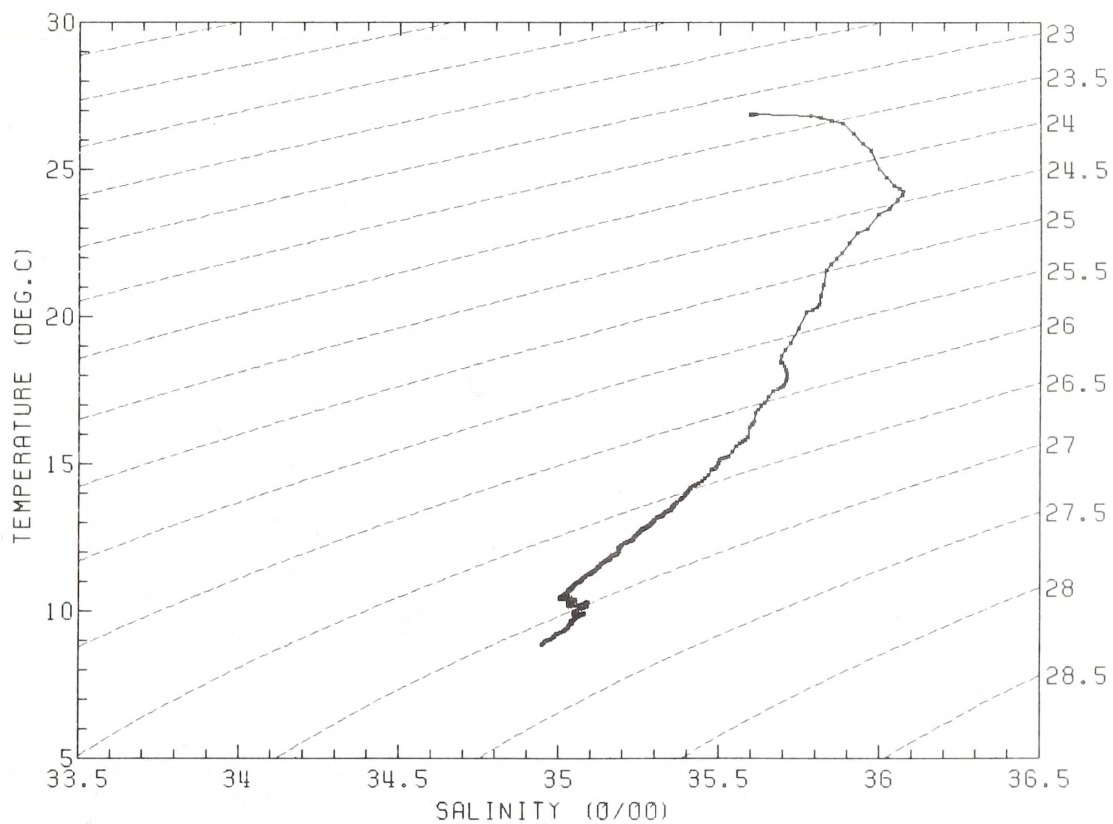
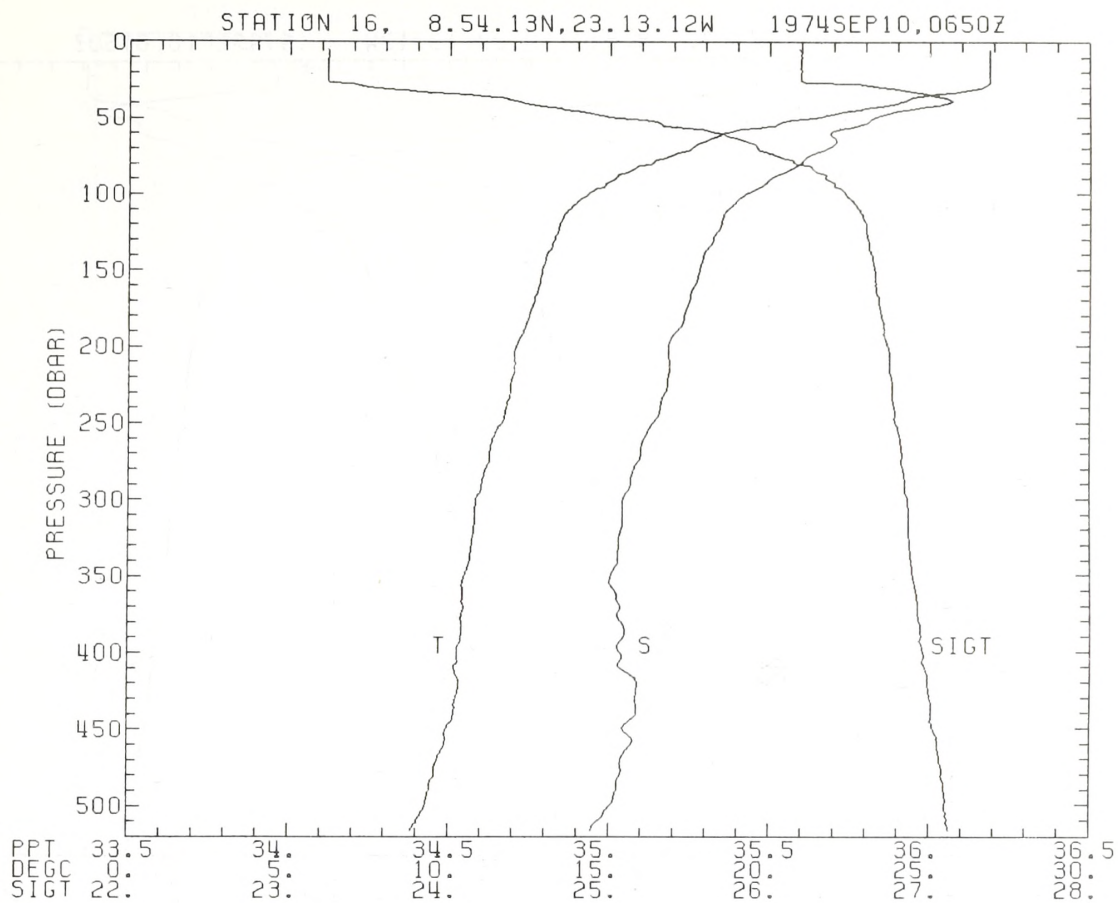


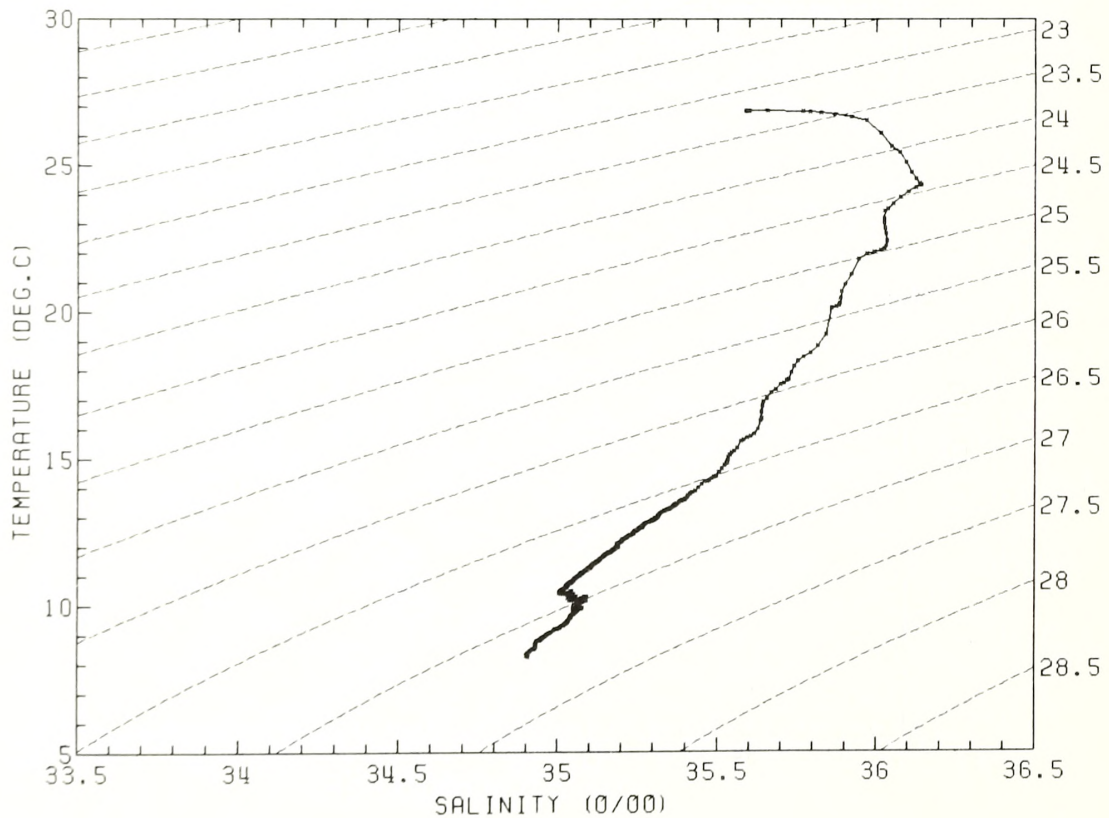
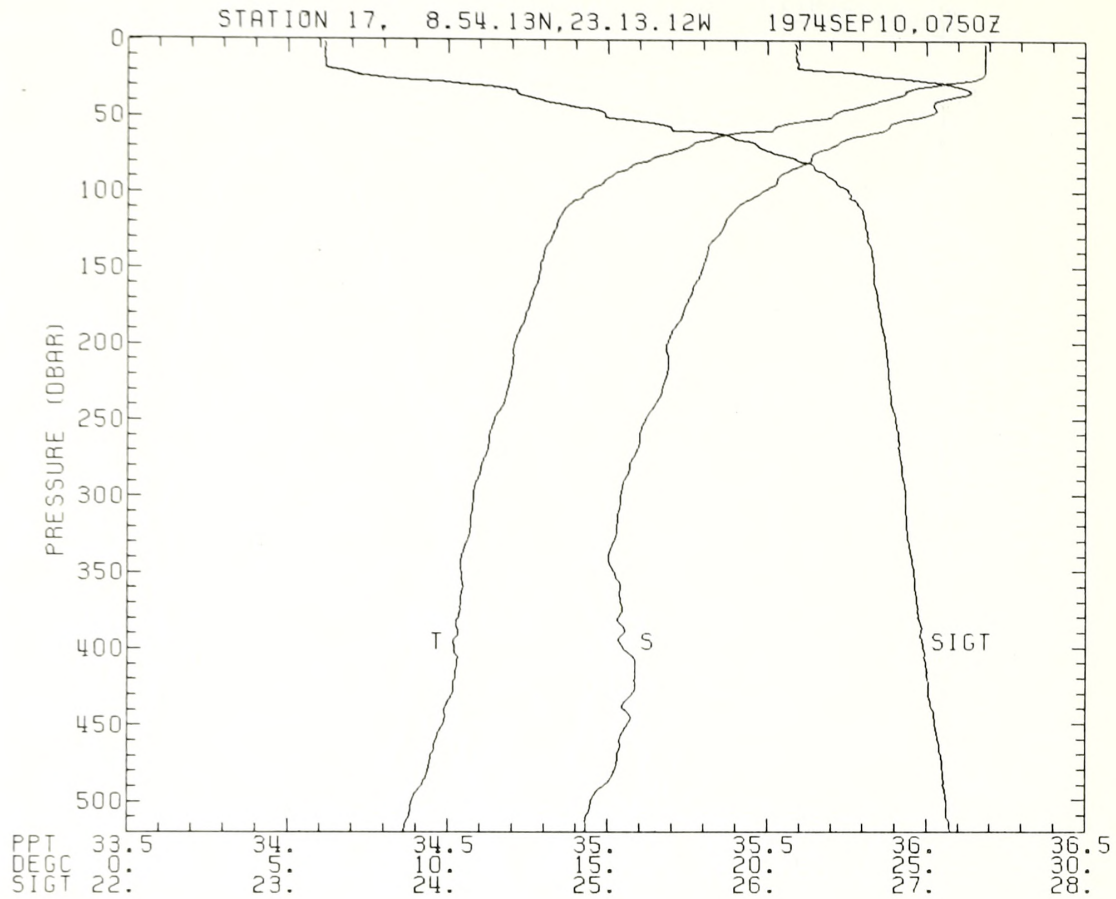




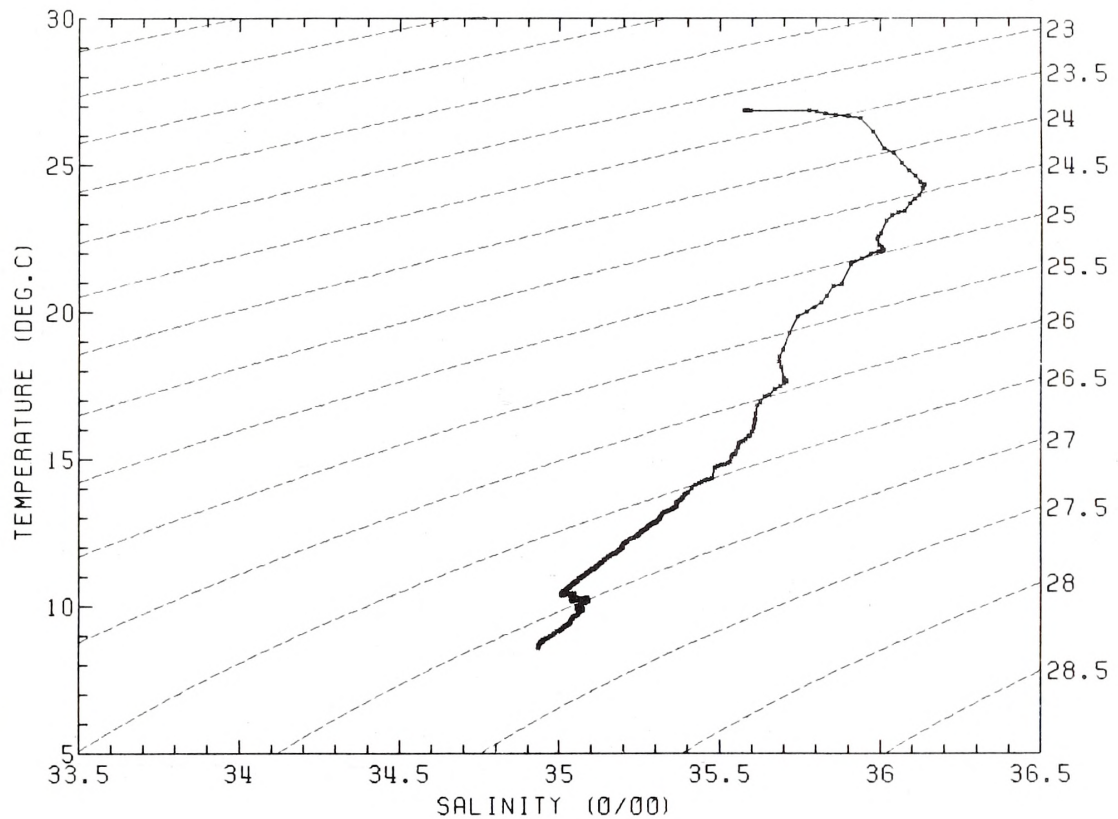
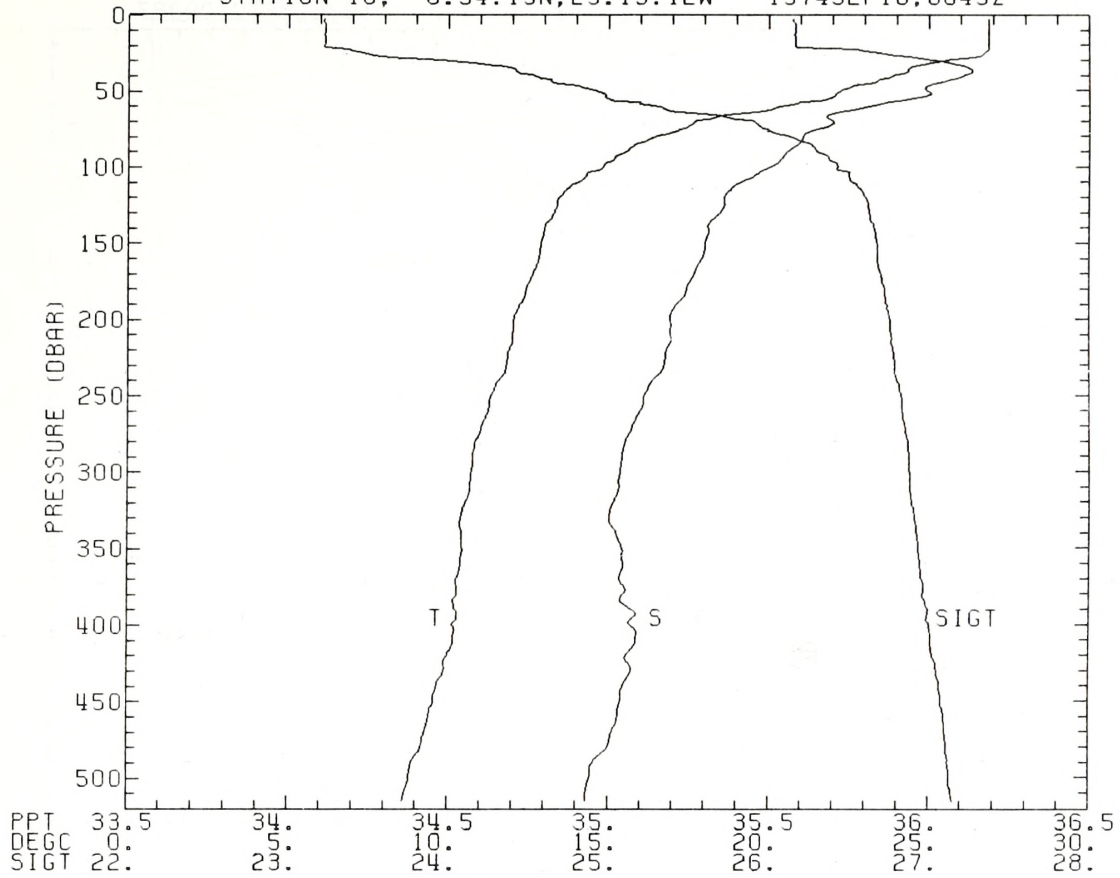


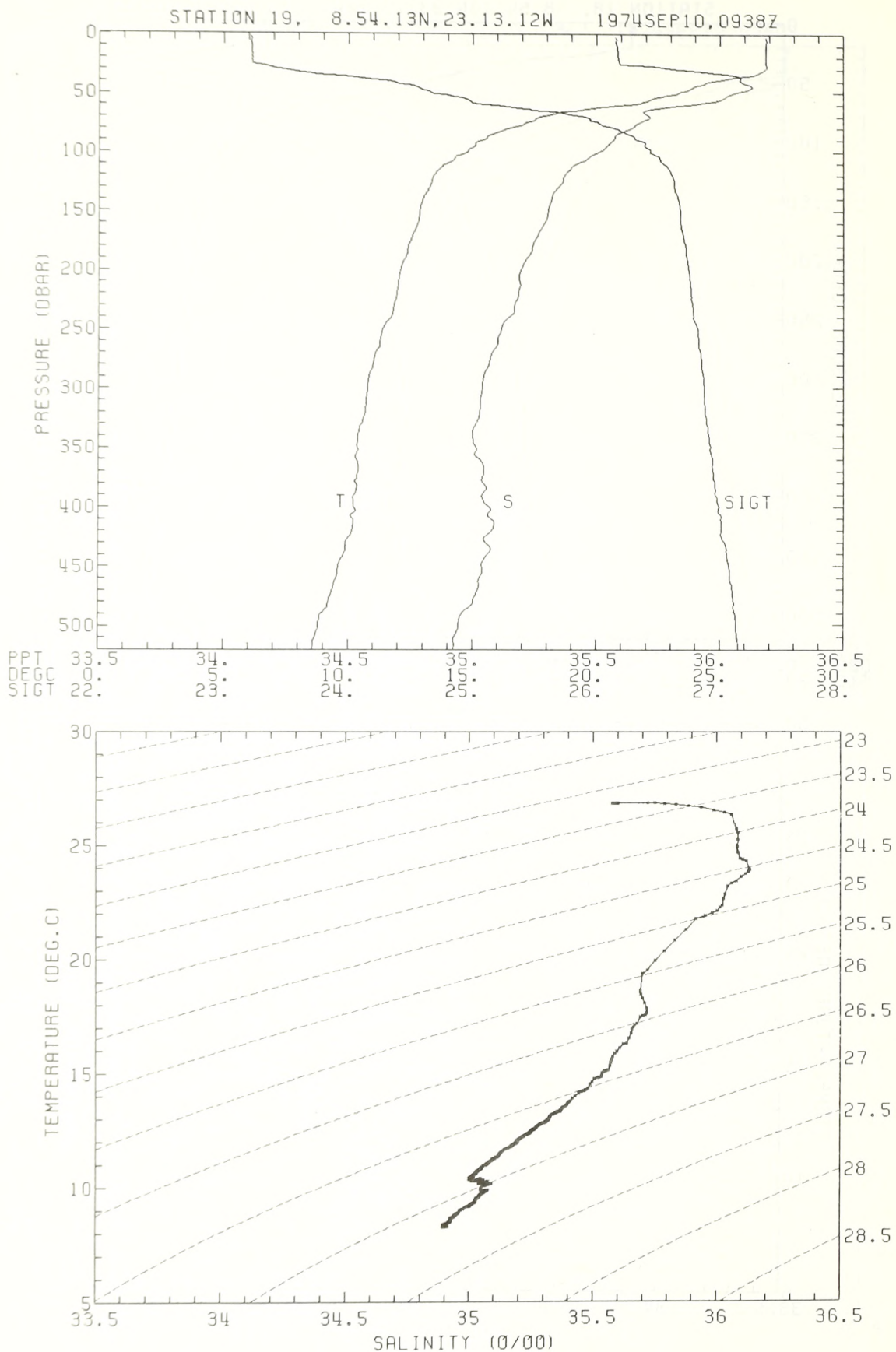


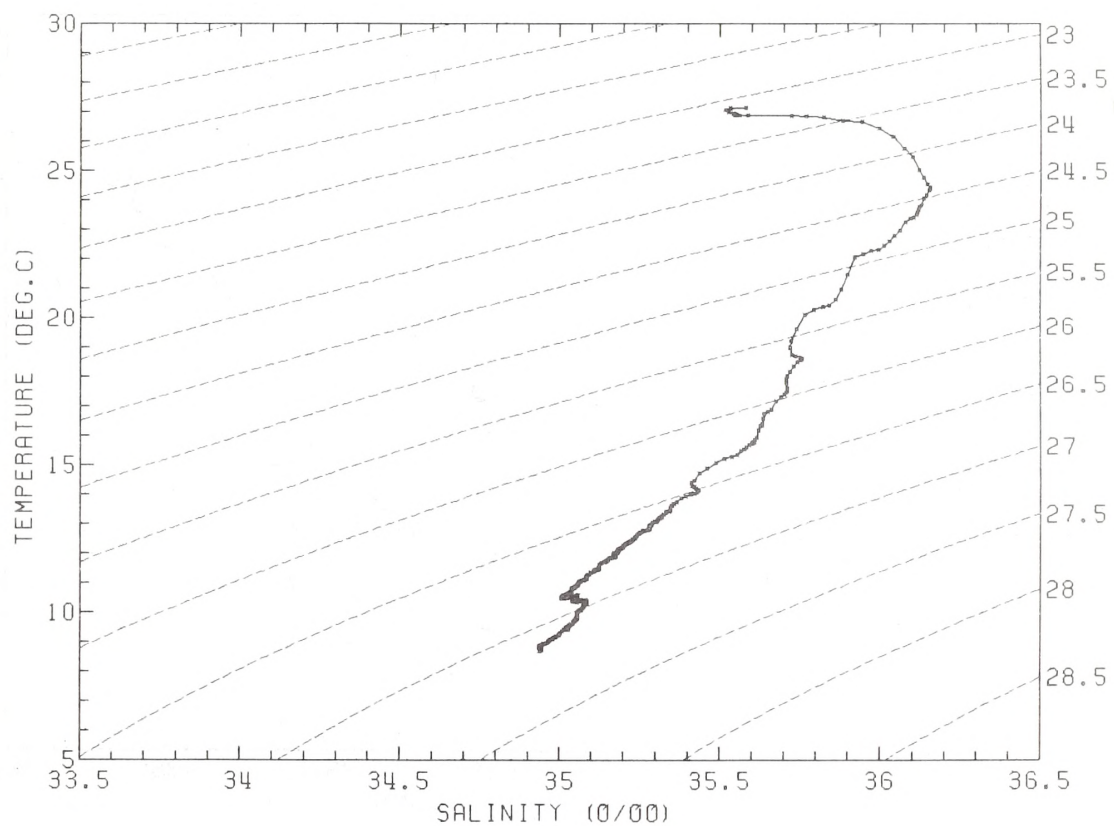
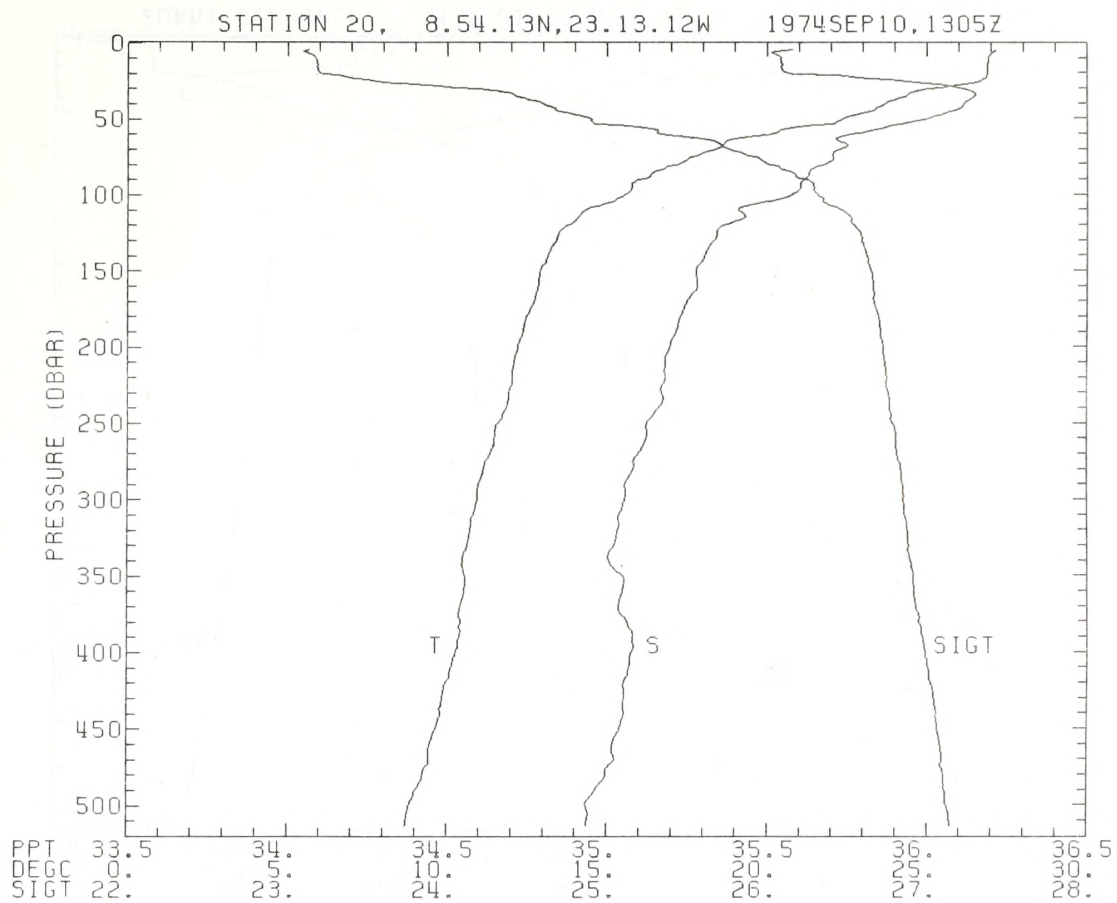


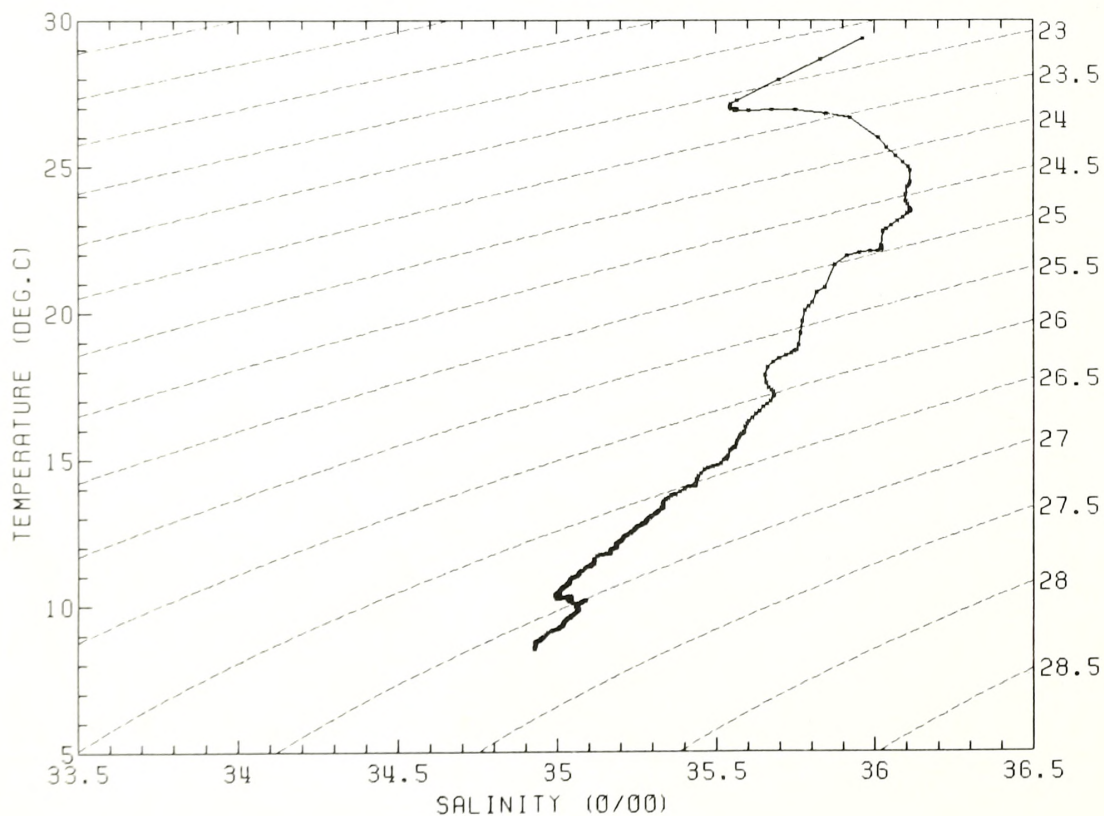
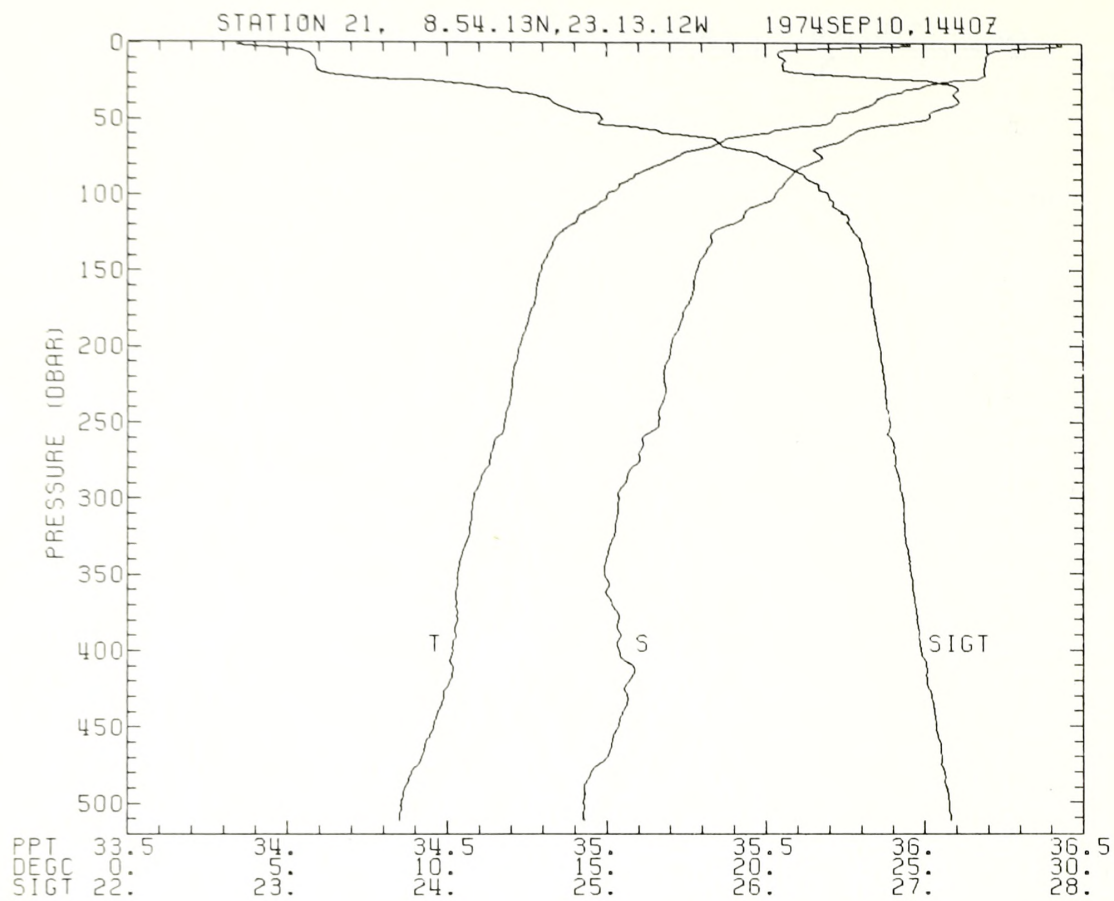


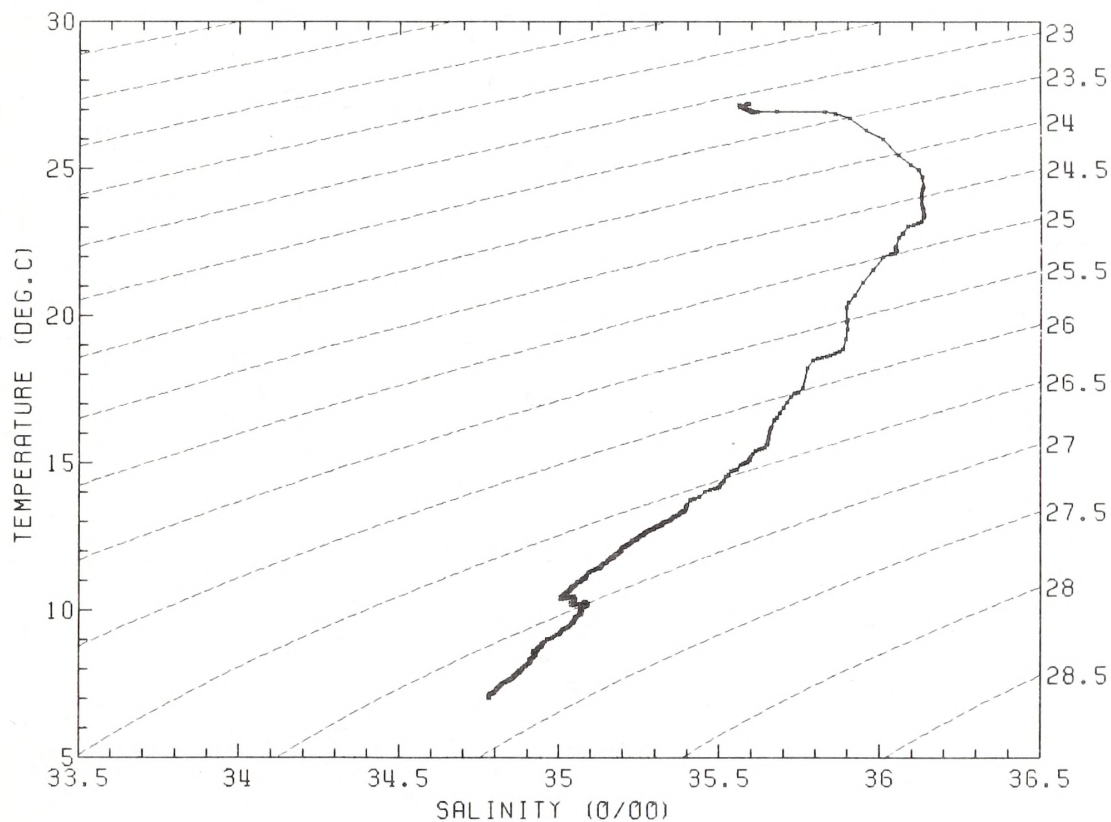
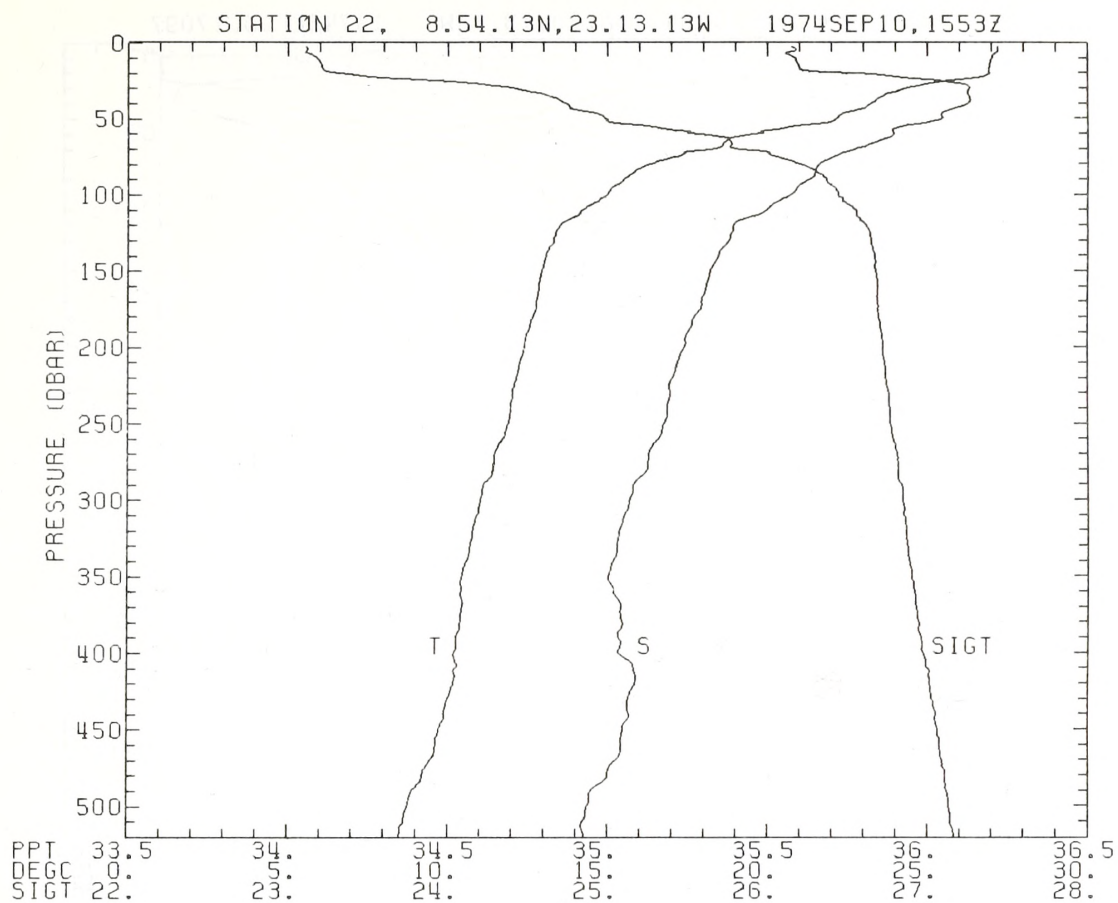
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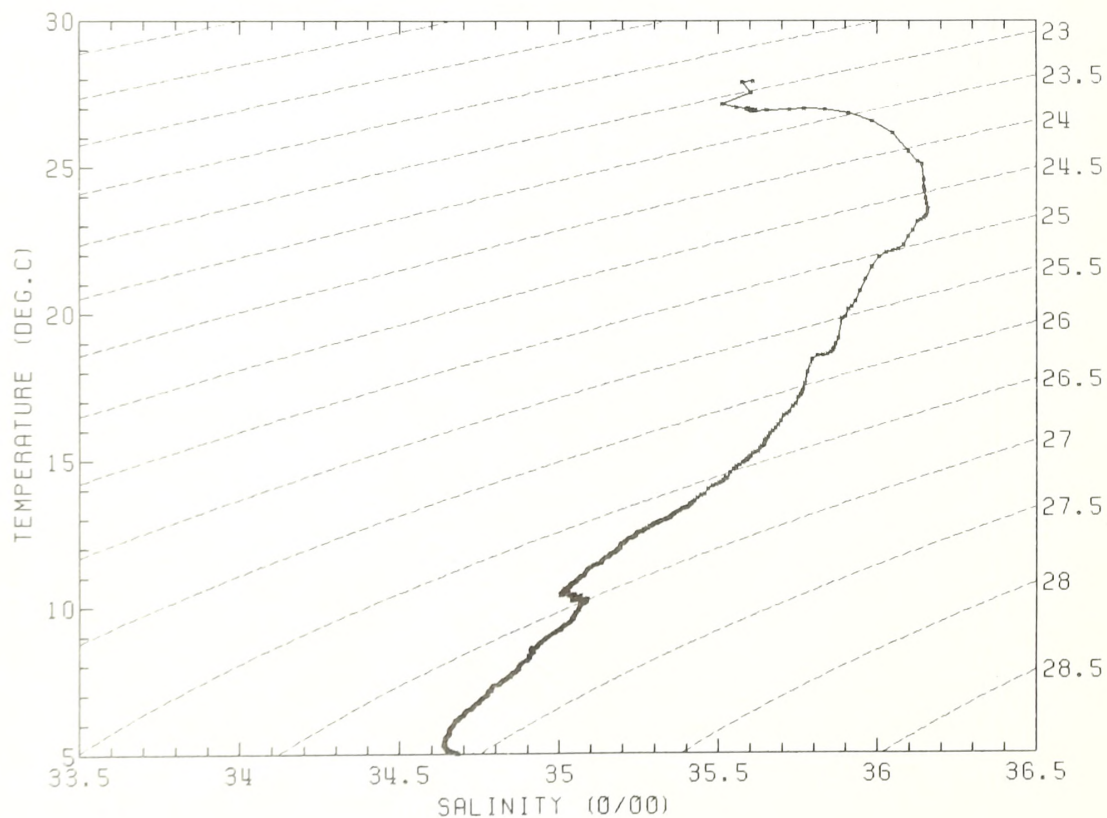
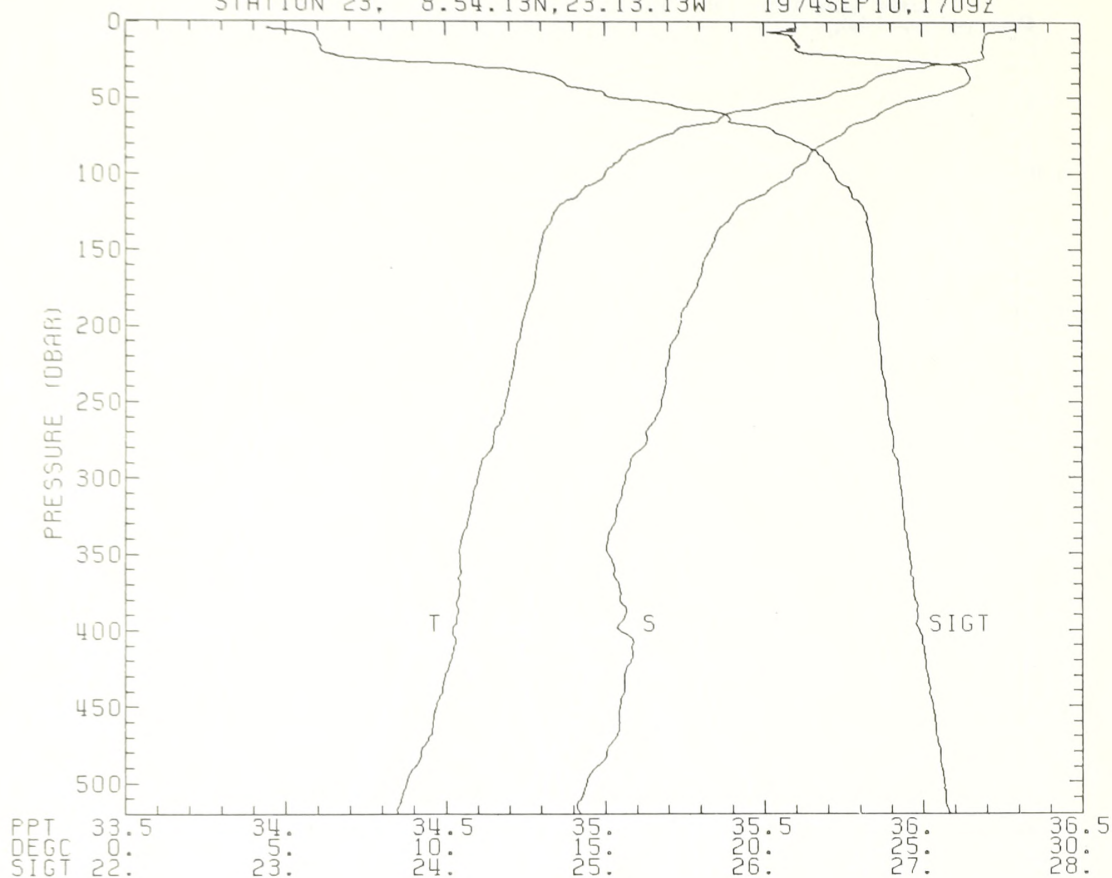




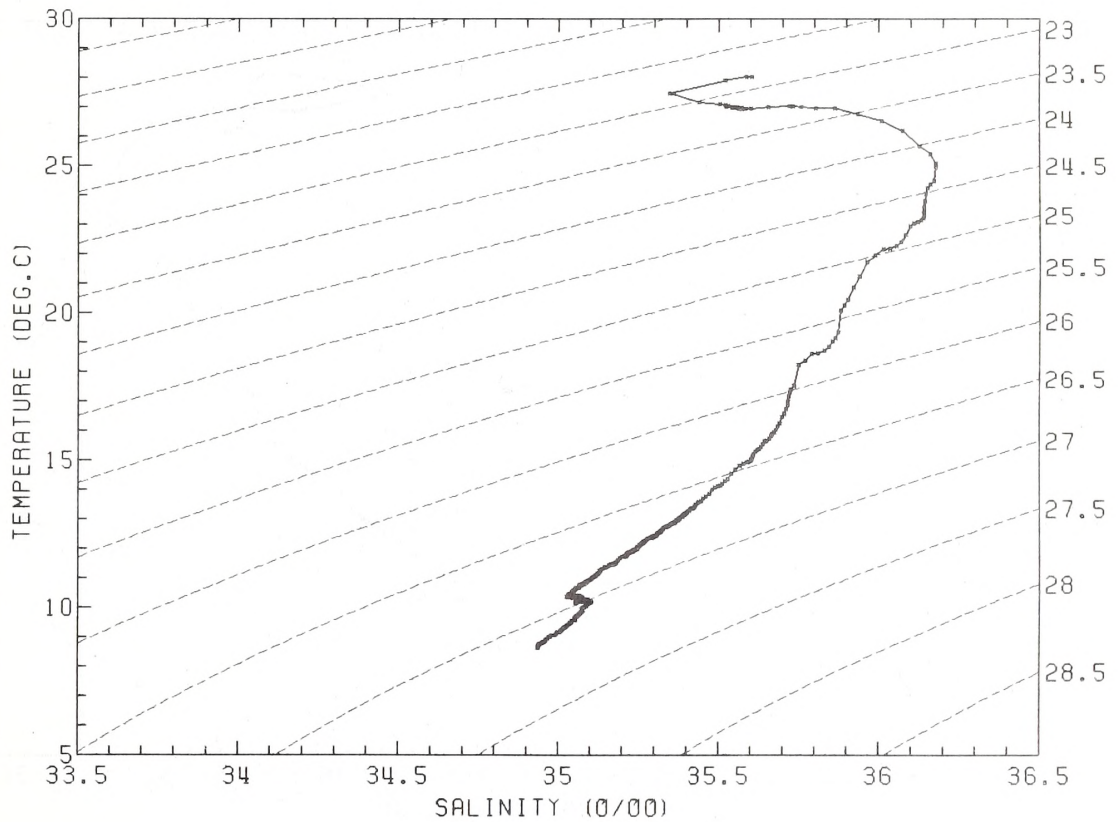
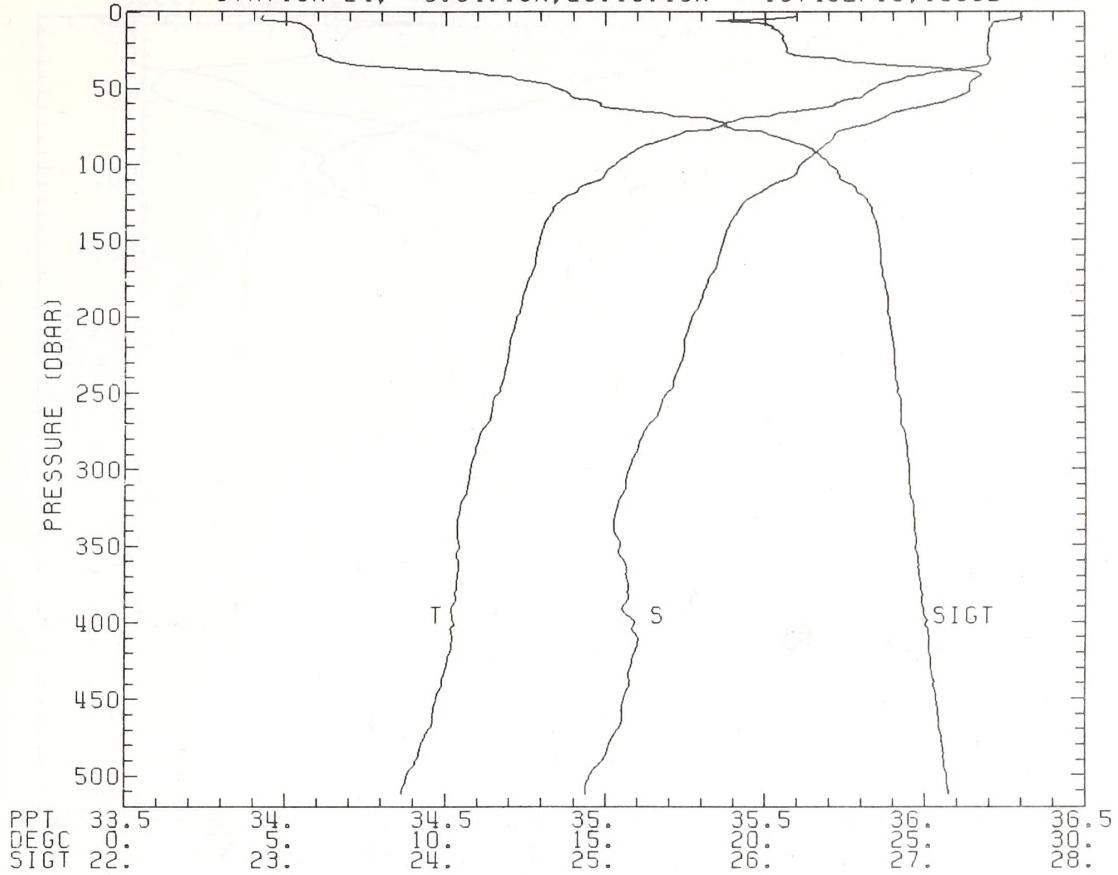


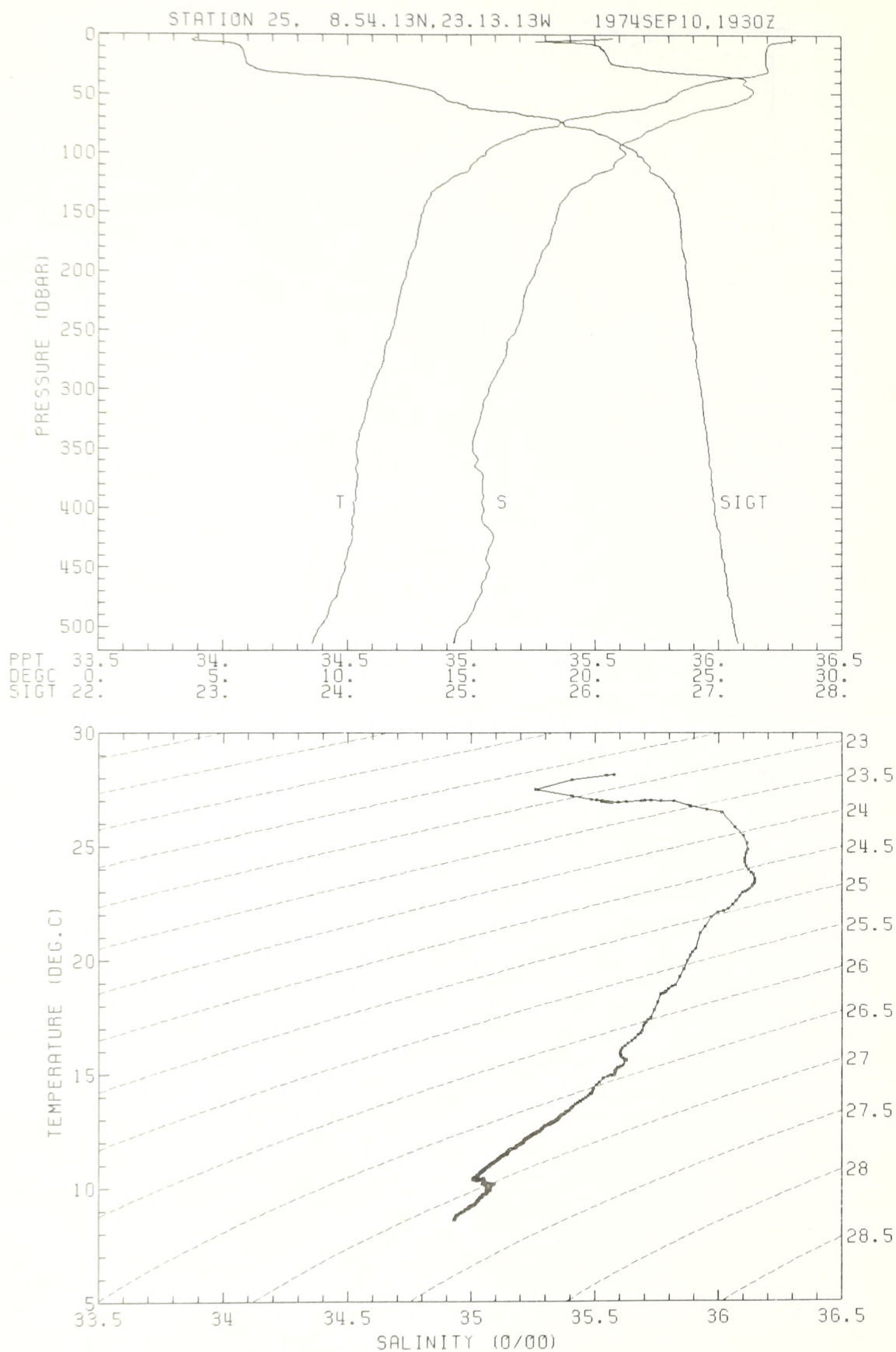


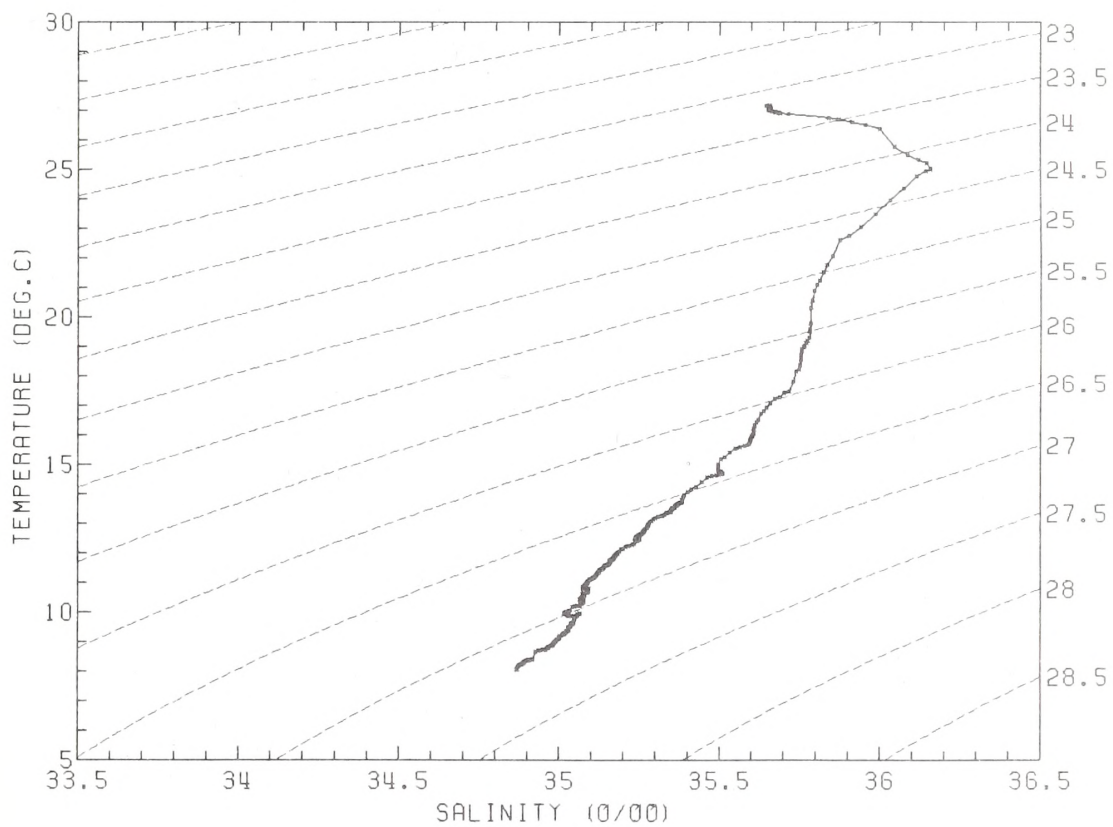
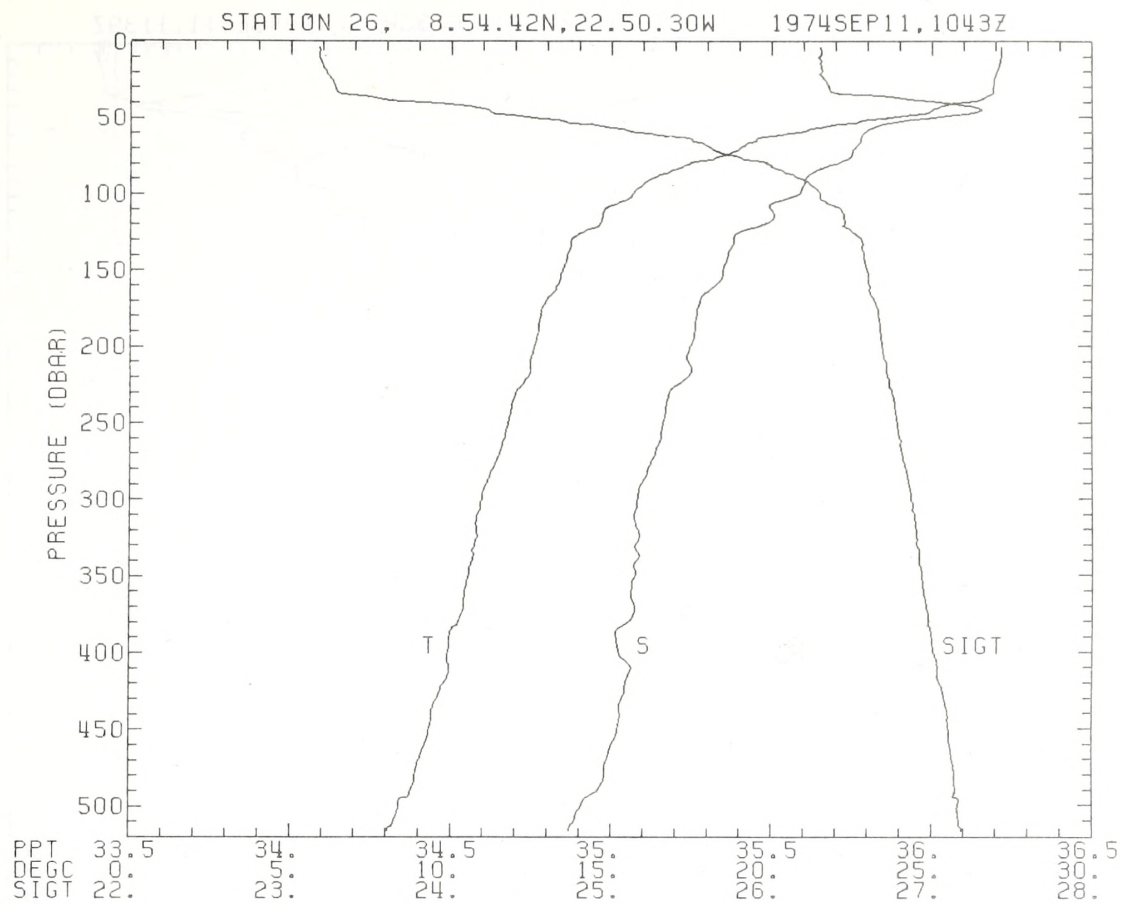
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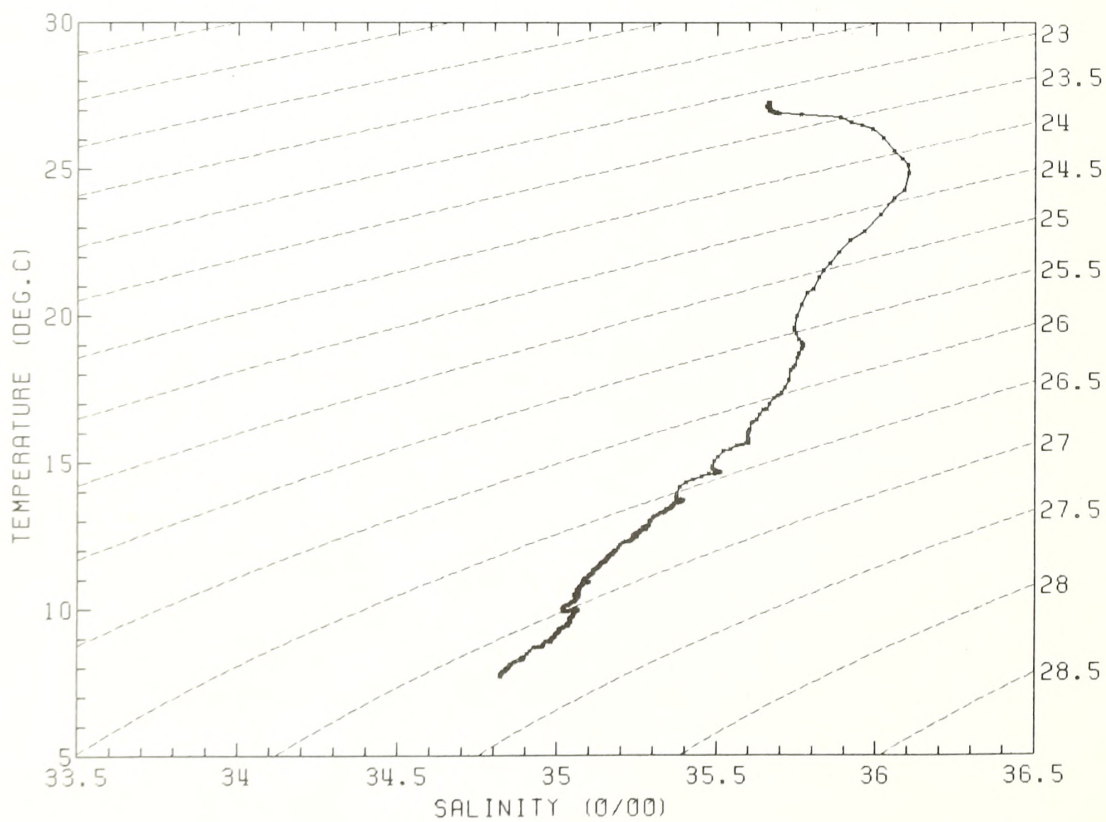
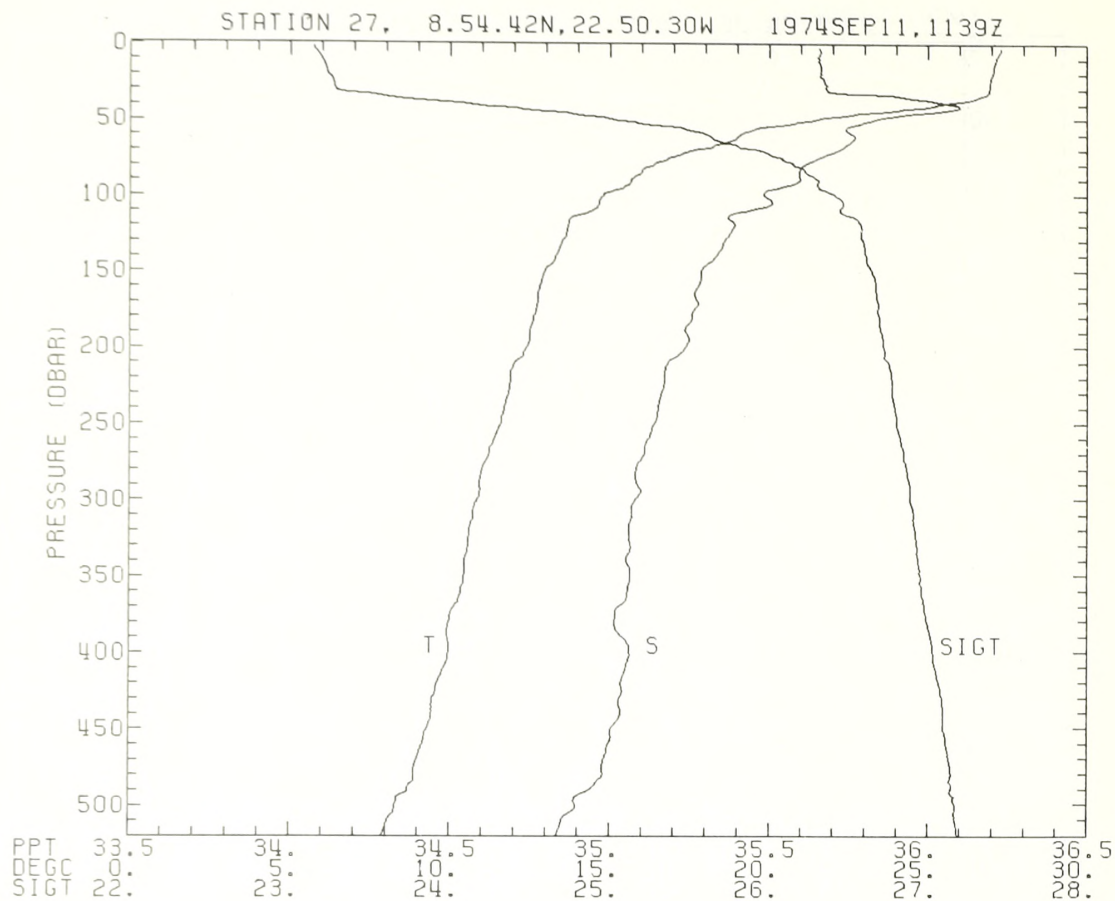


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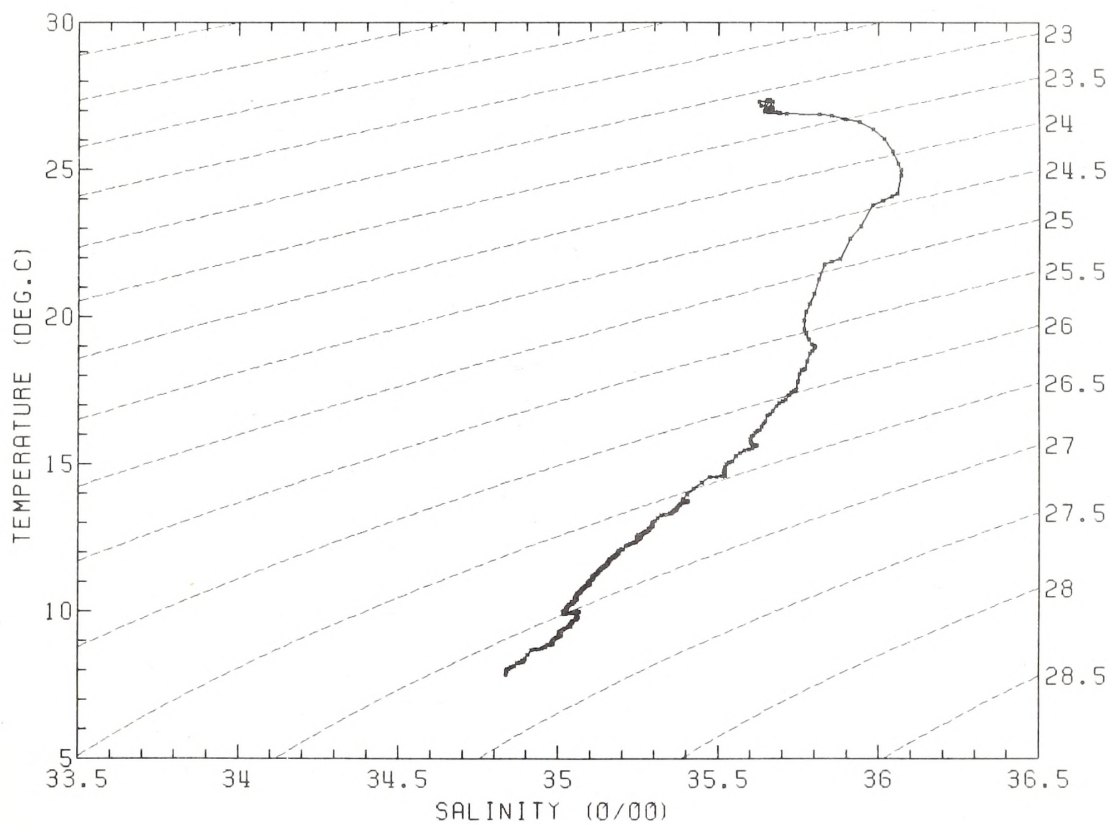
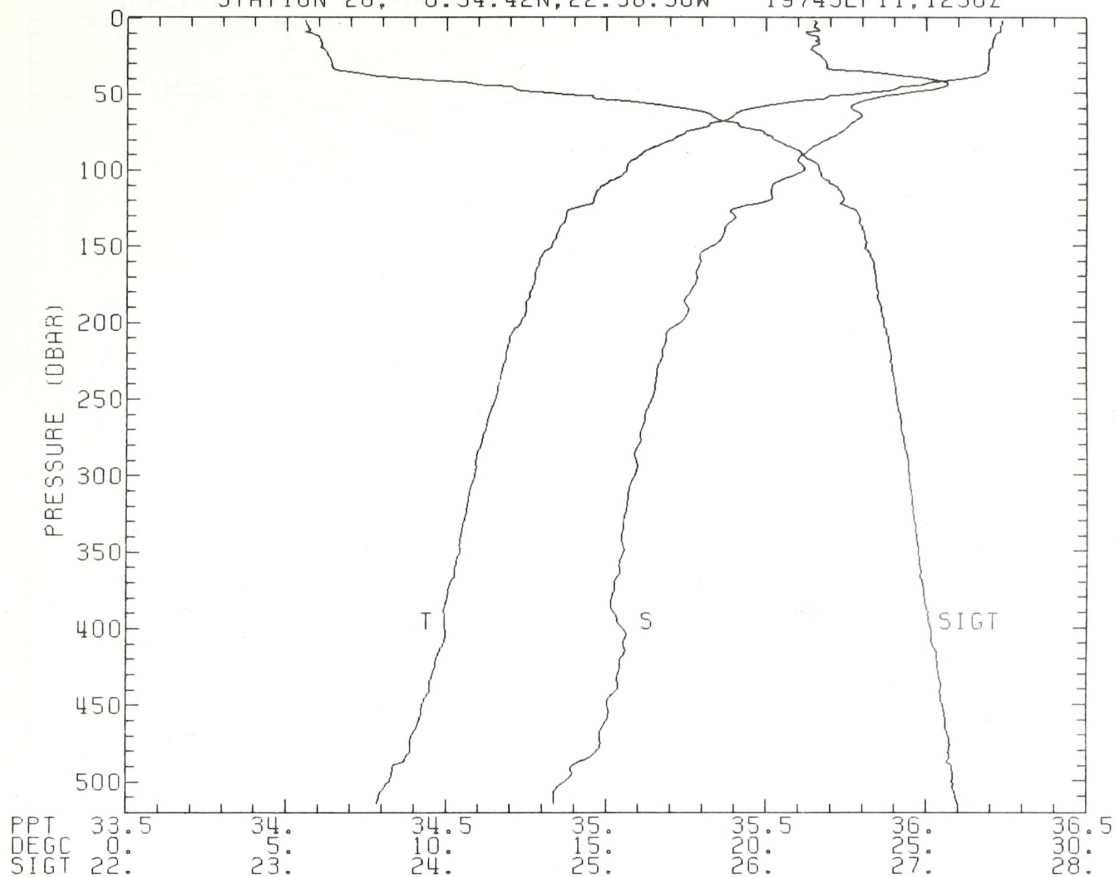


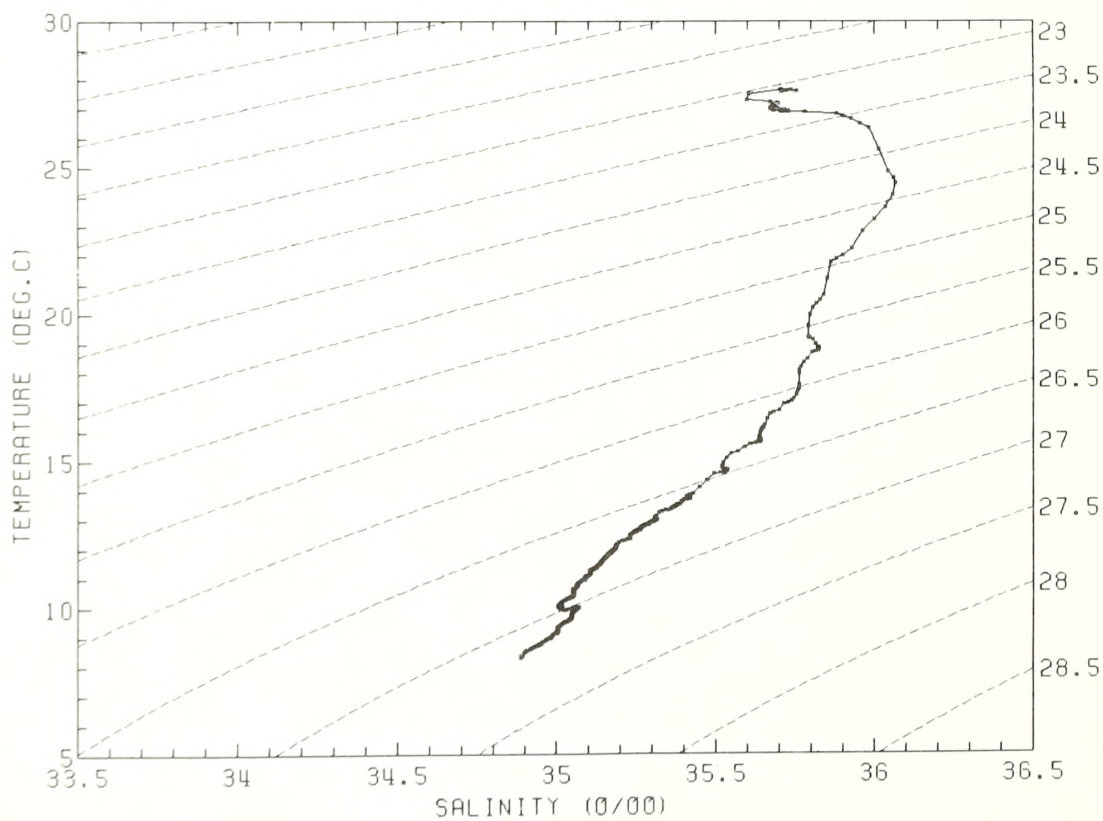
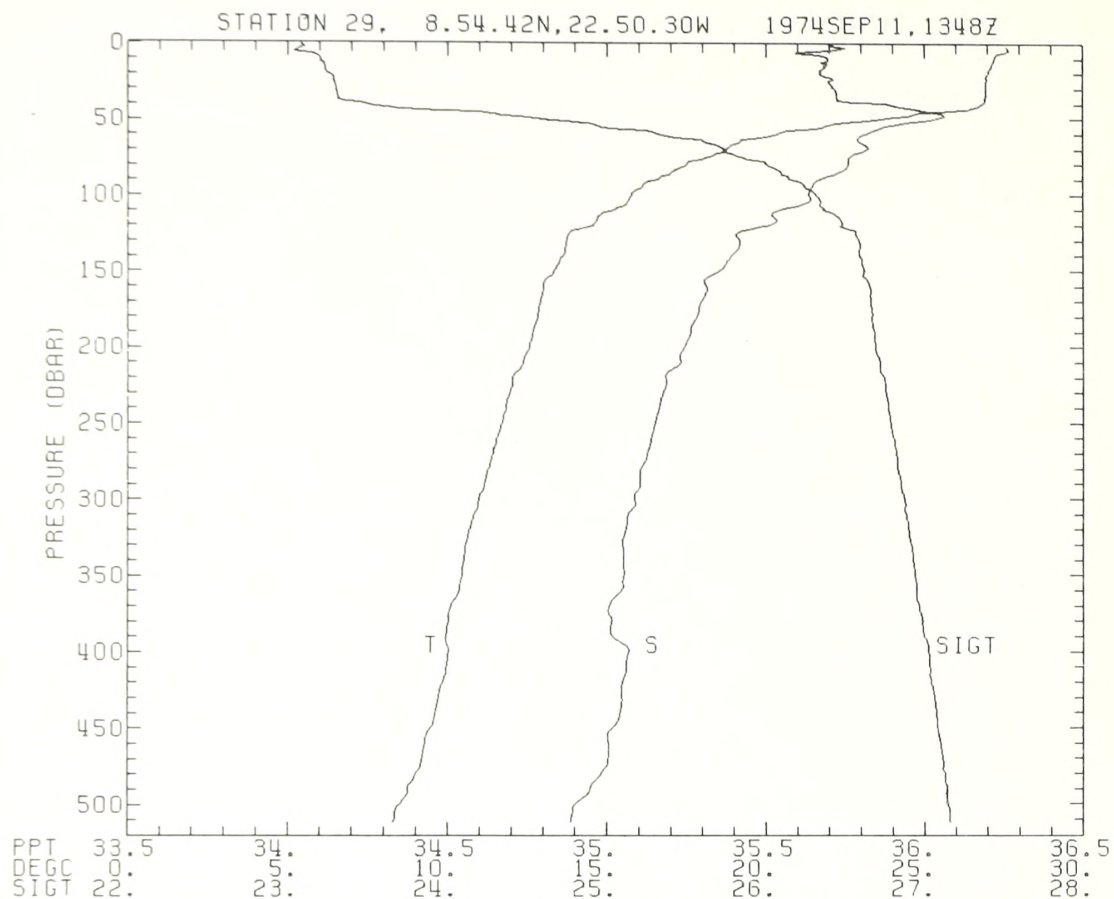


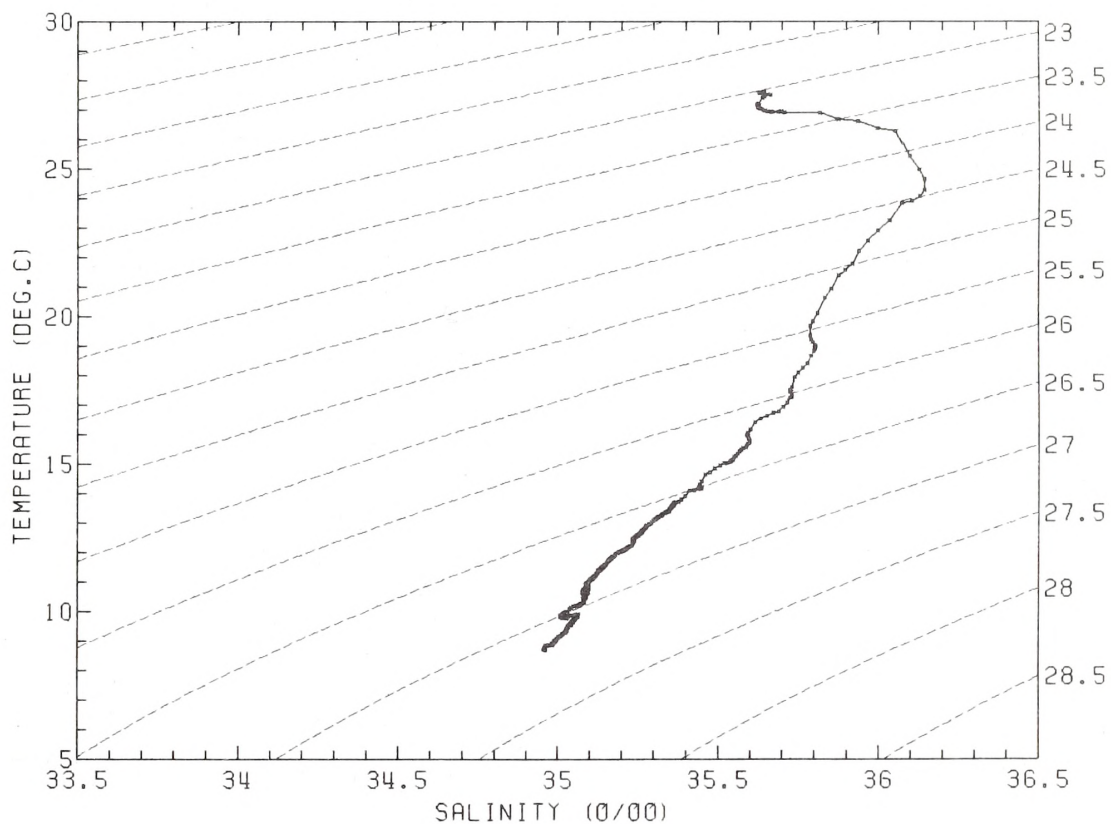
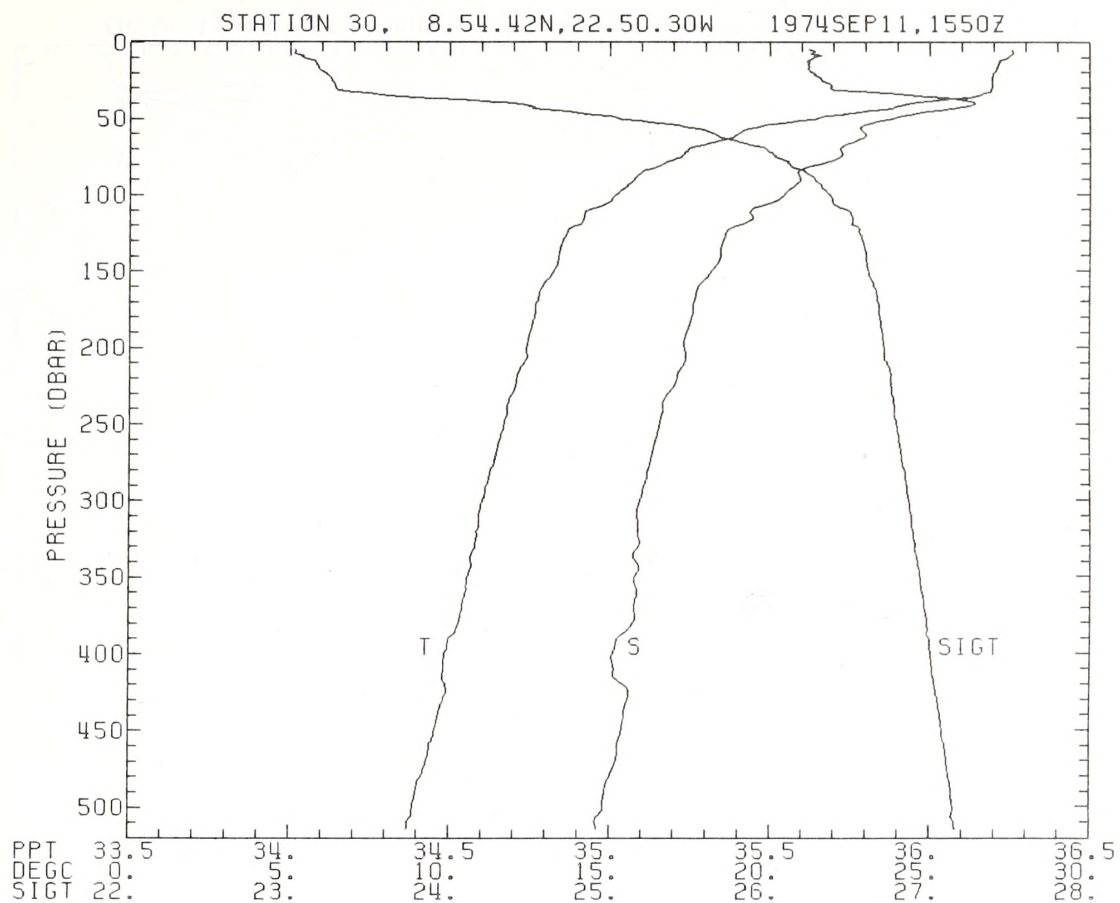


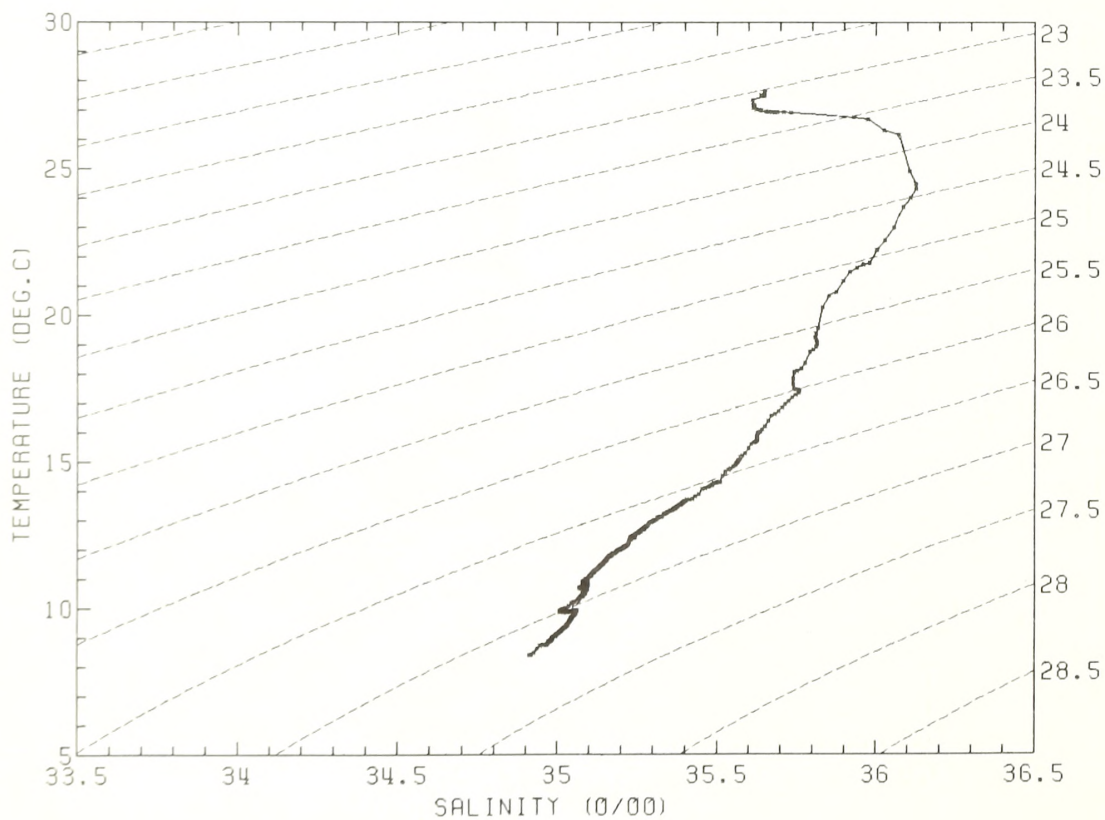
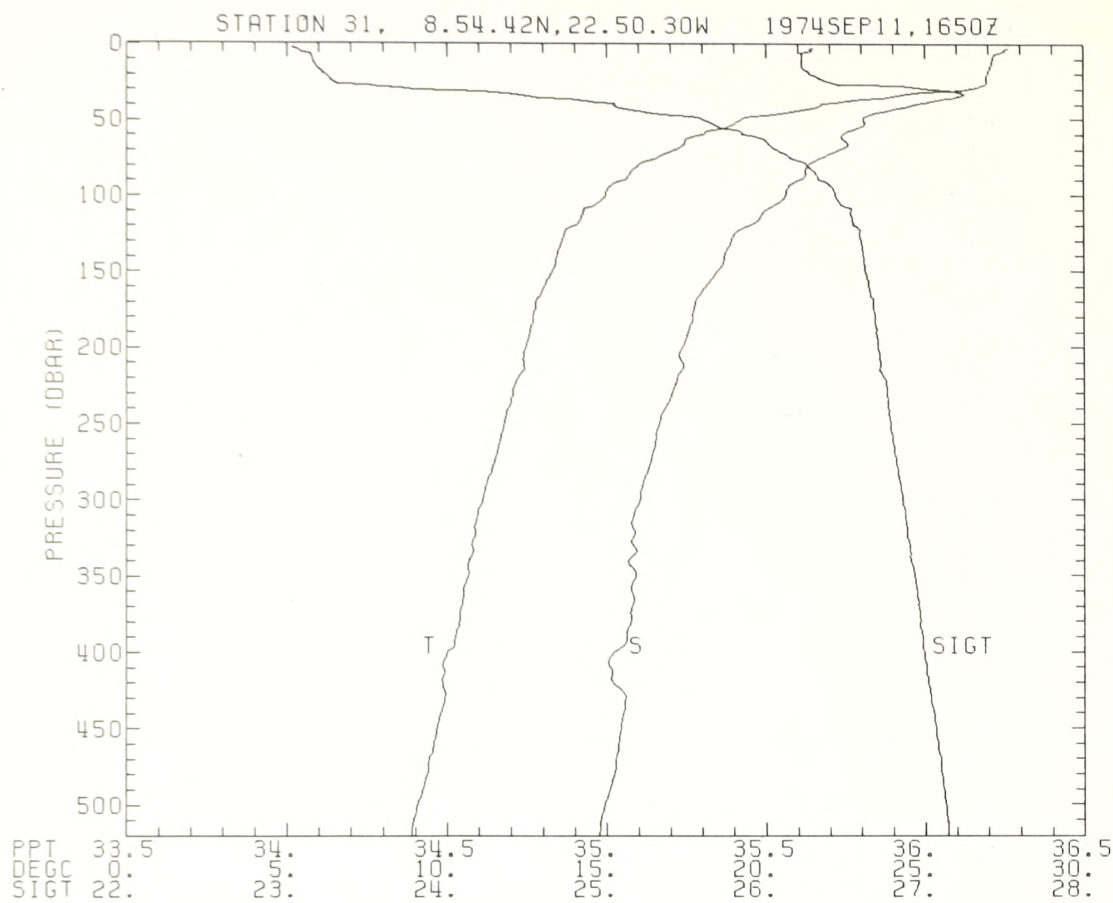


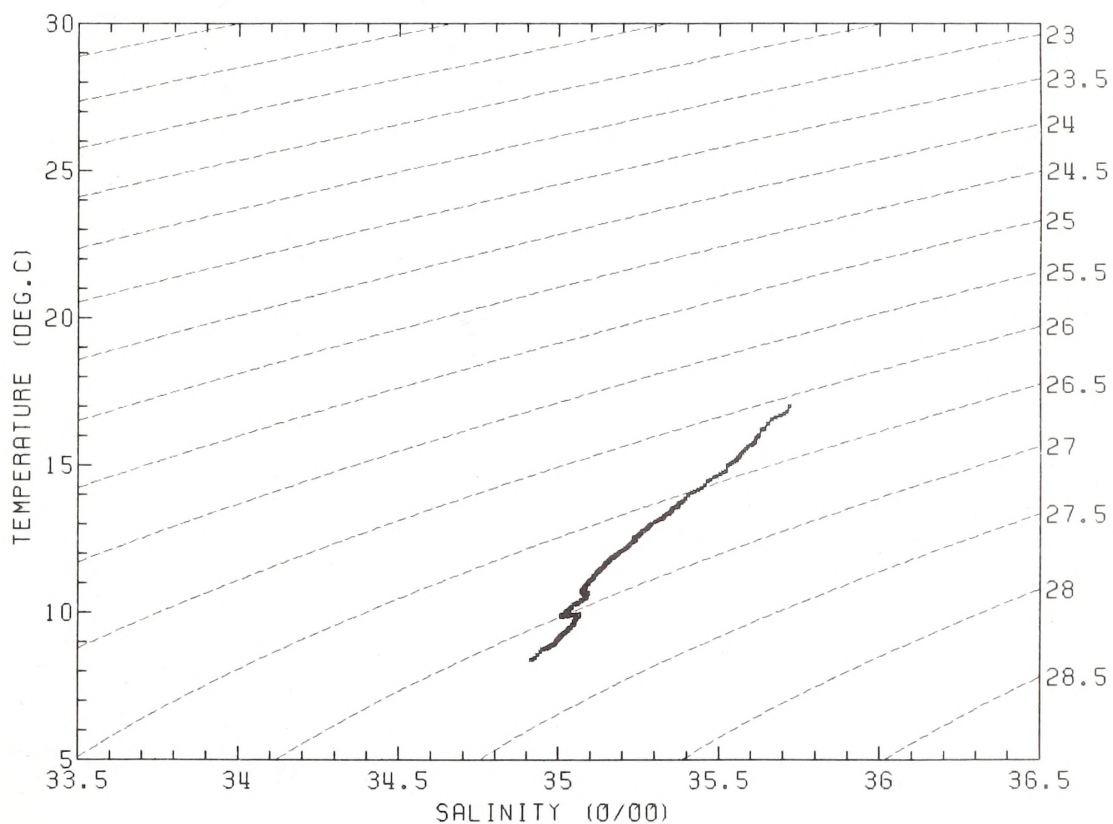
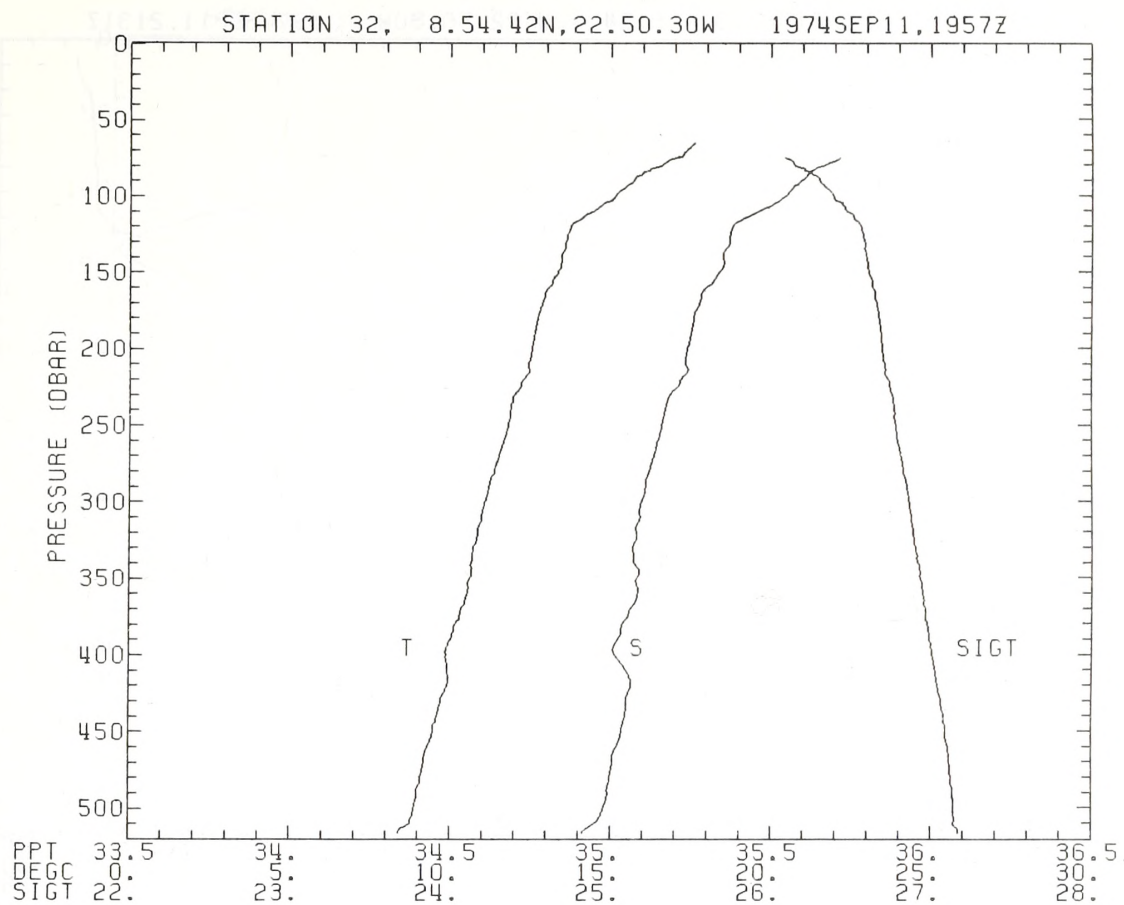
STATION 28, 8.54.42N, 22.50.30W 1974SEP11, 1238Z

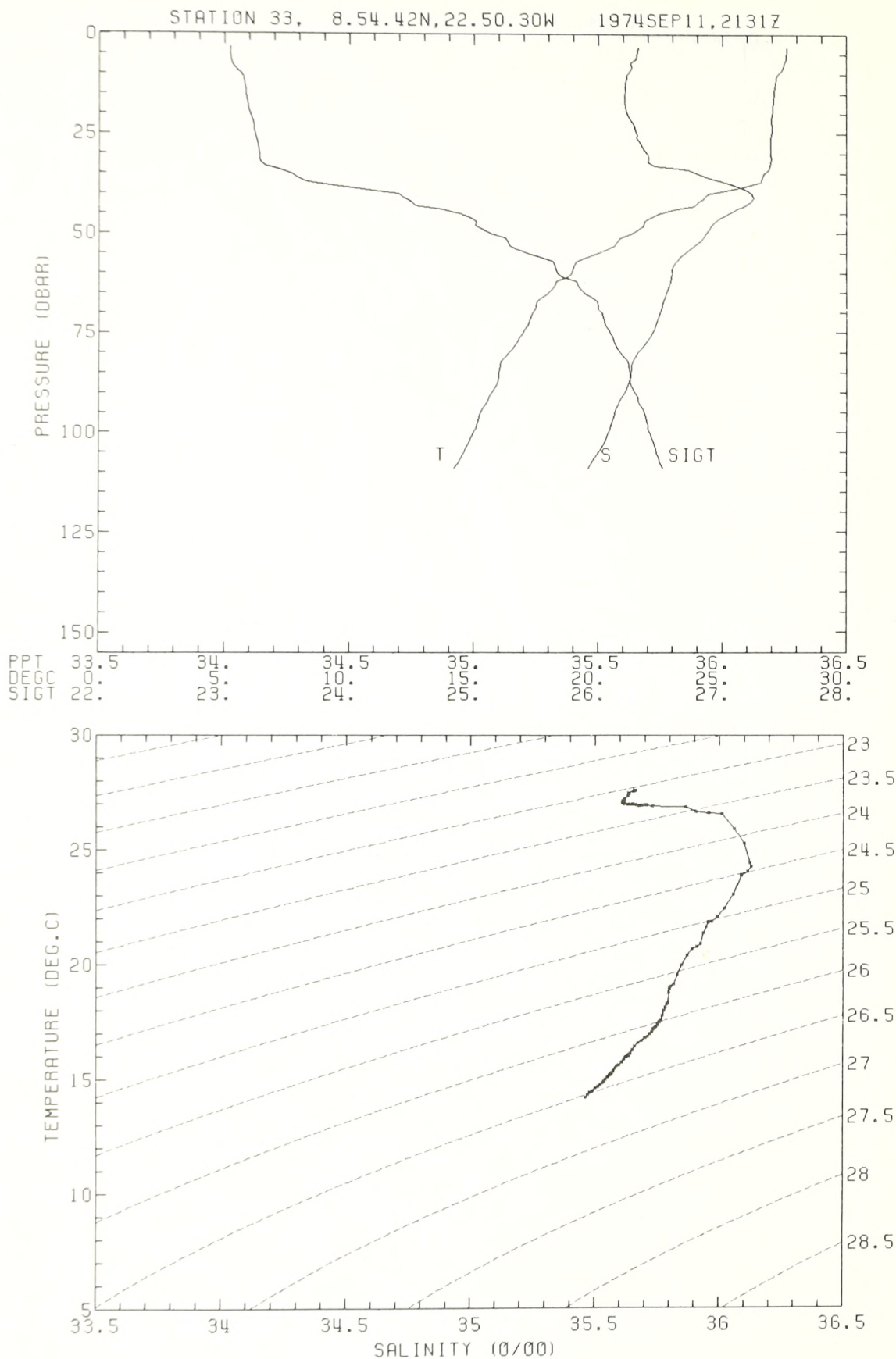


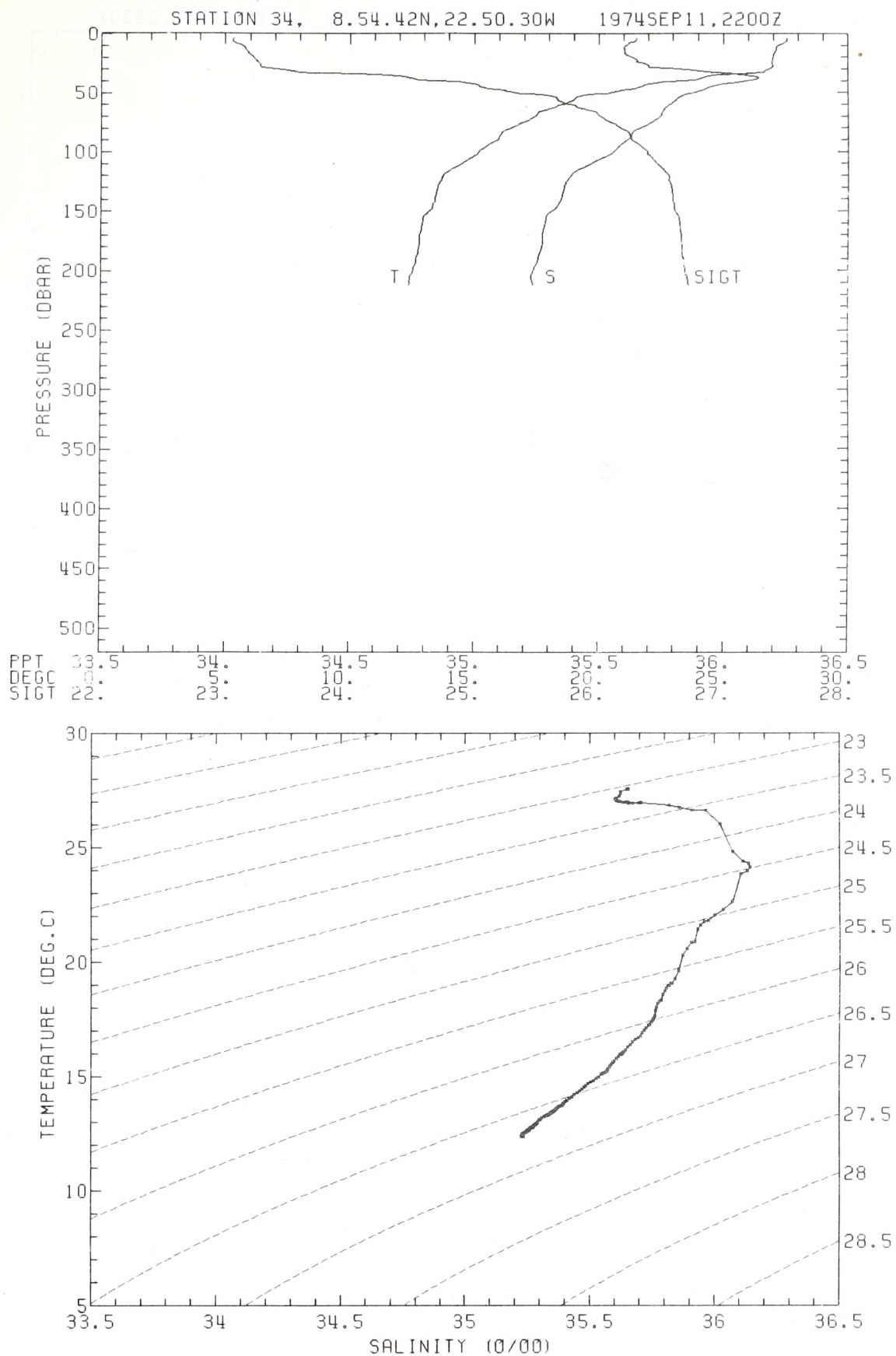


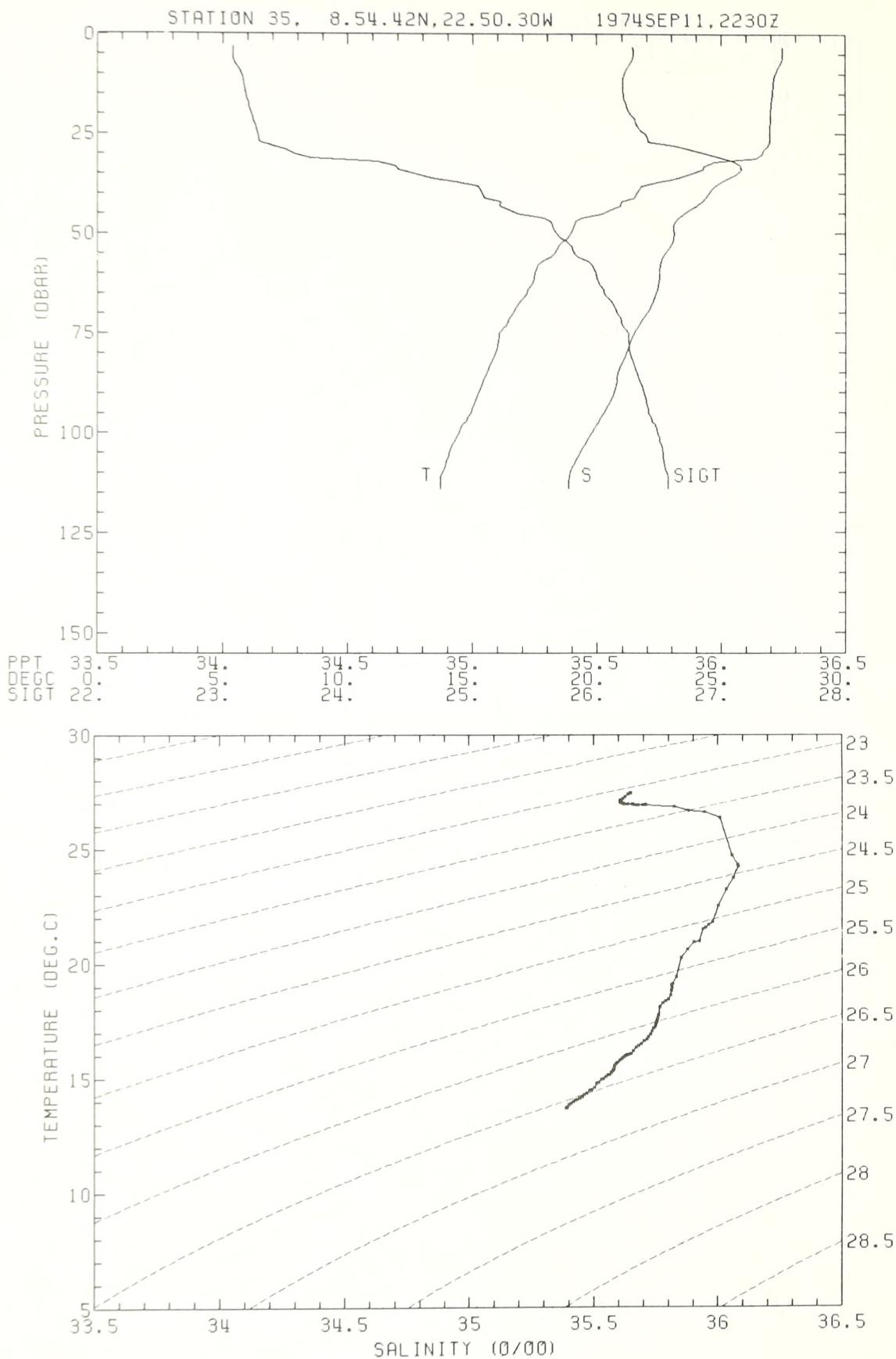


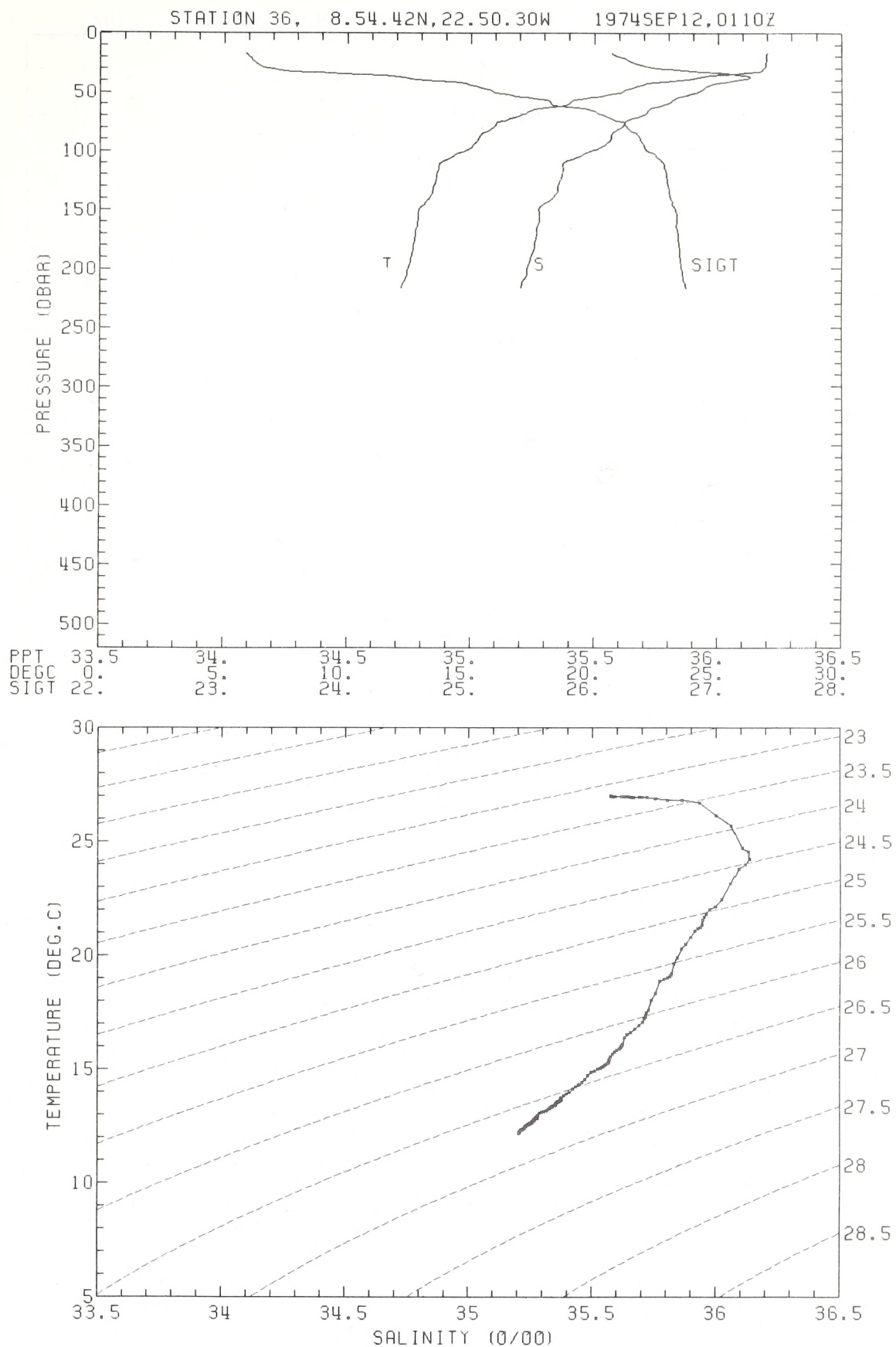


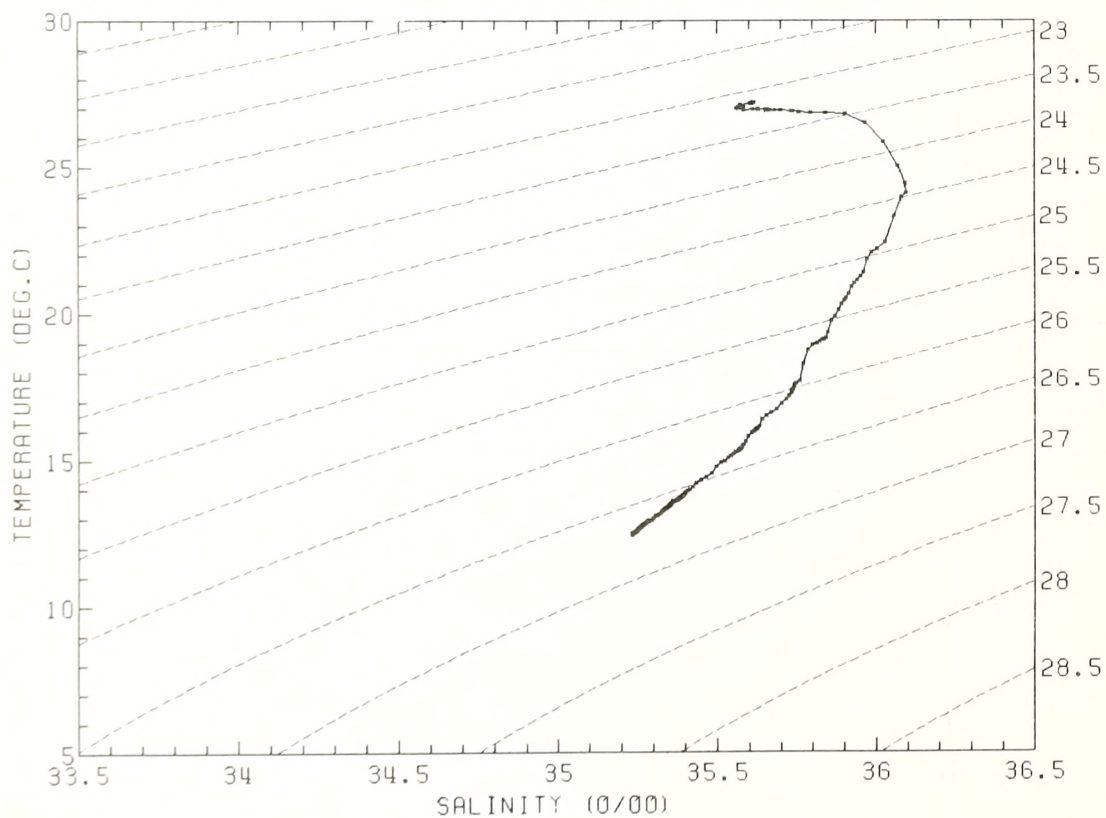
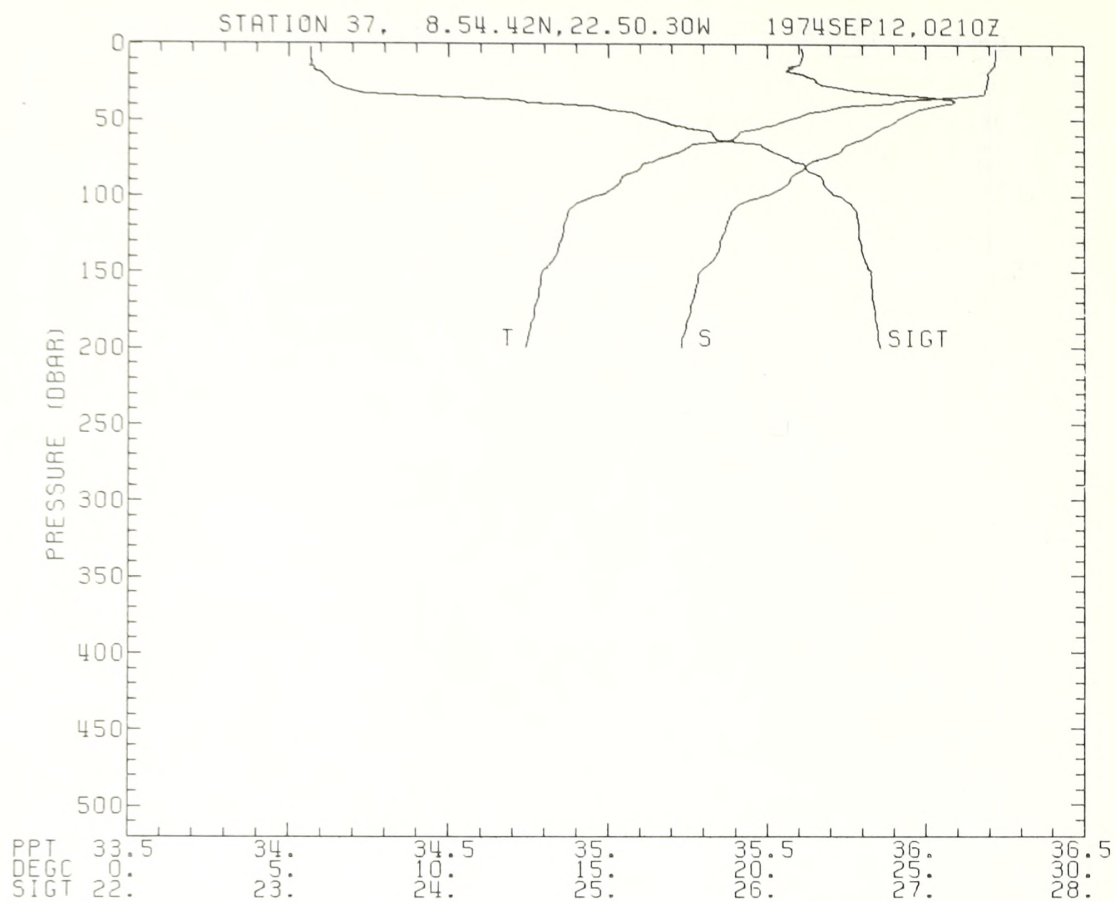




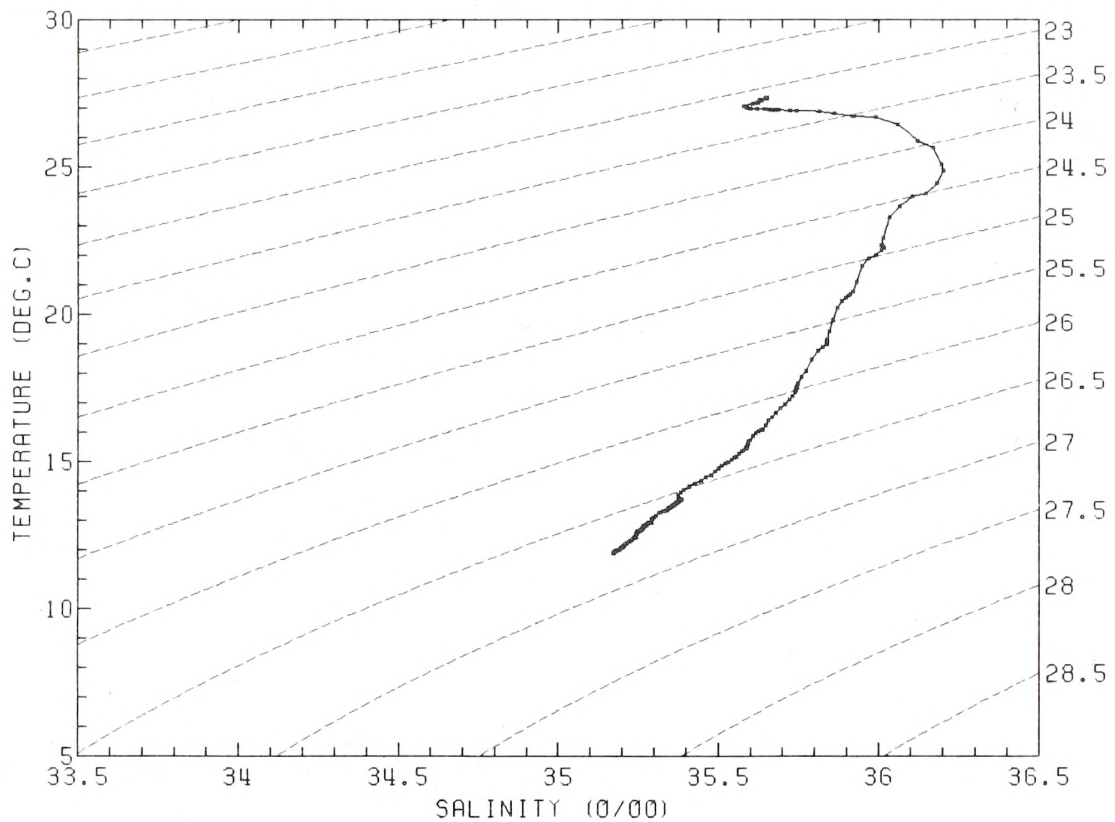
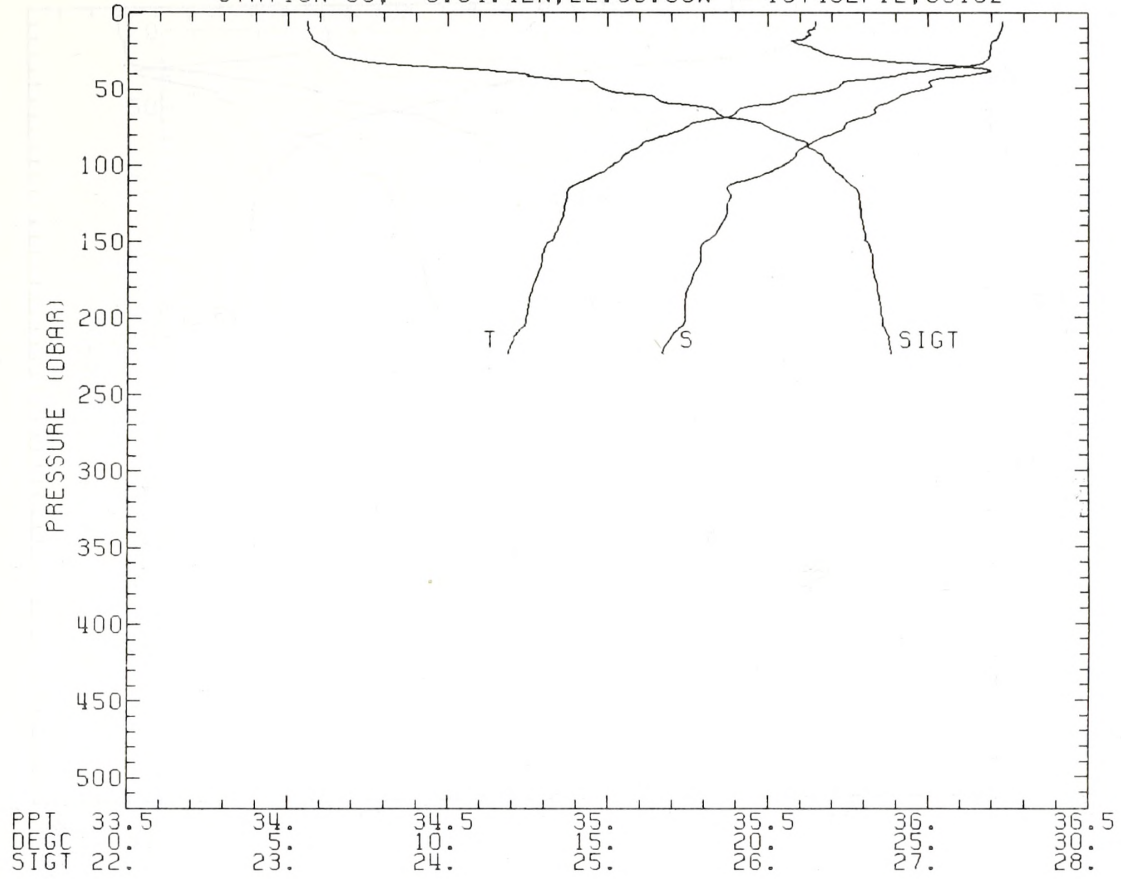


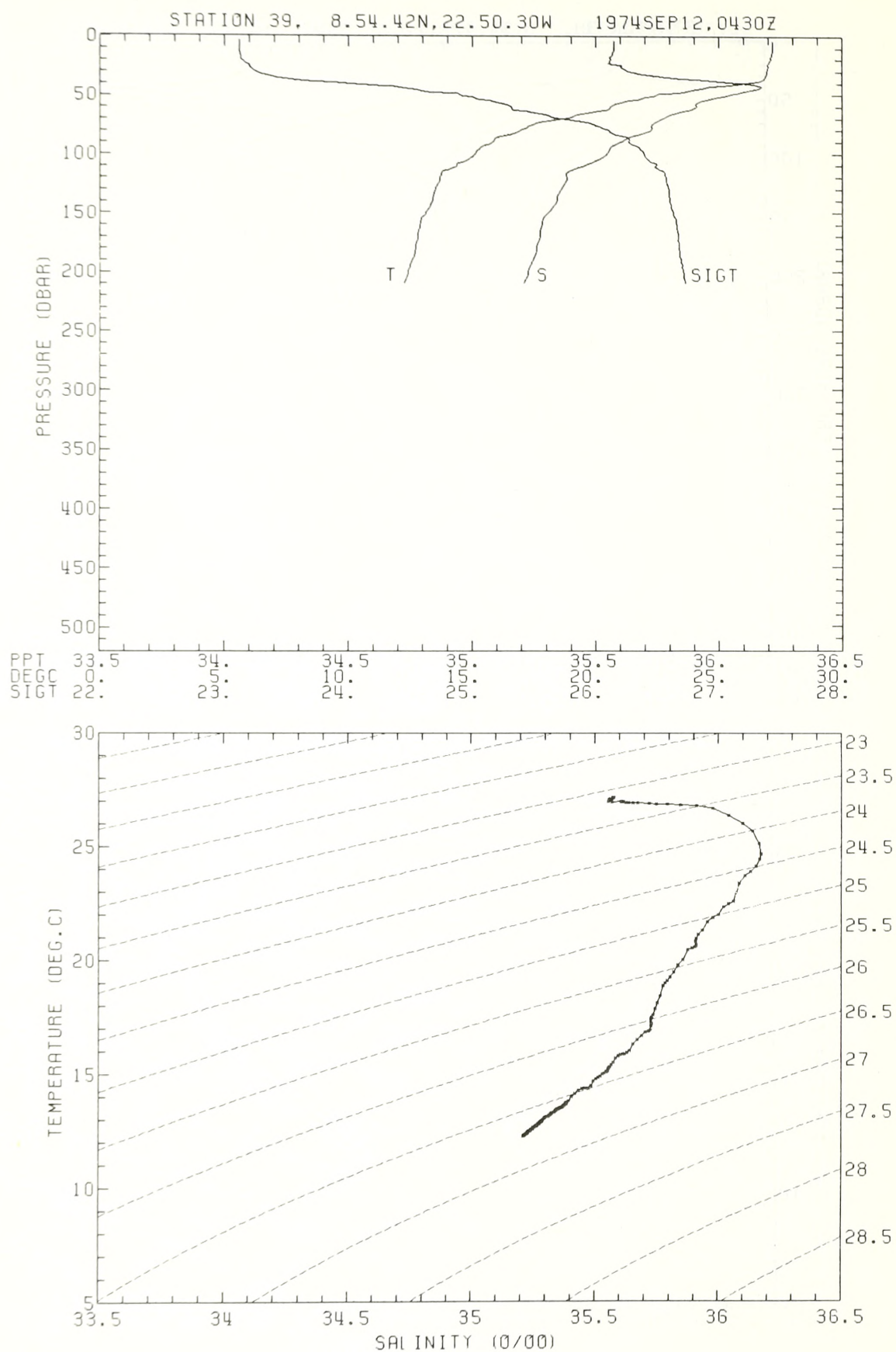


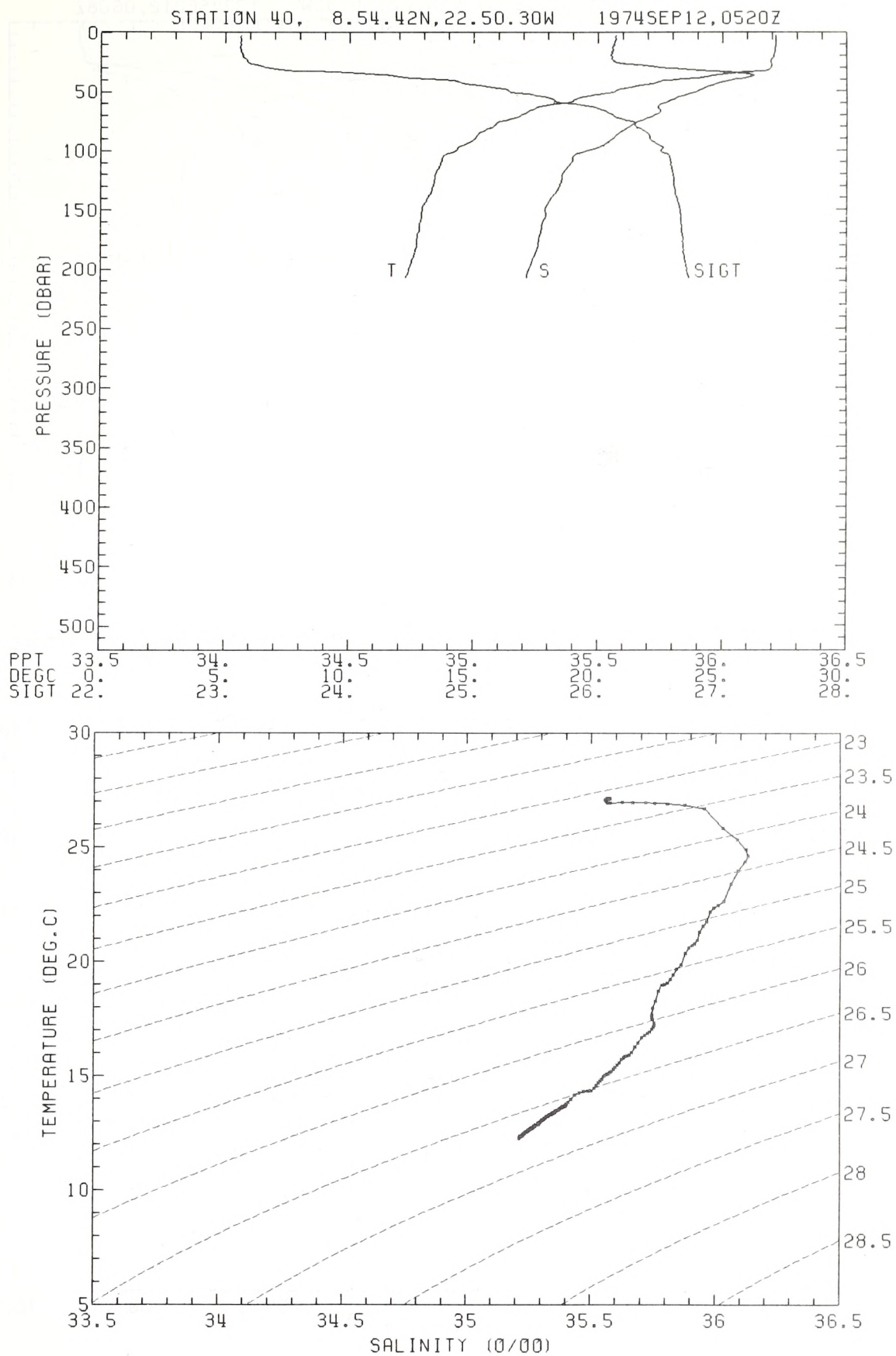


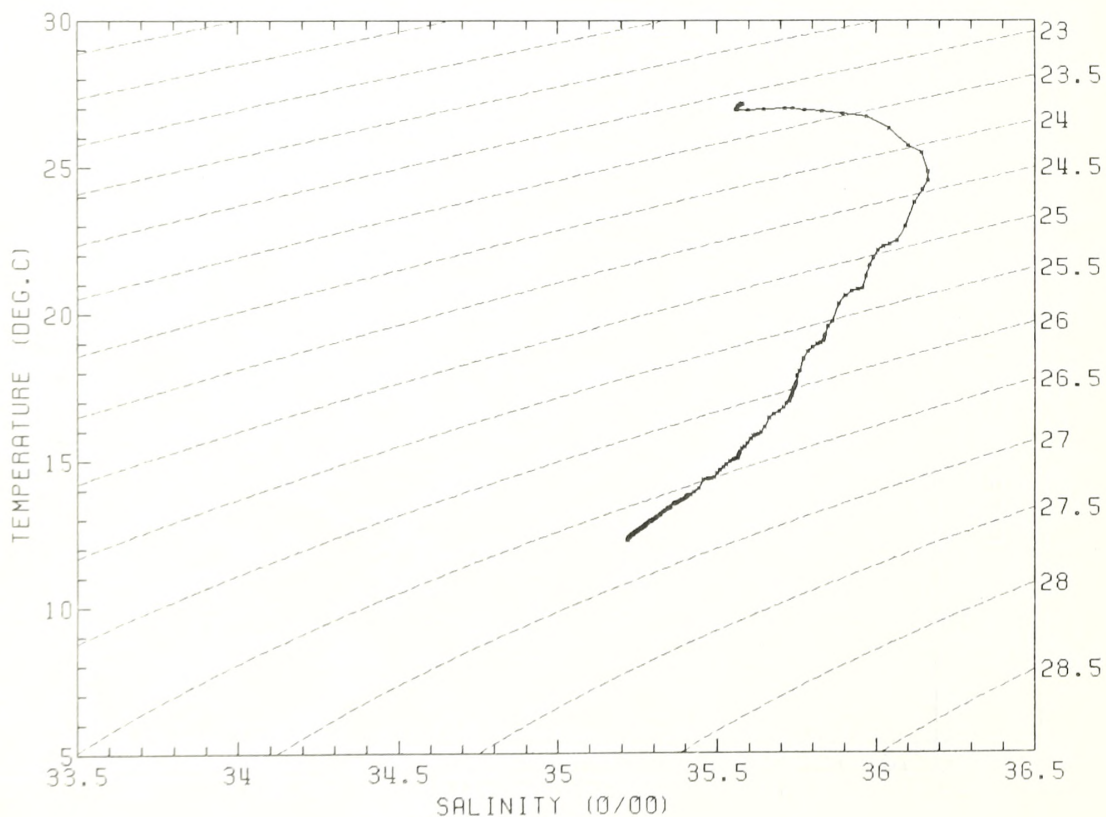
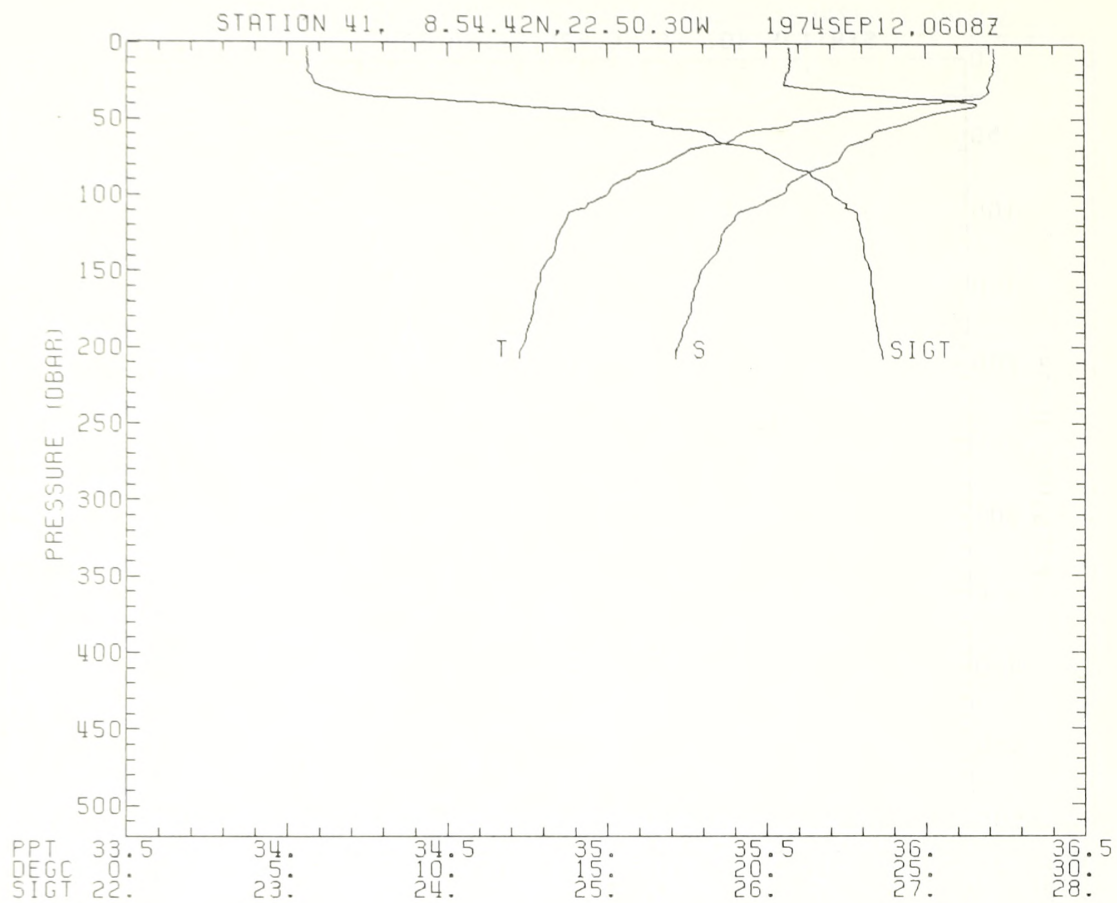


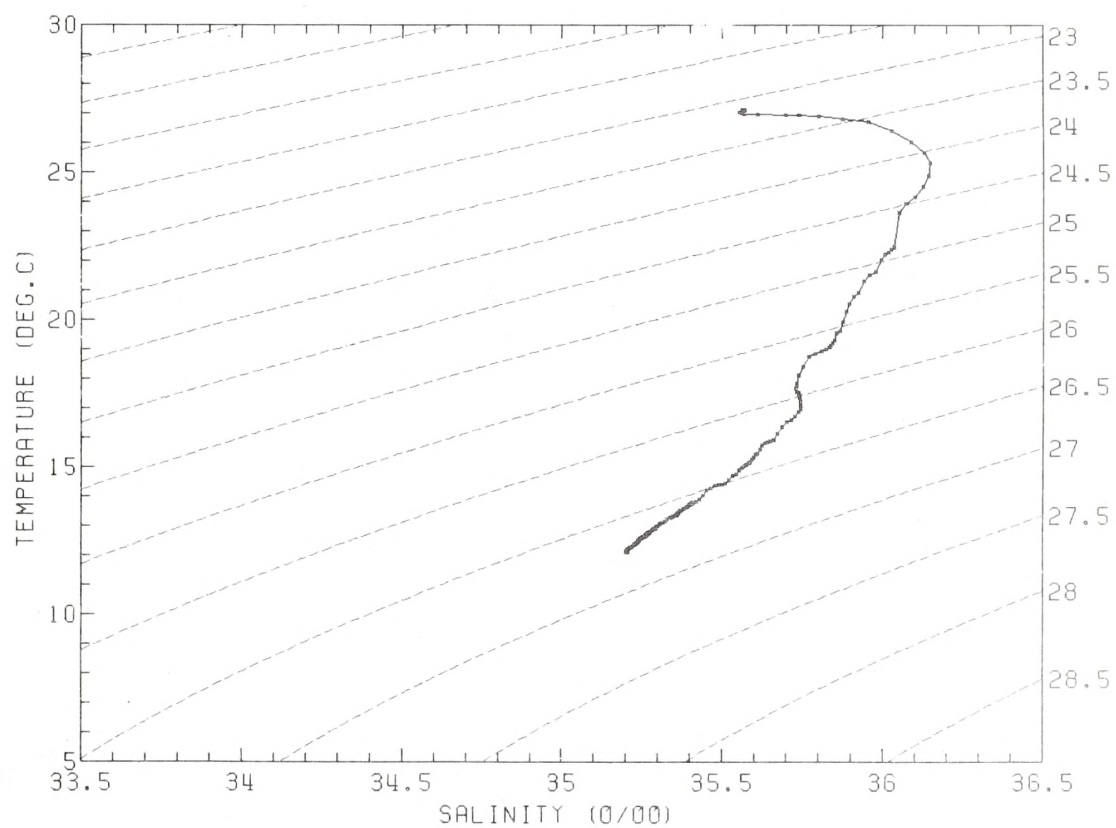
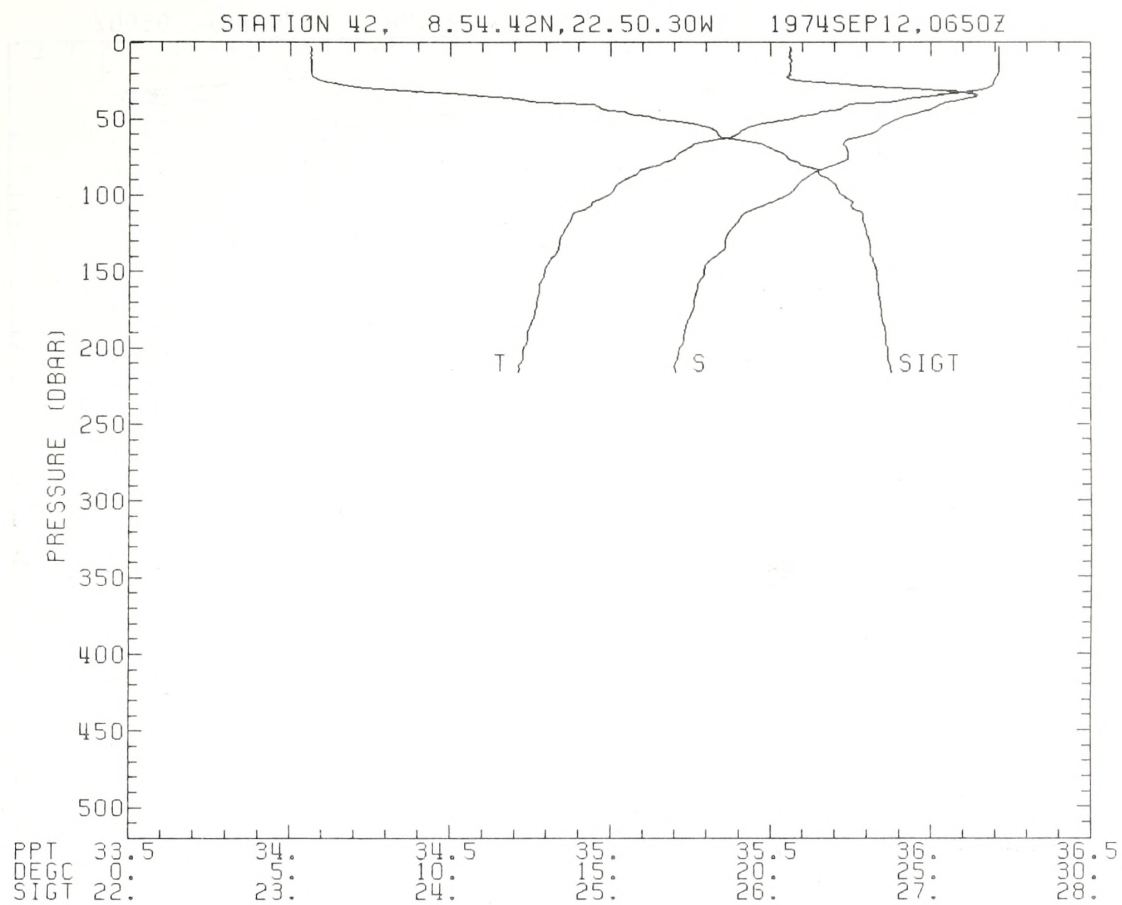
STATION 38, 8.54.42N, 22.50.30W 1974SEP12, 0310Z

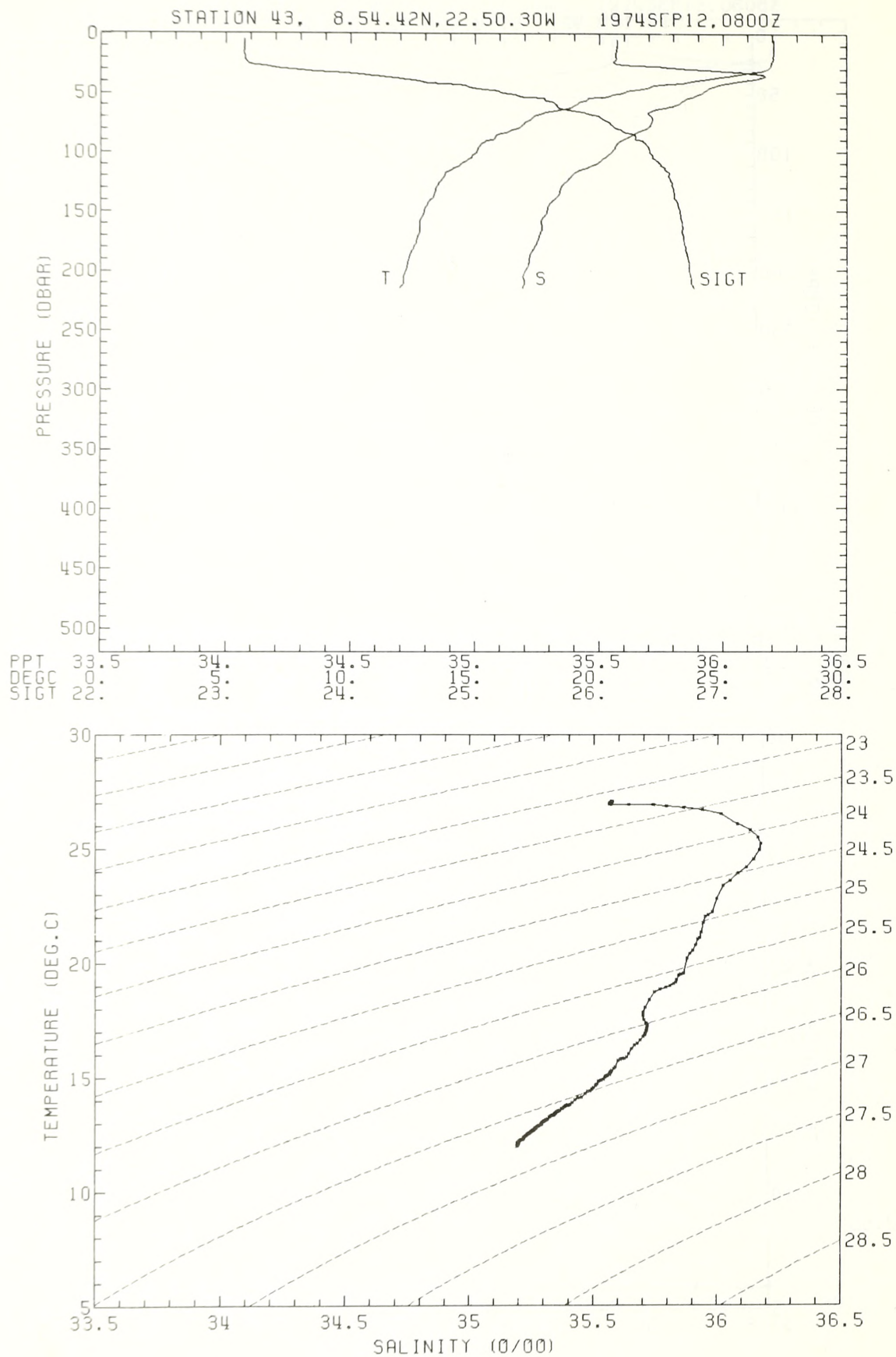


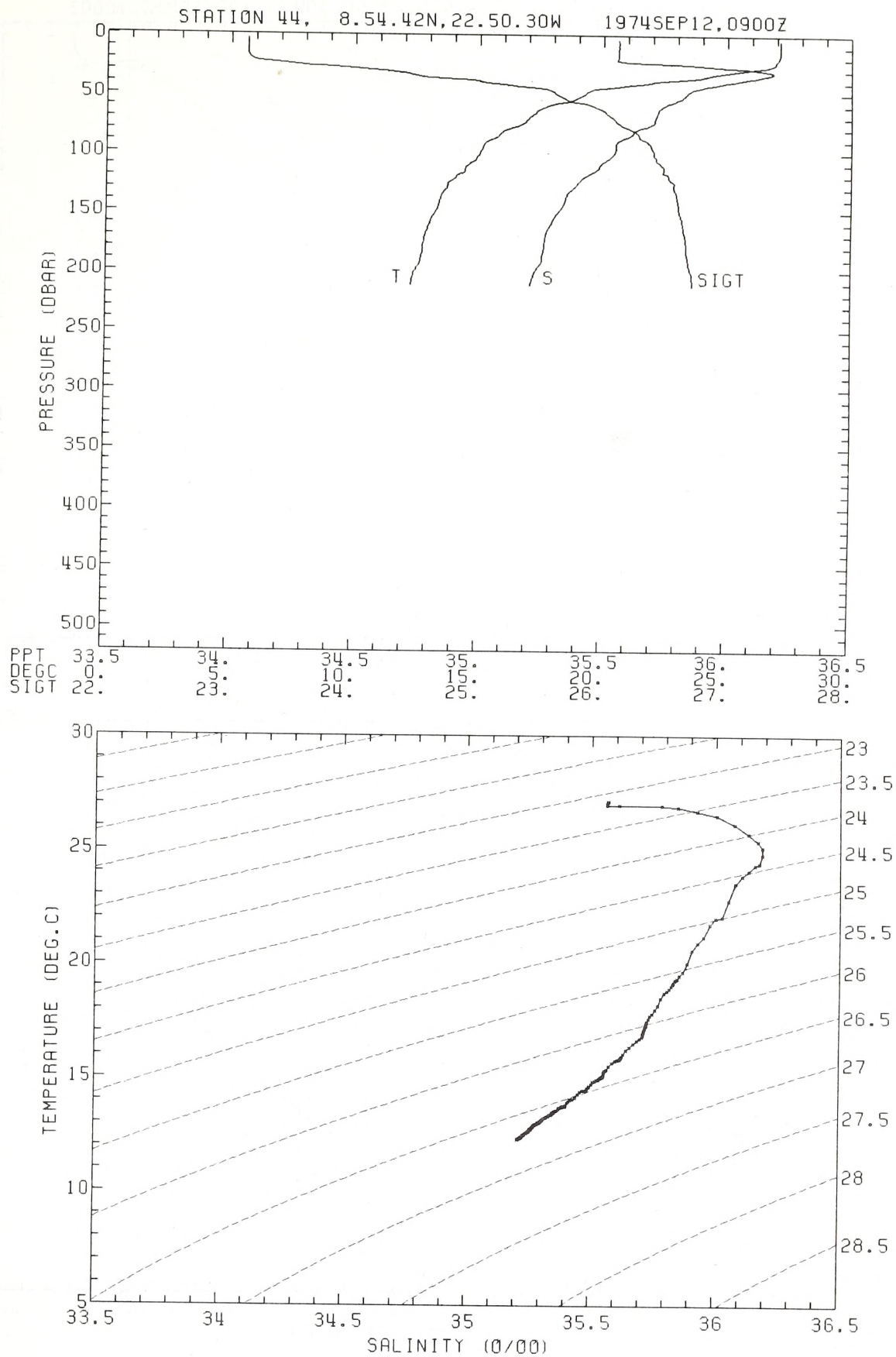


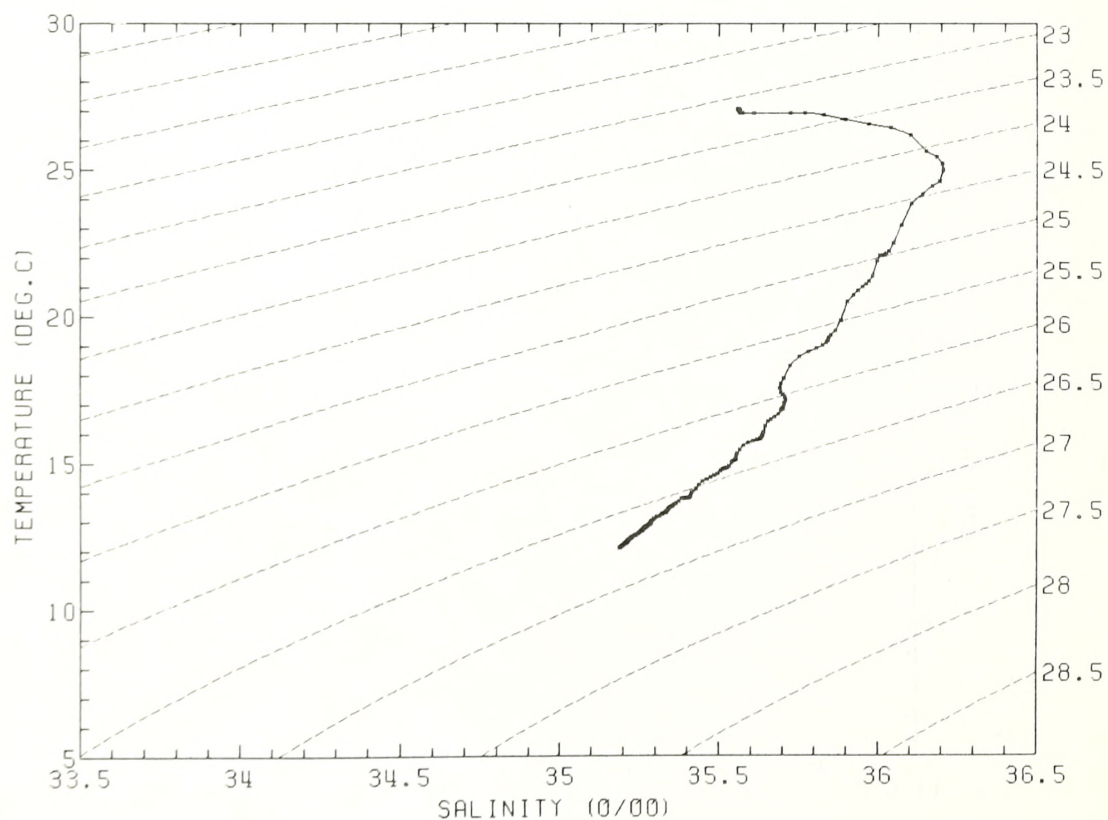
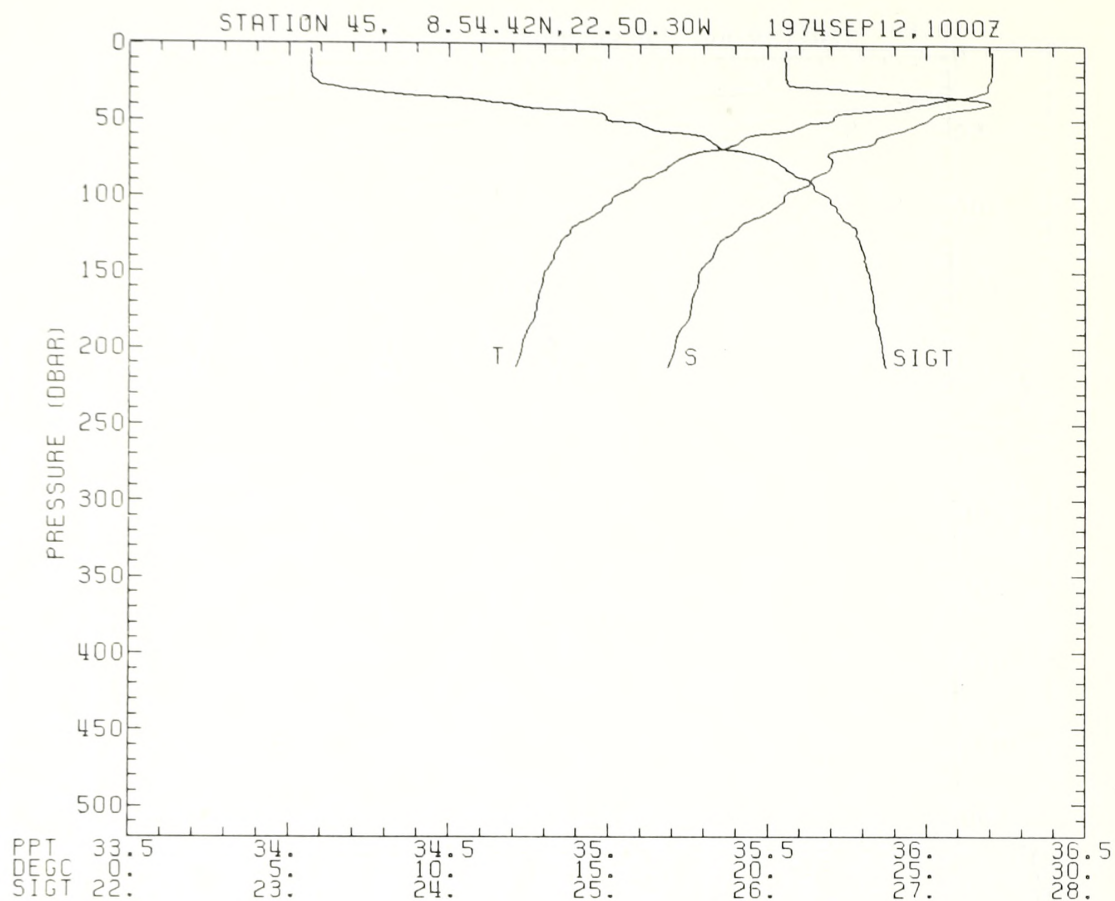


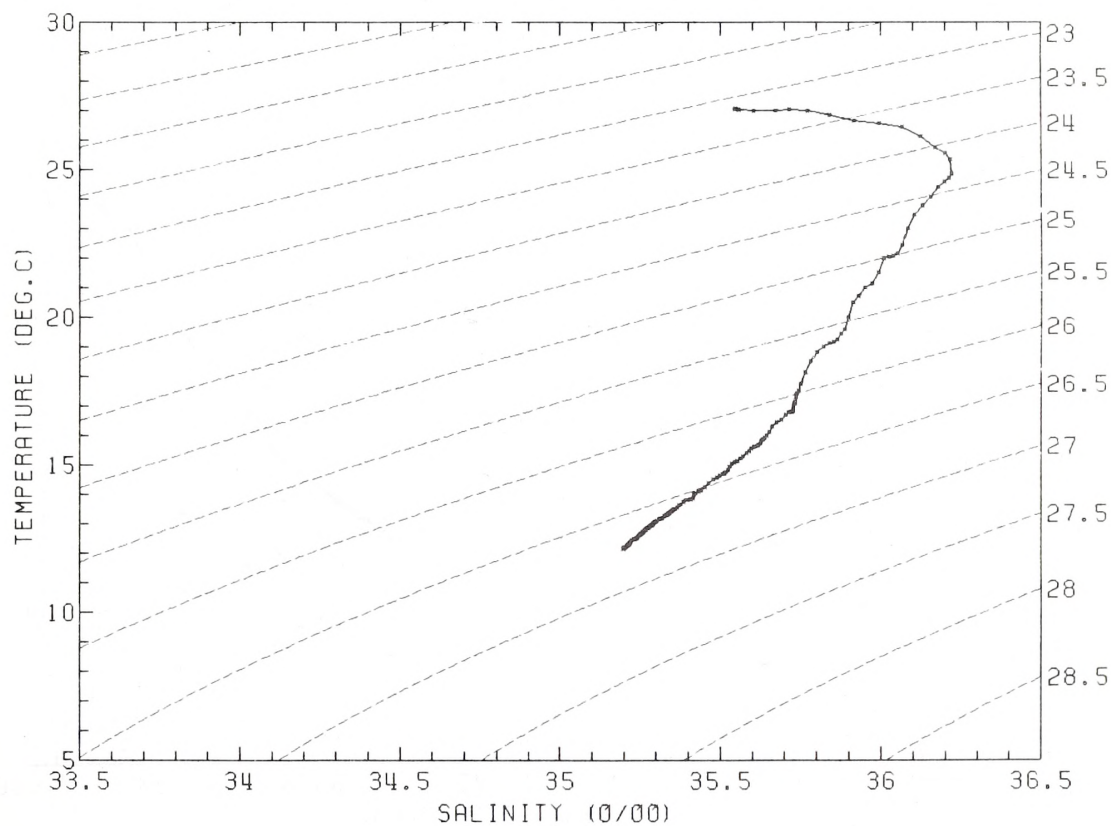
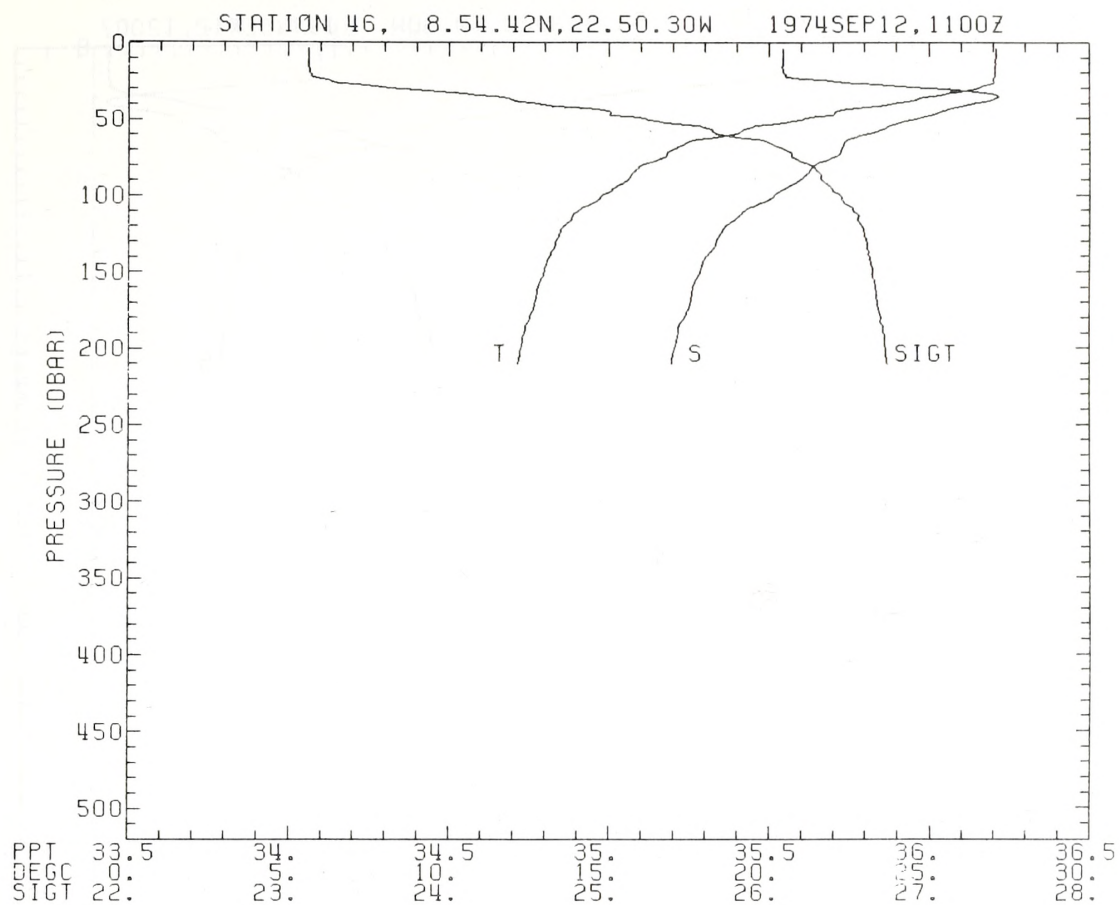


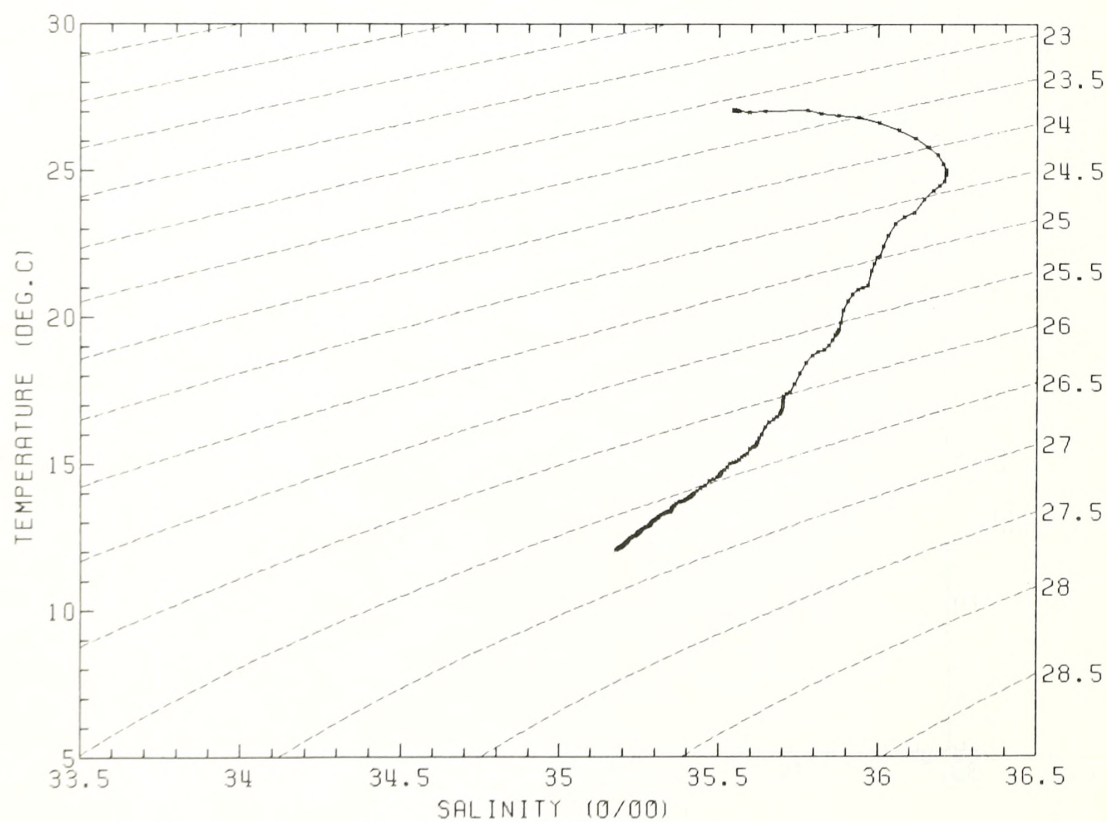
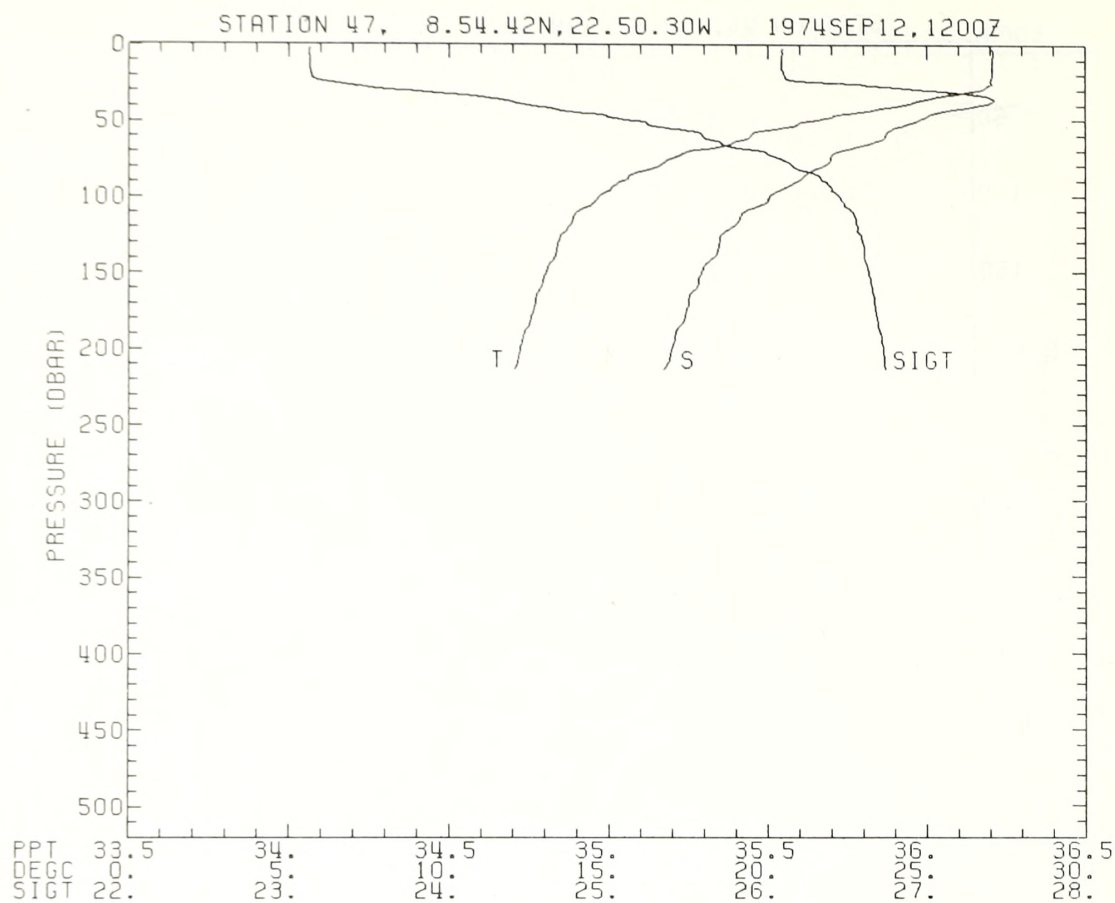


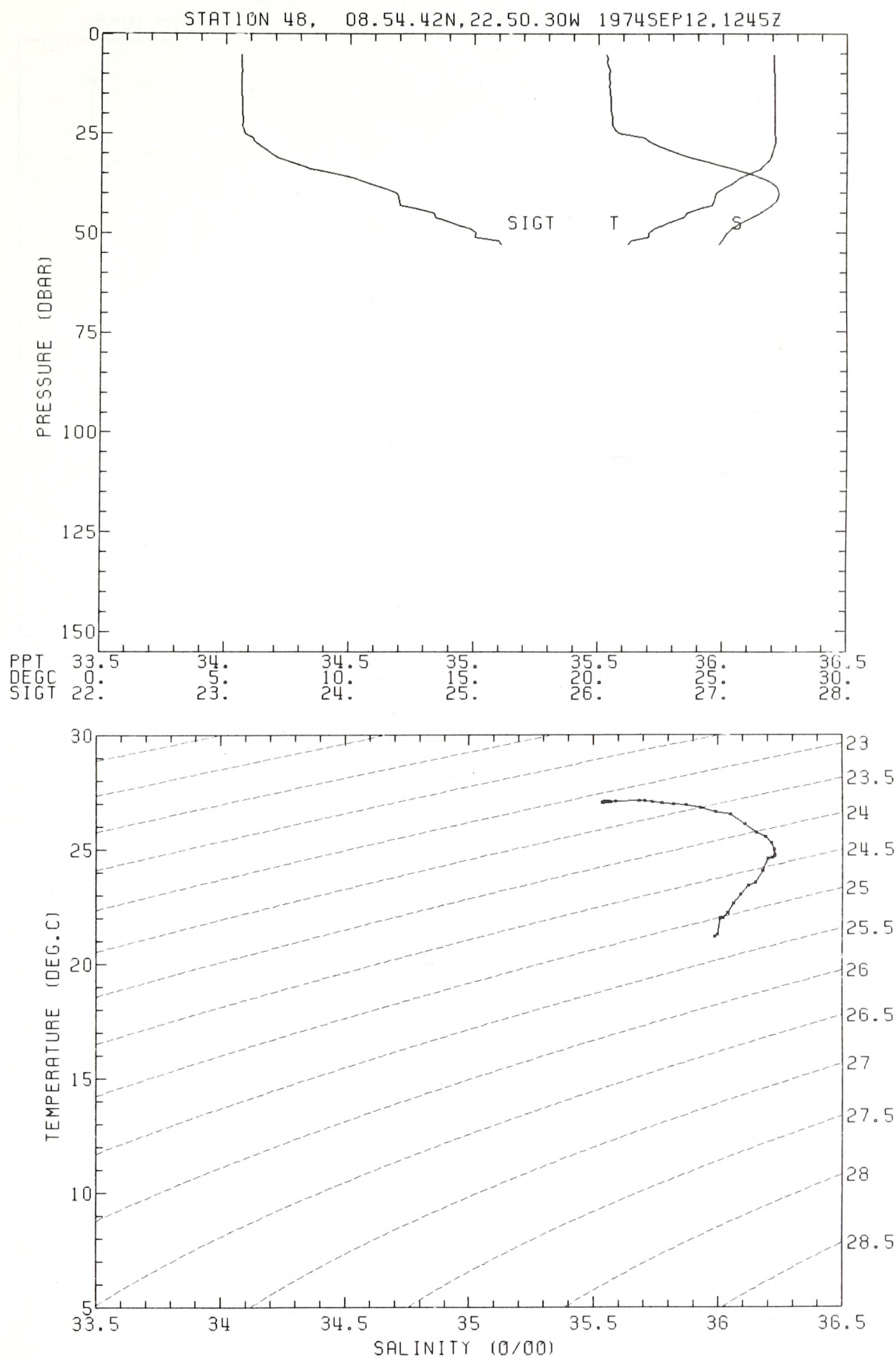


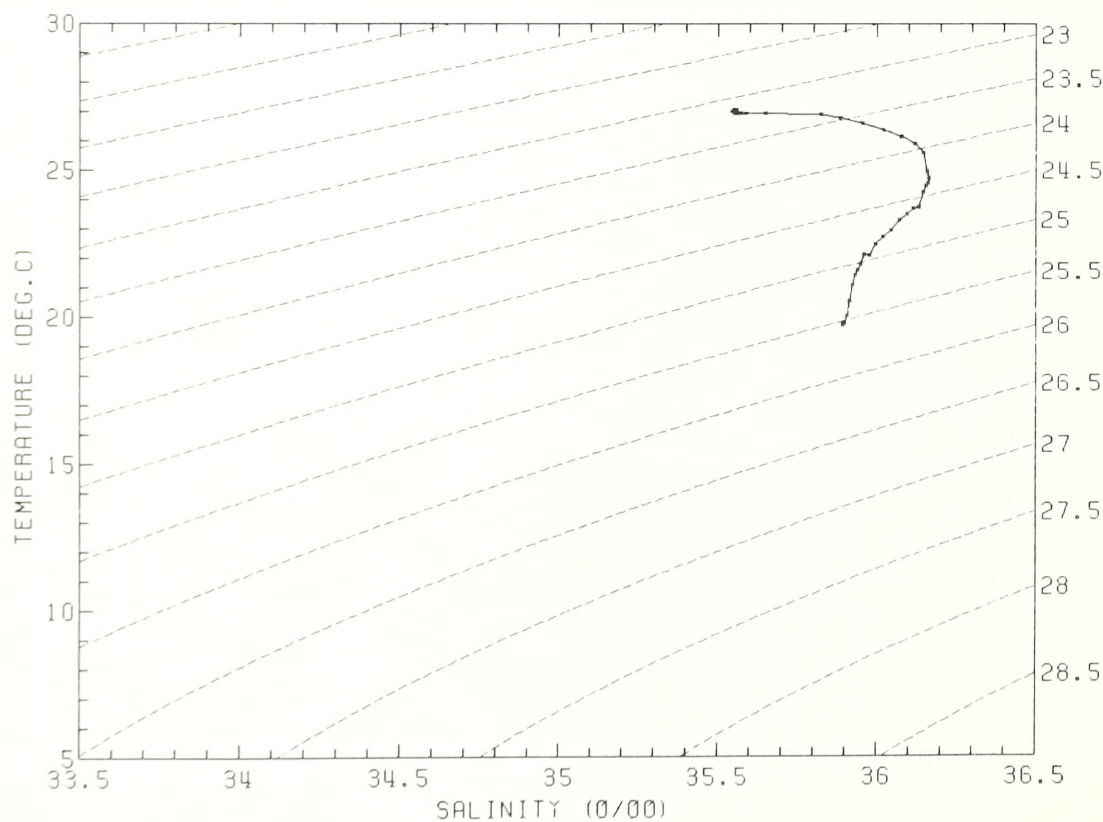
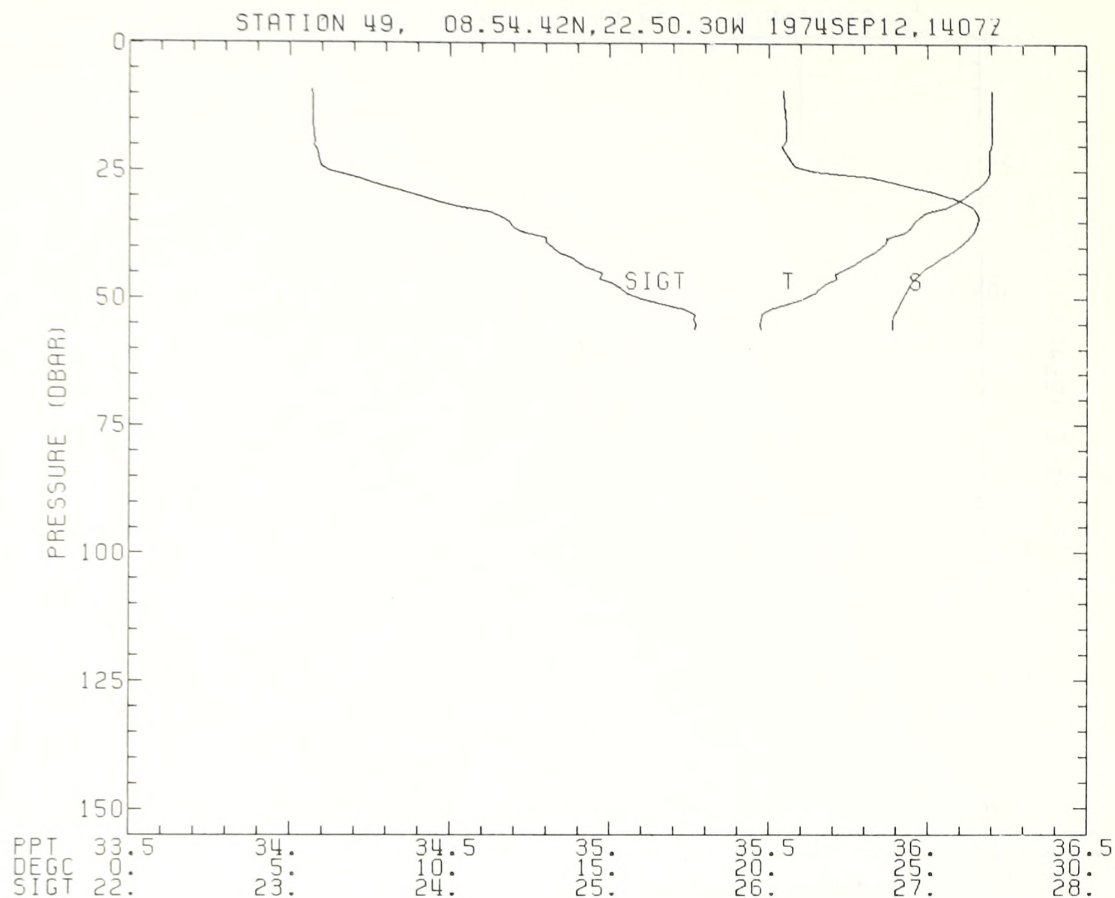


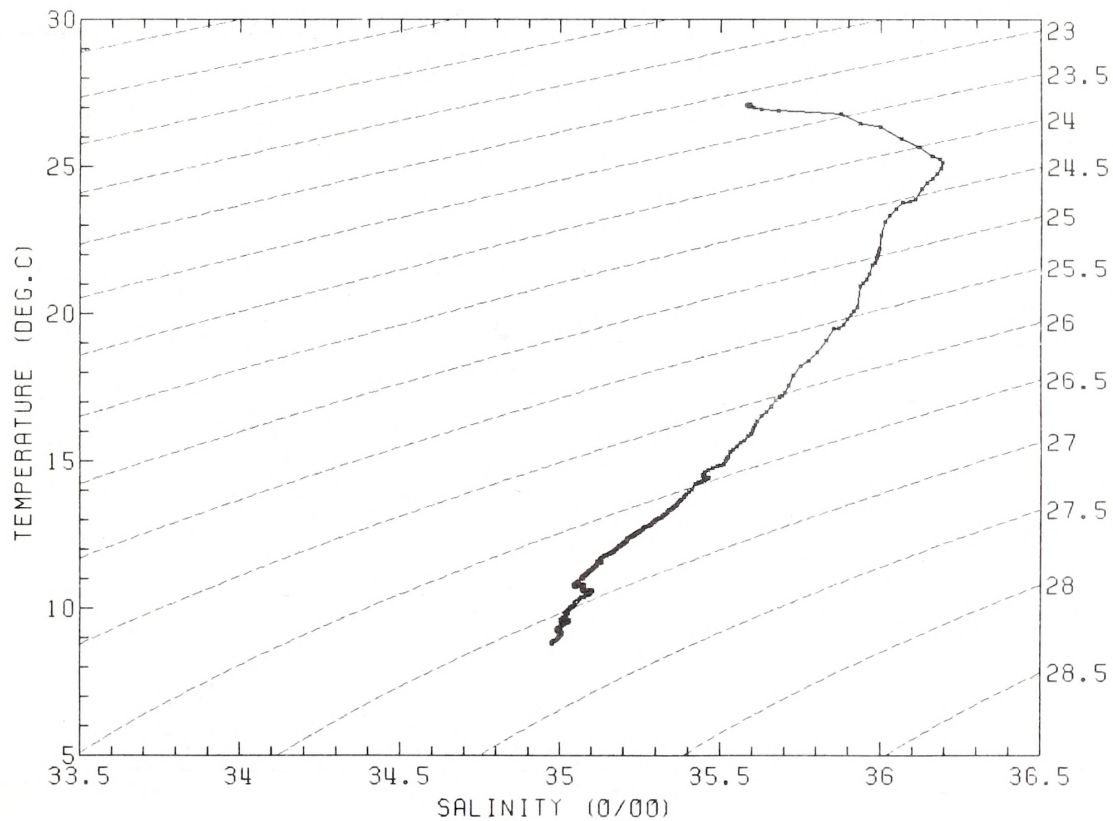
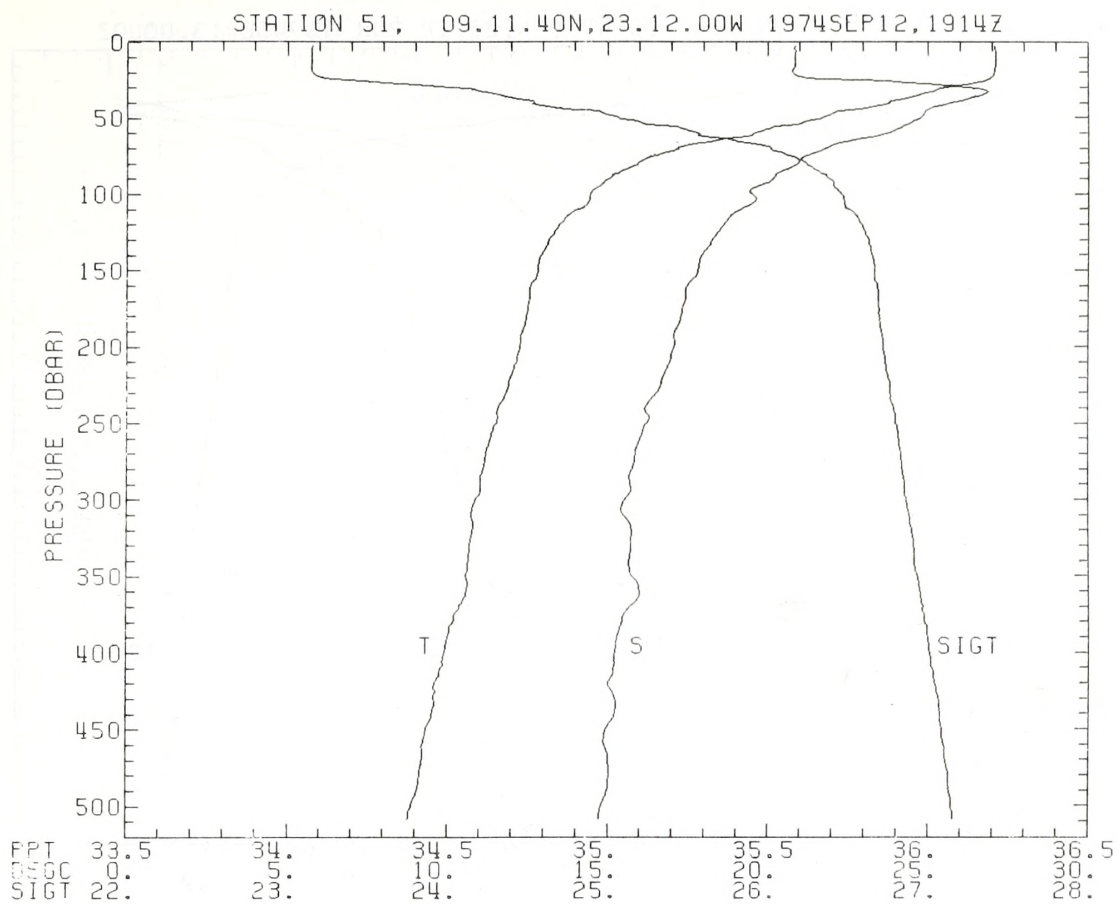




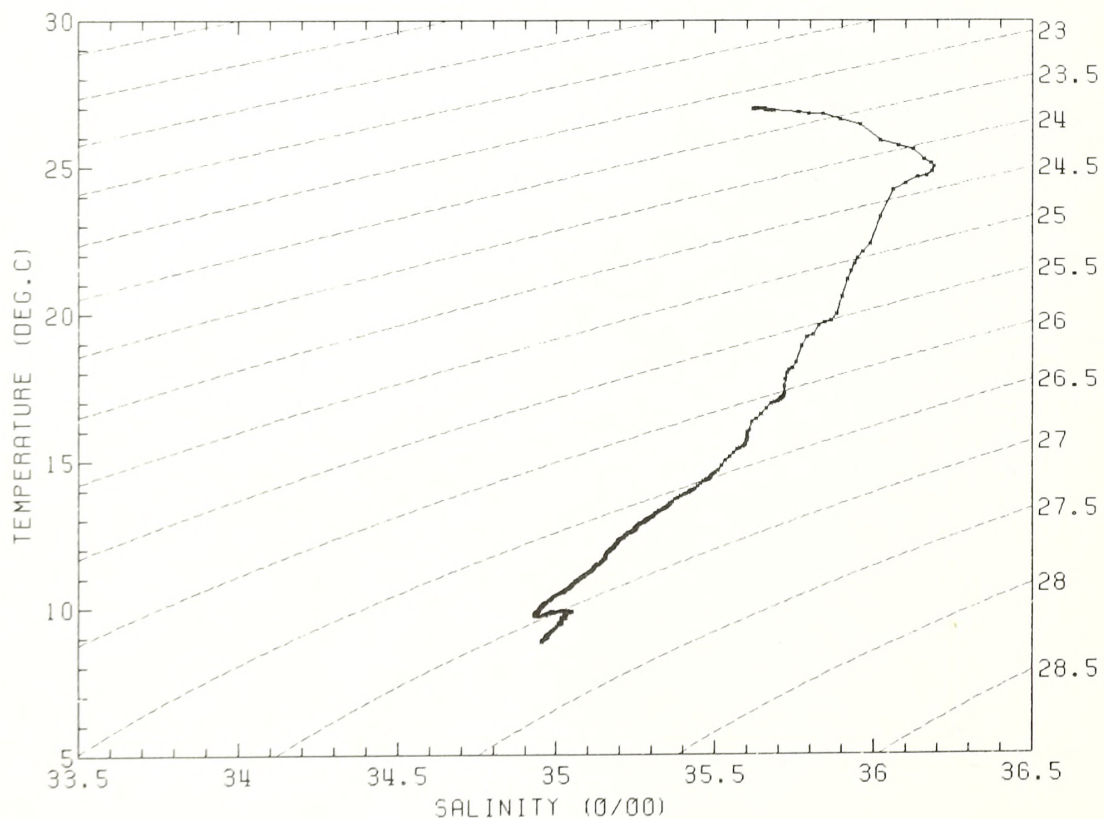
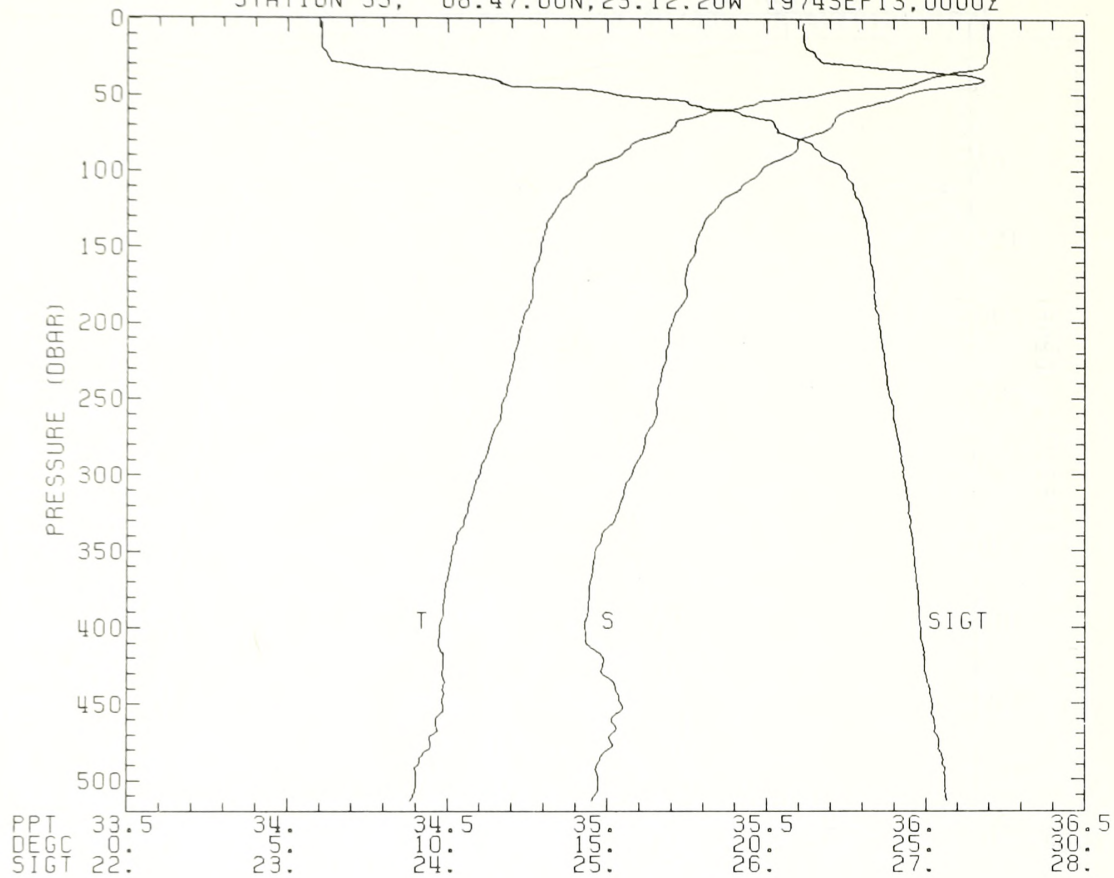


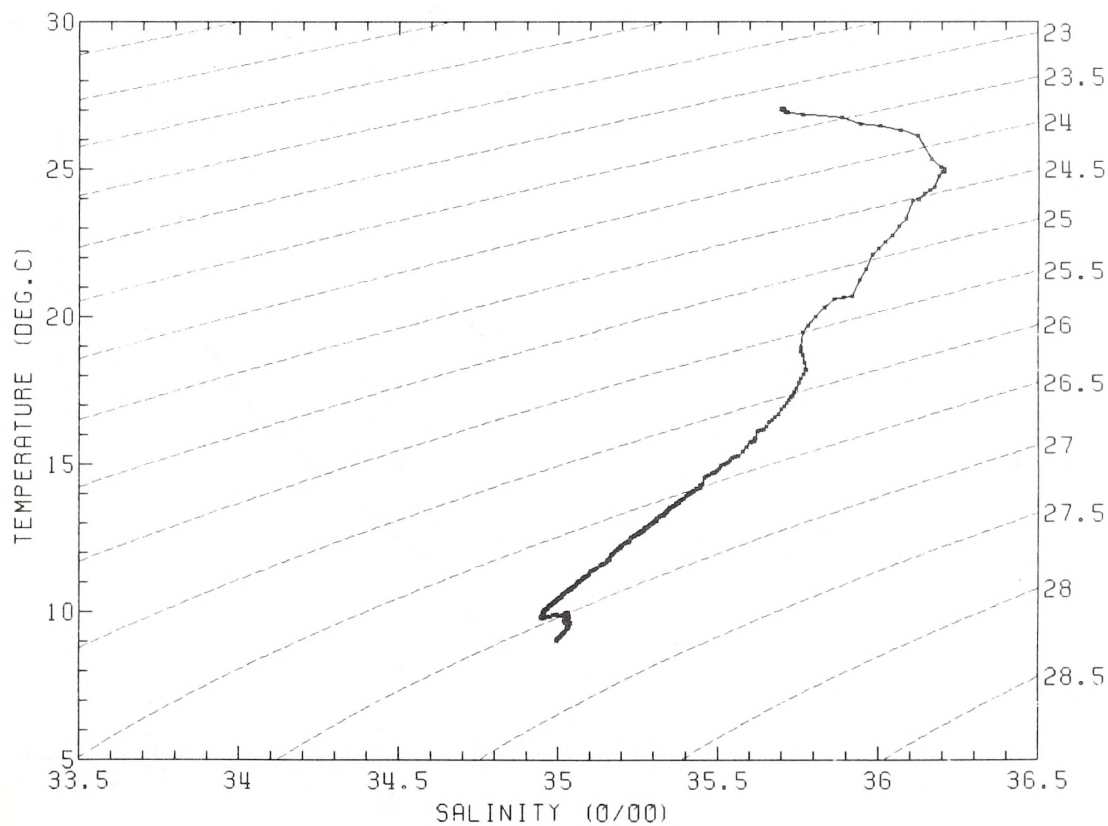
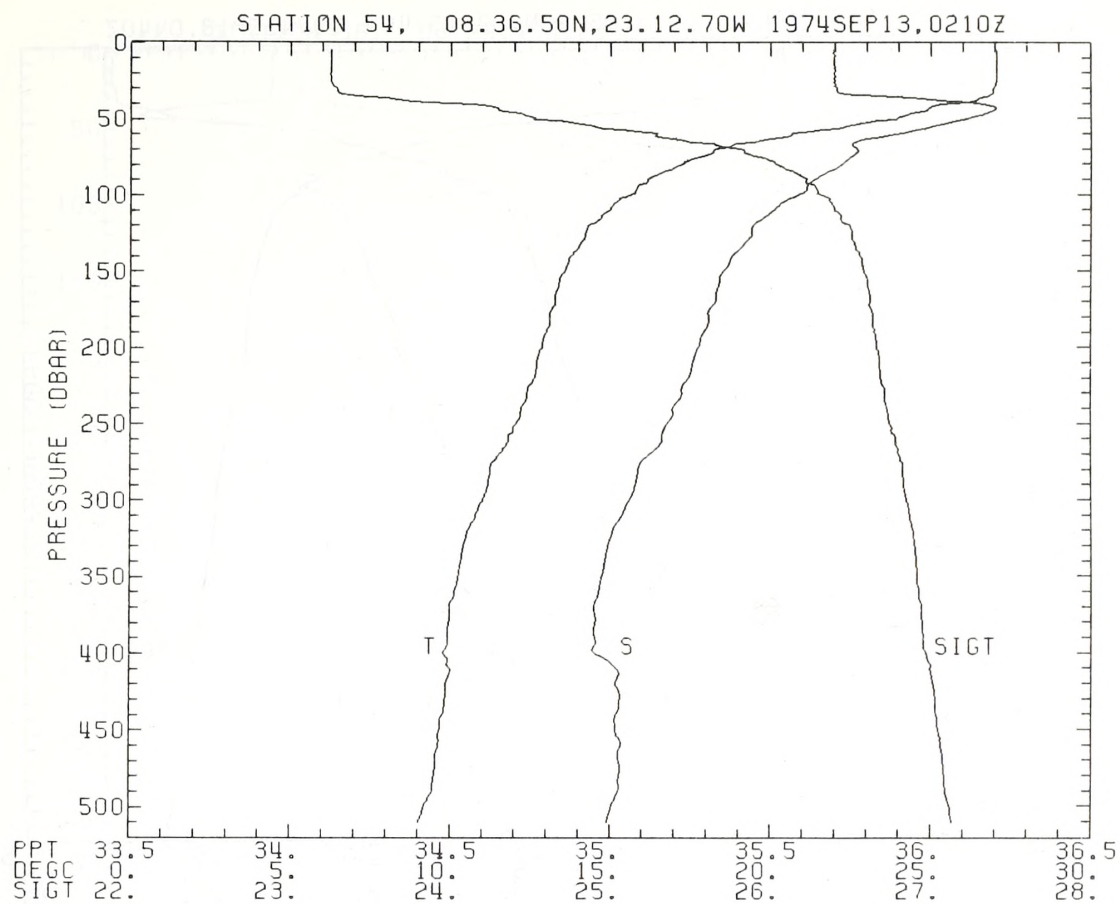


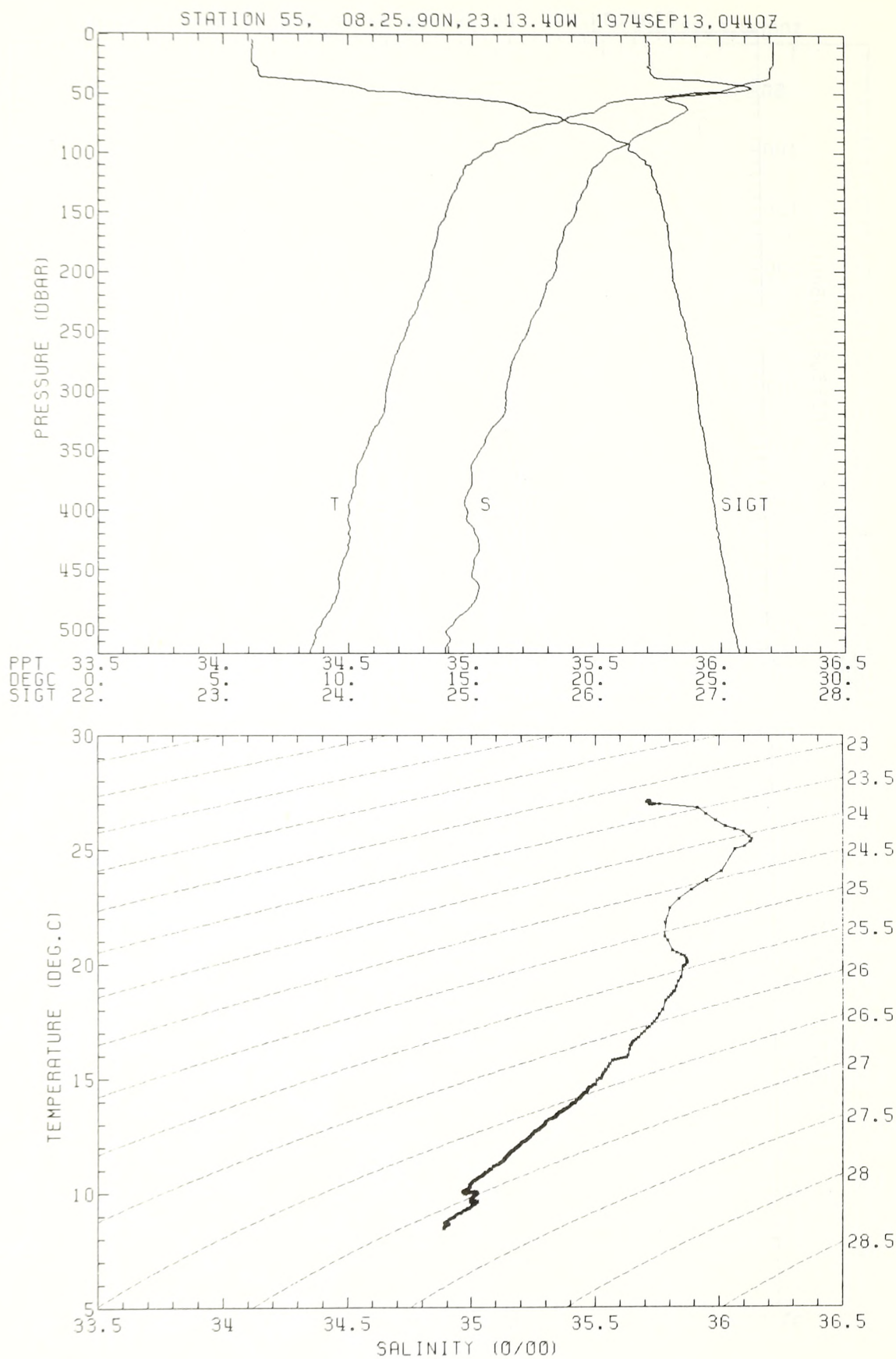




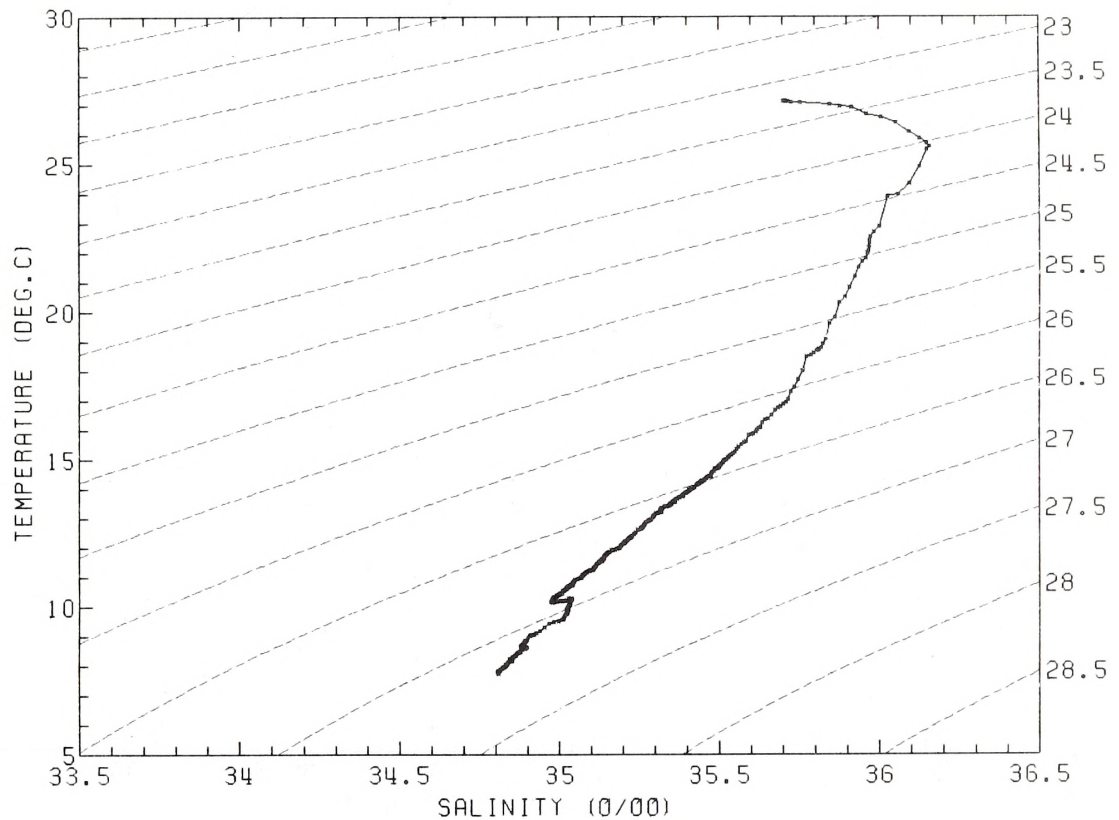
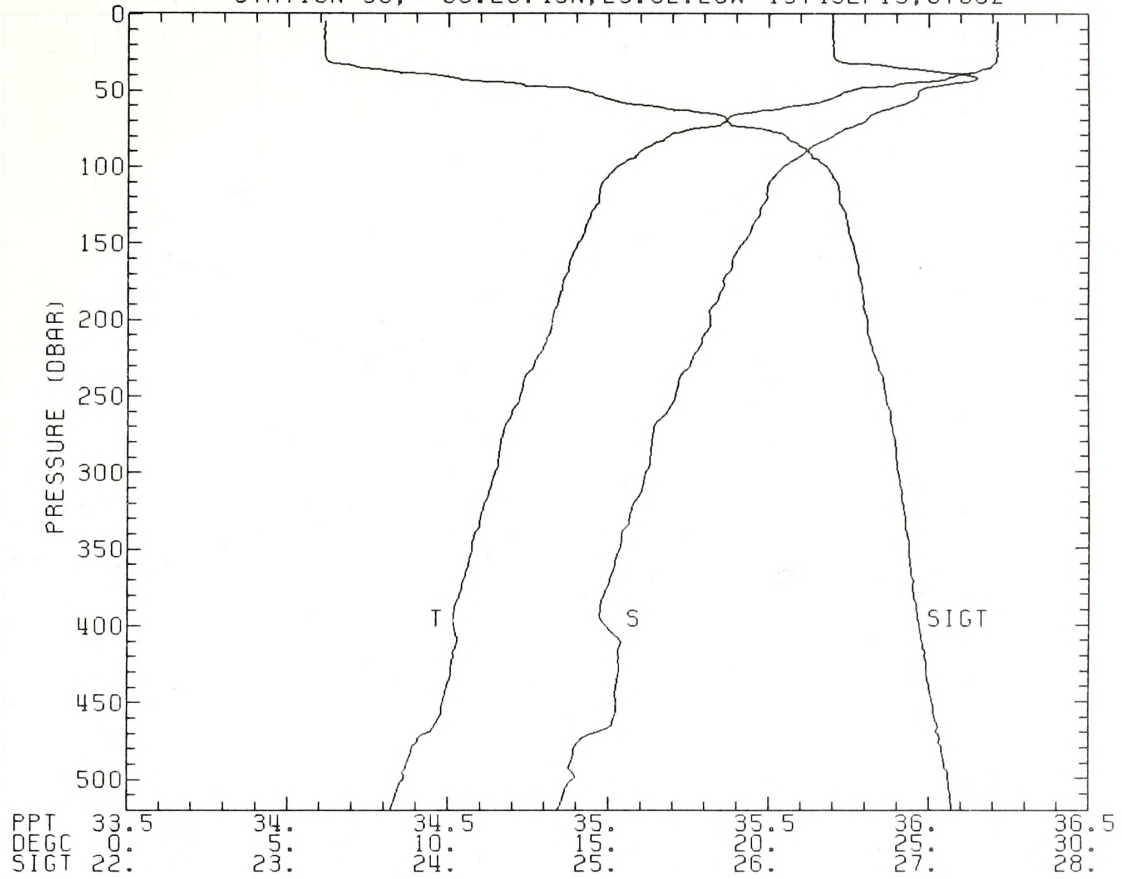
STATION 53, 08.47.00N, 23.12.20W 1974SEP13, 0000Z

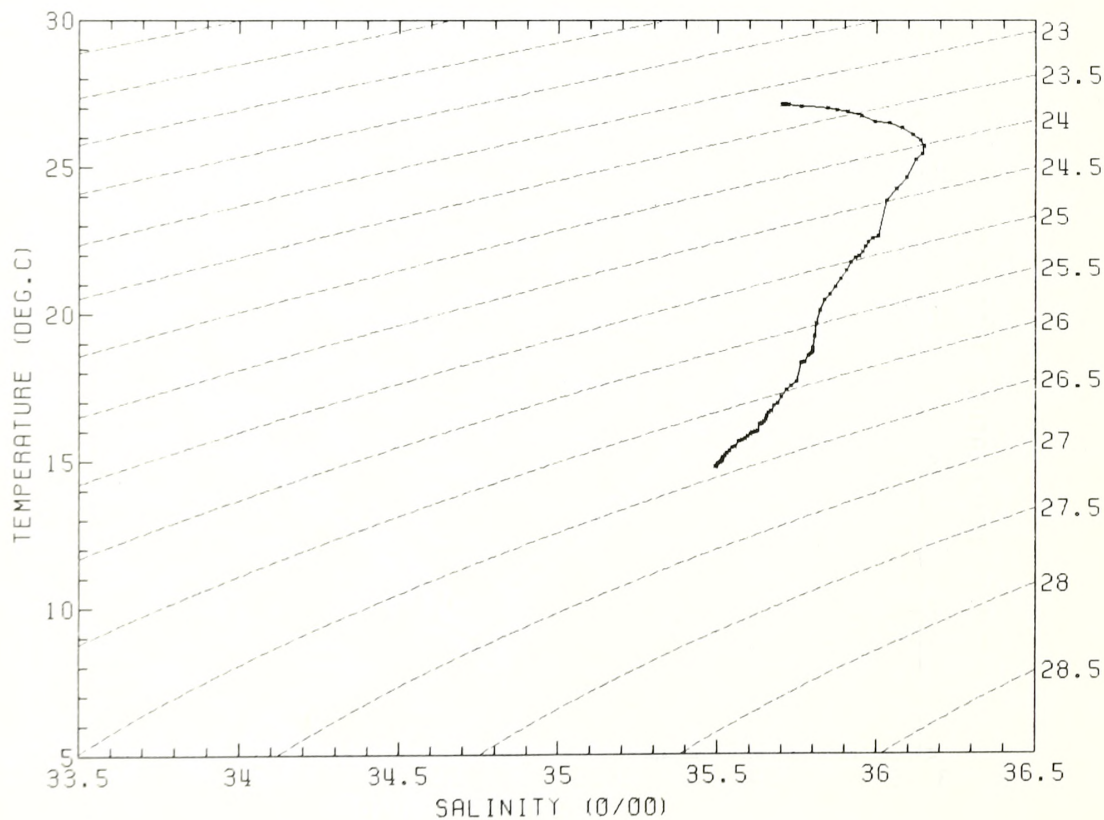
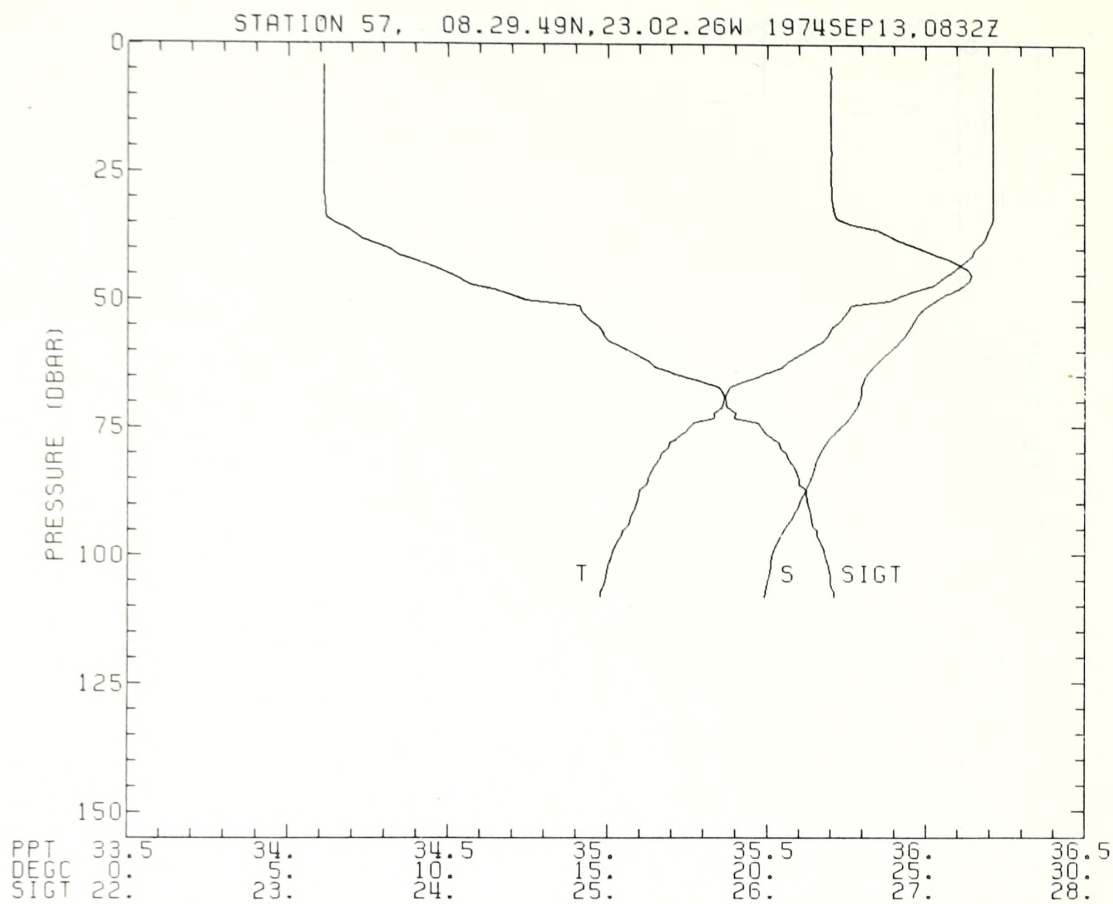


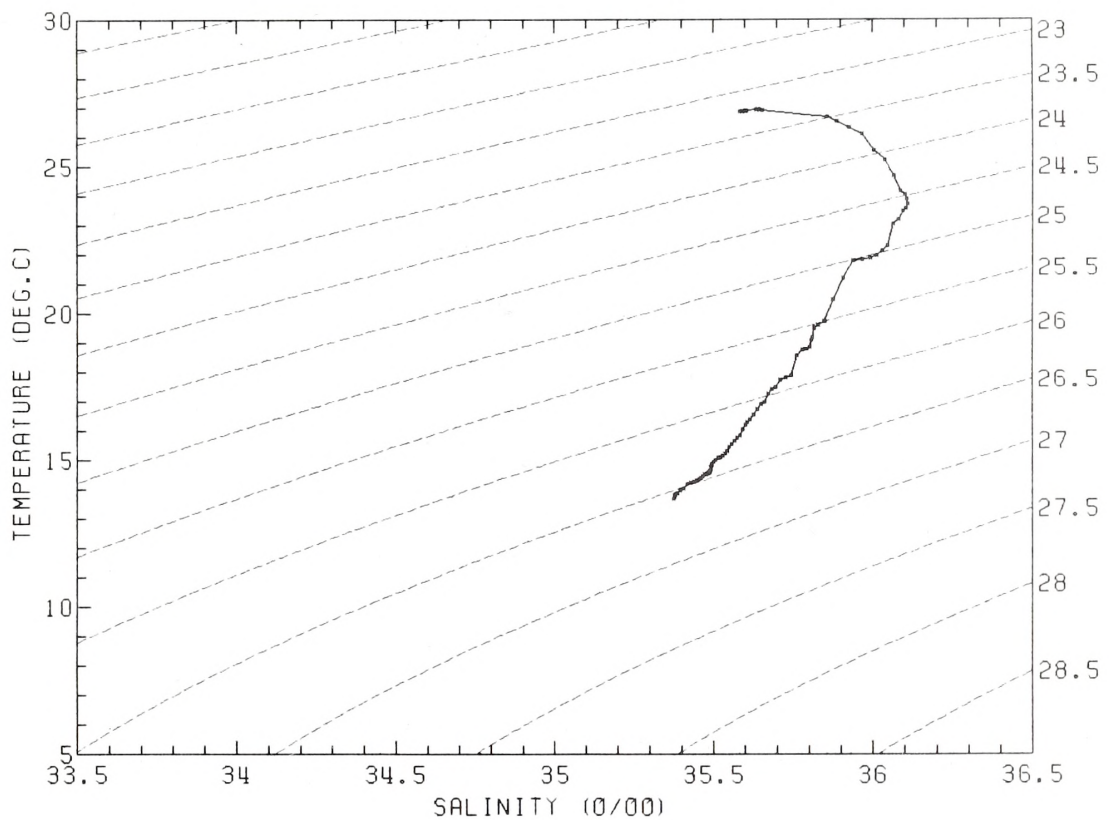
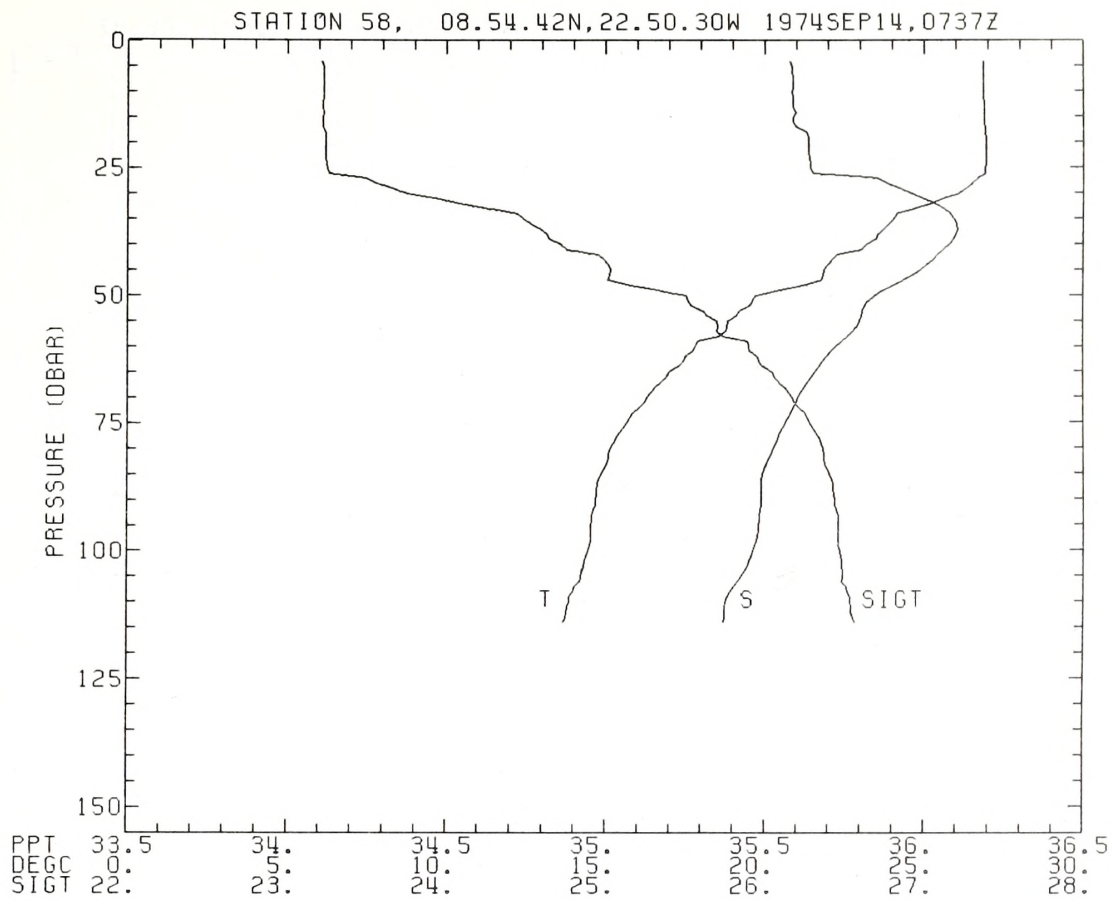


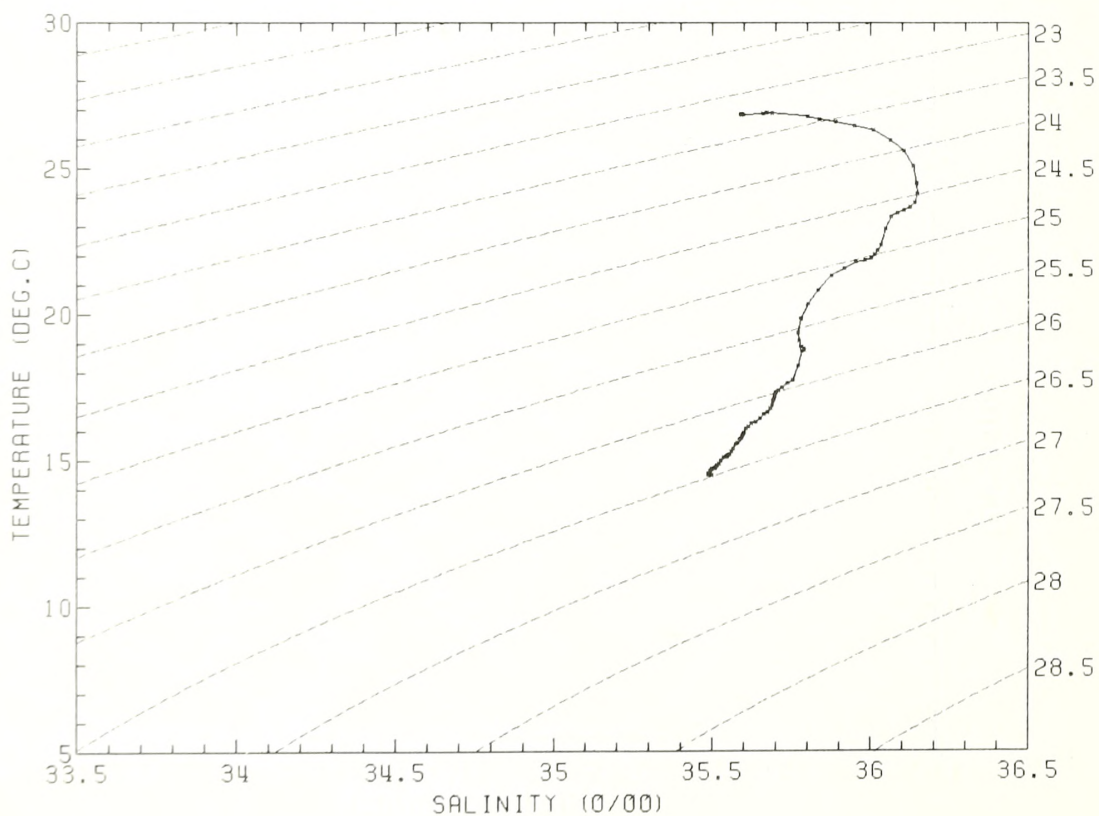
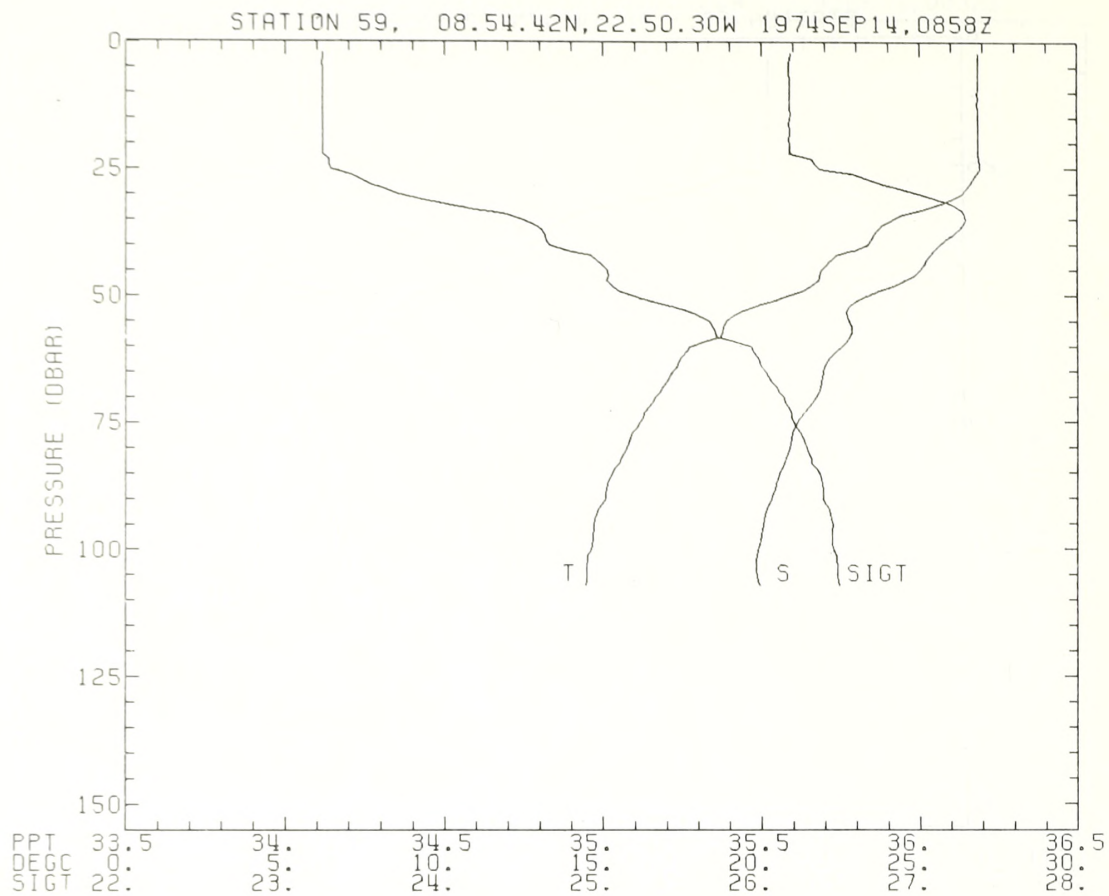


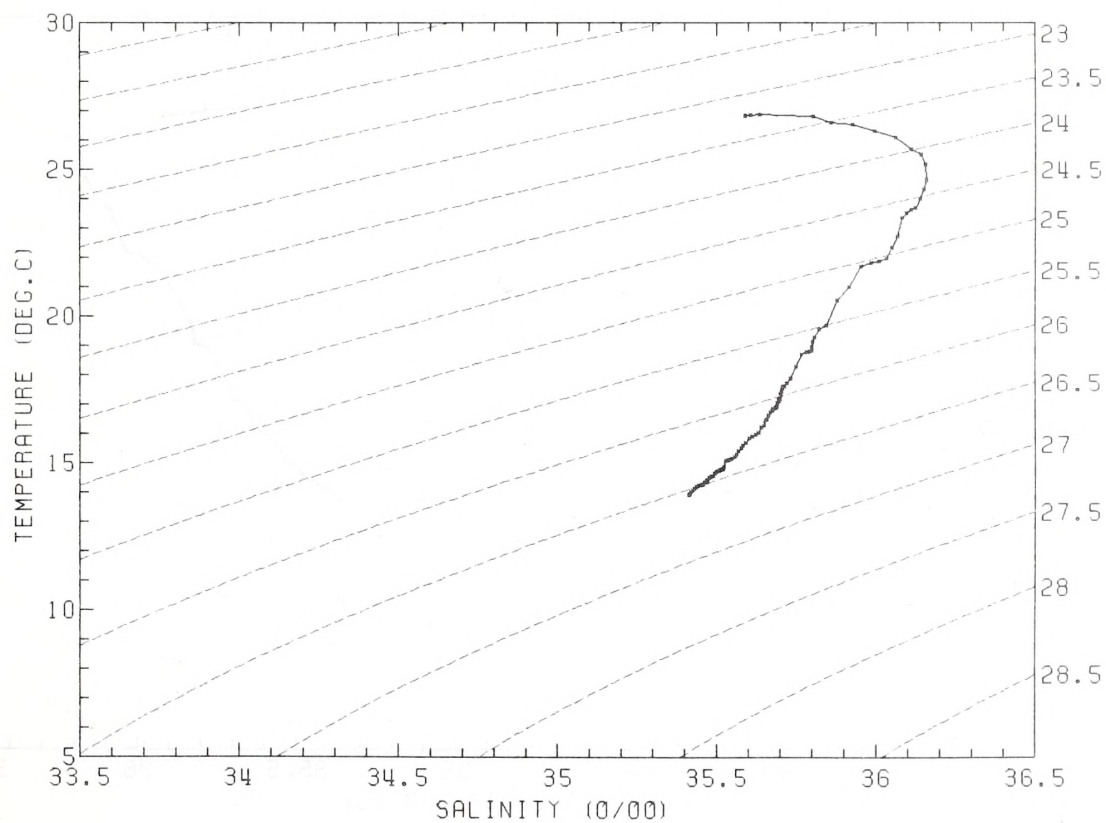
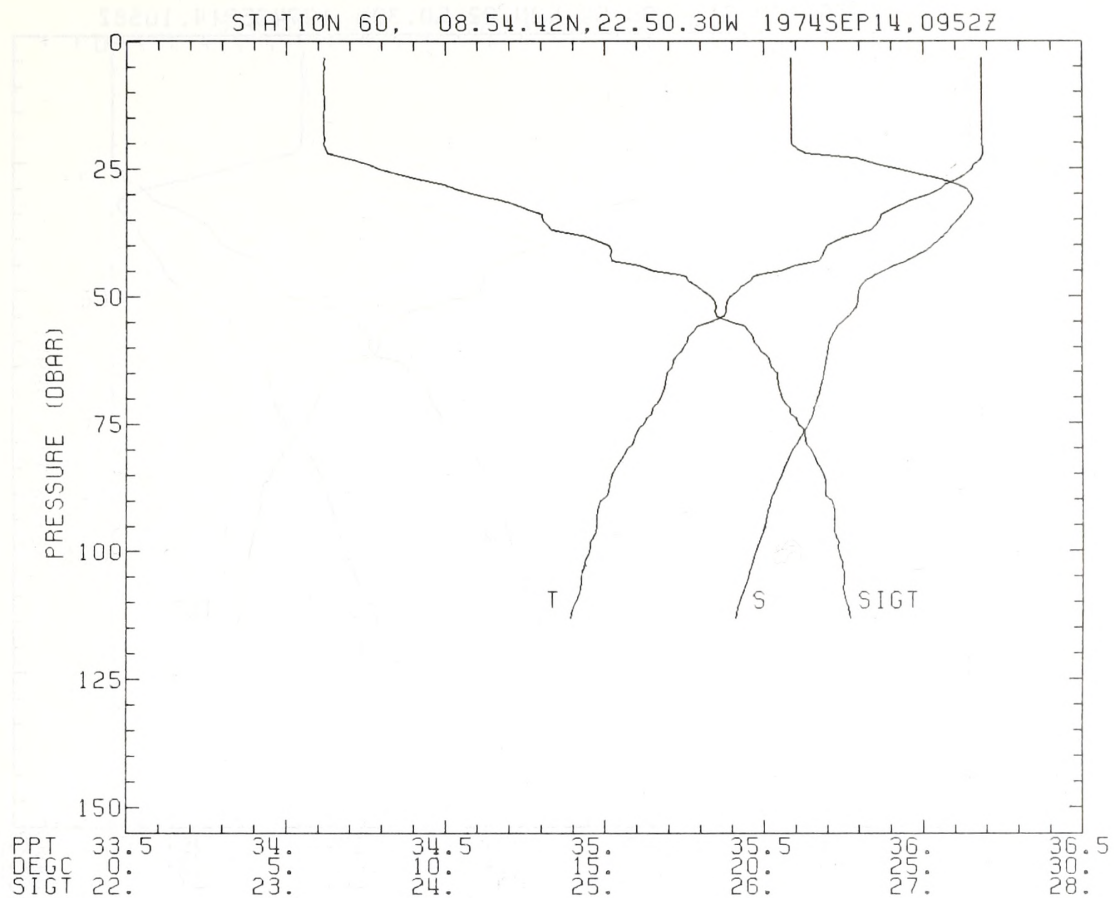
STATION 56, 08.29.49N, 23.02.26W 1974SEP13, 0700Z

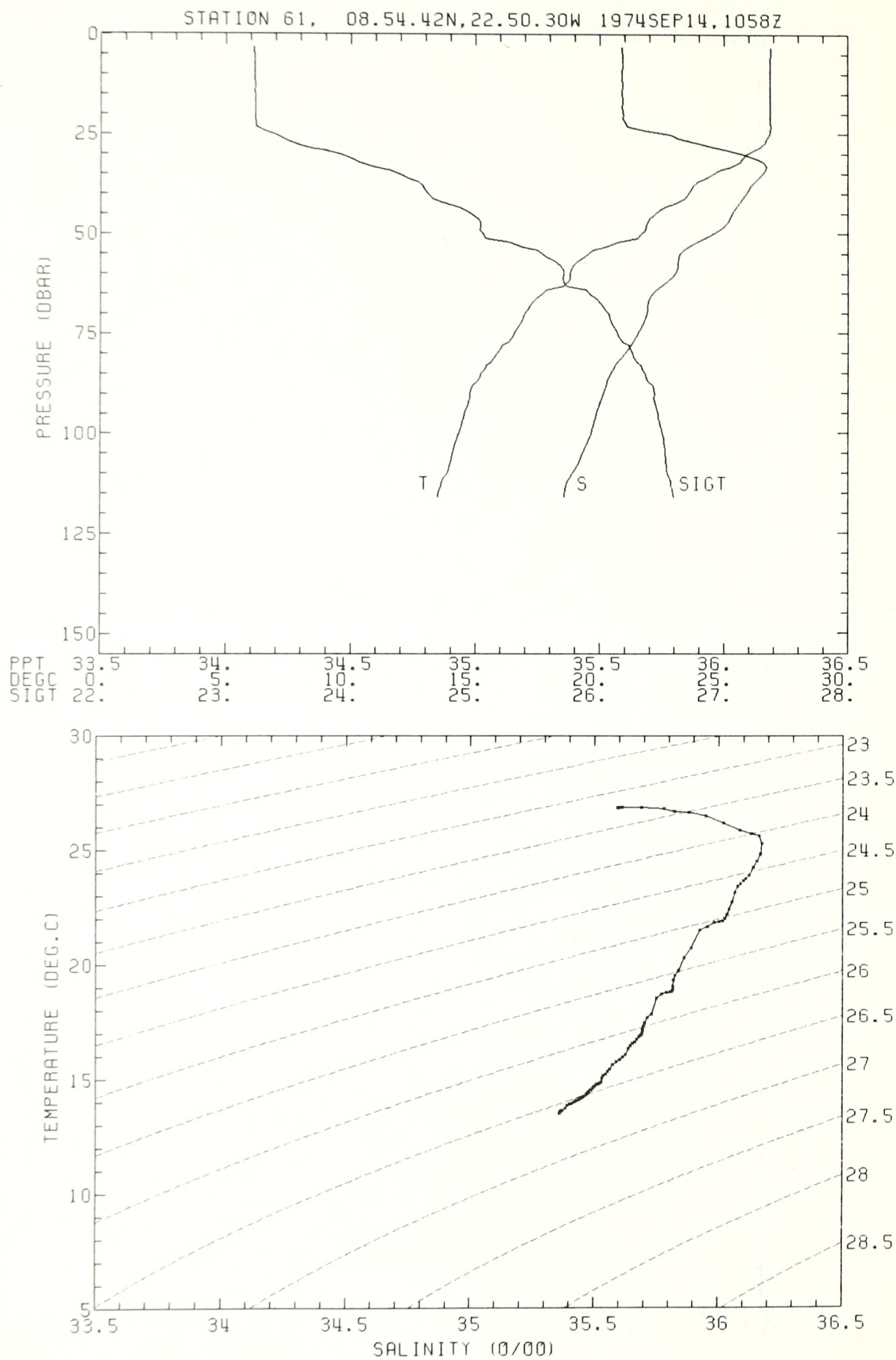


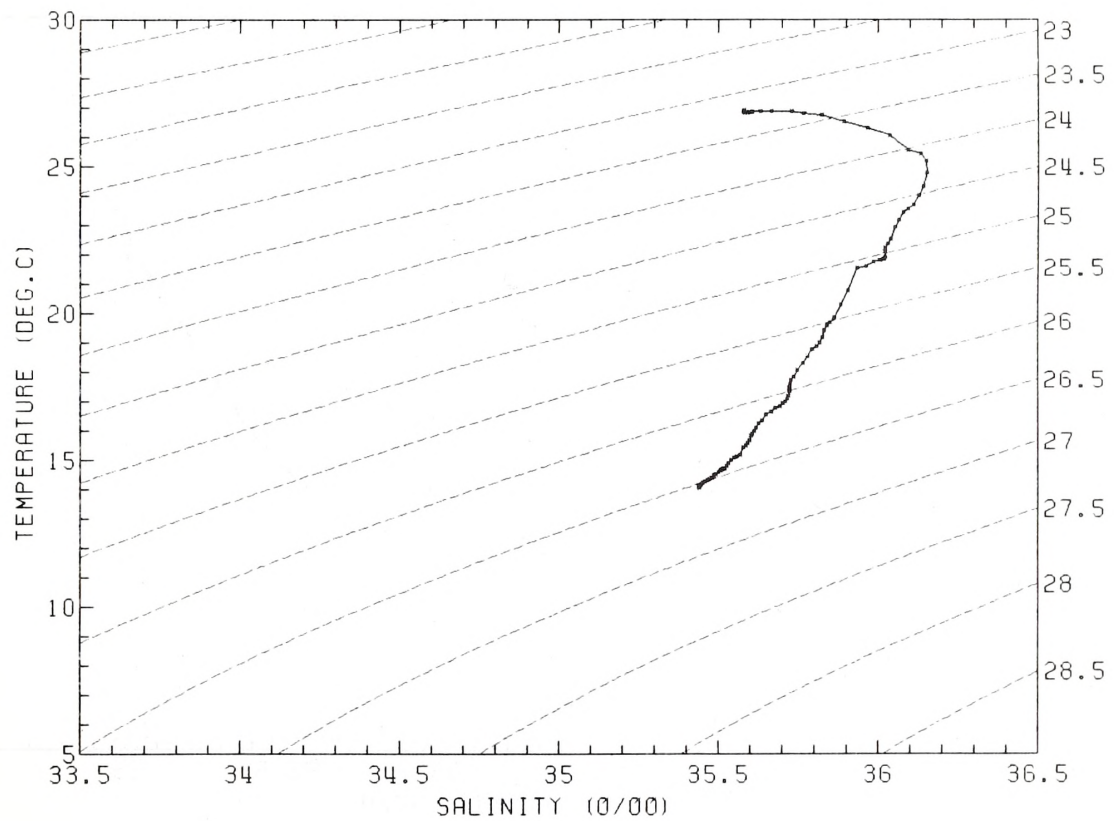
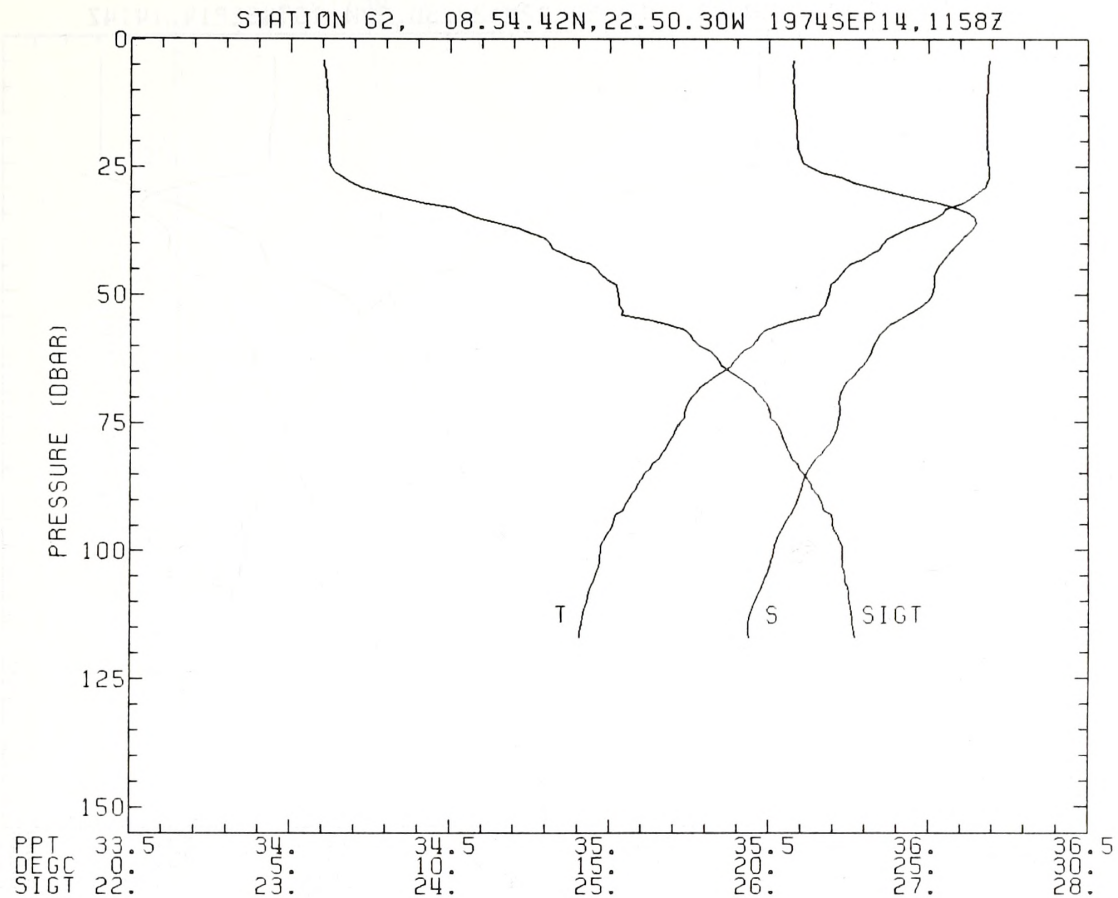


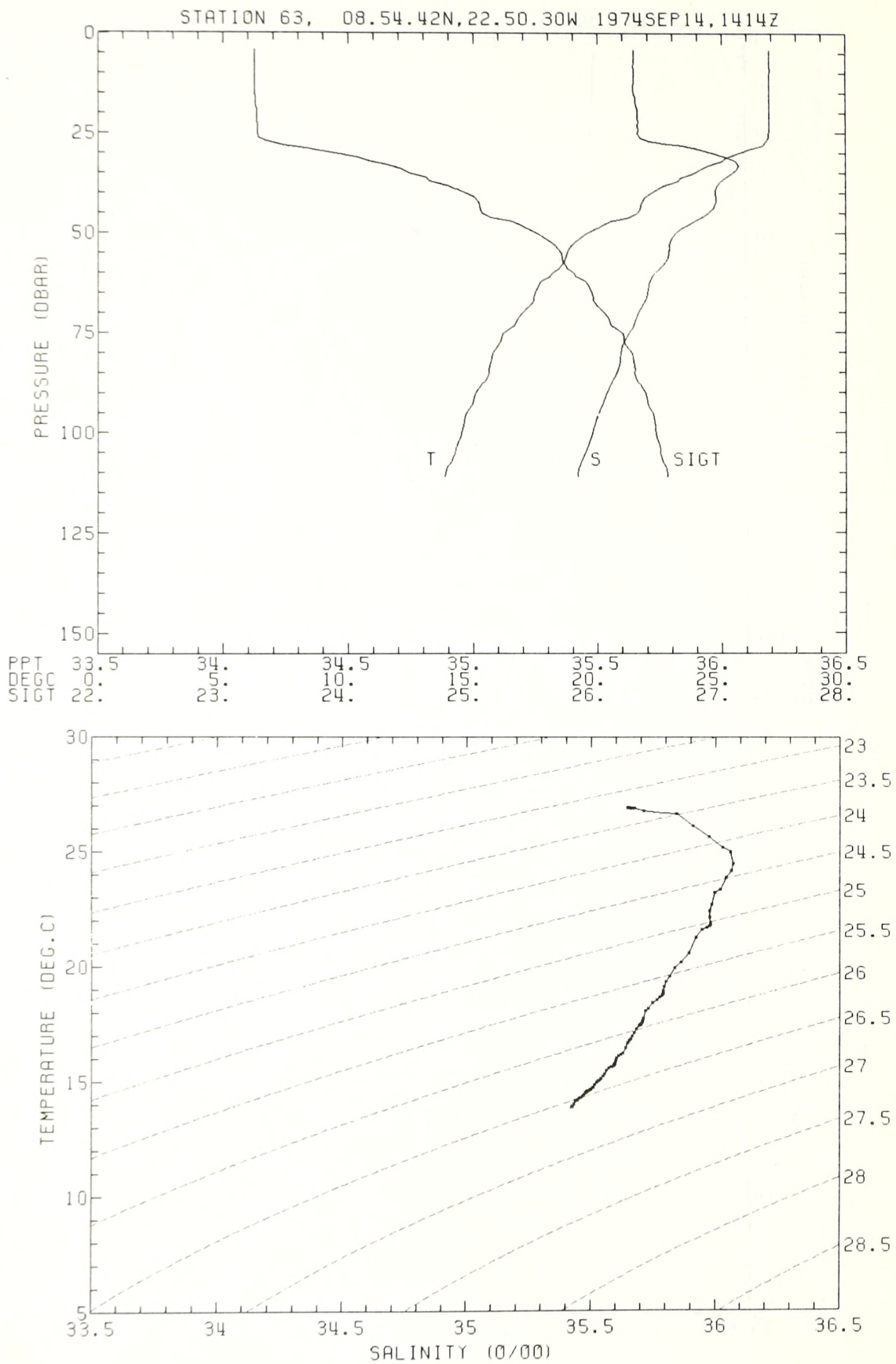


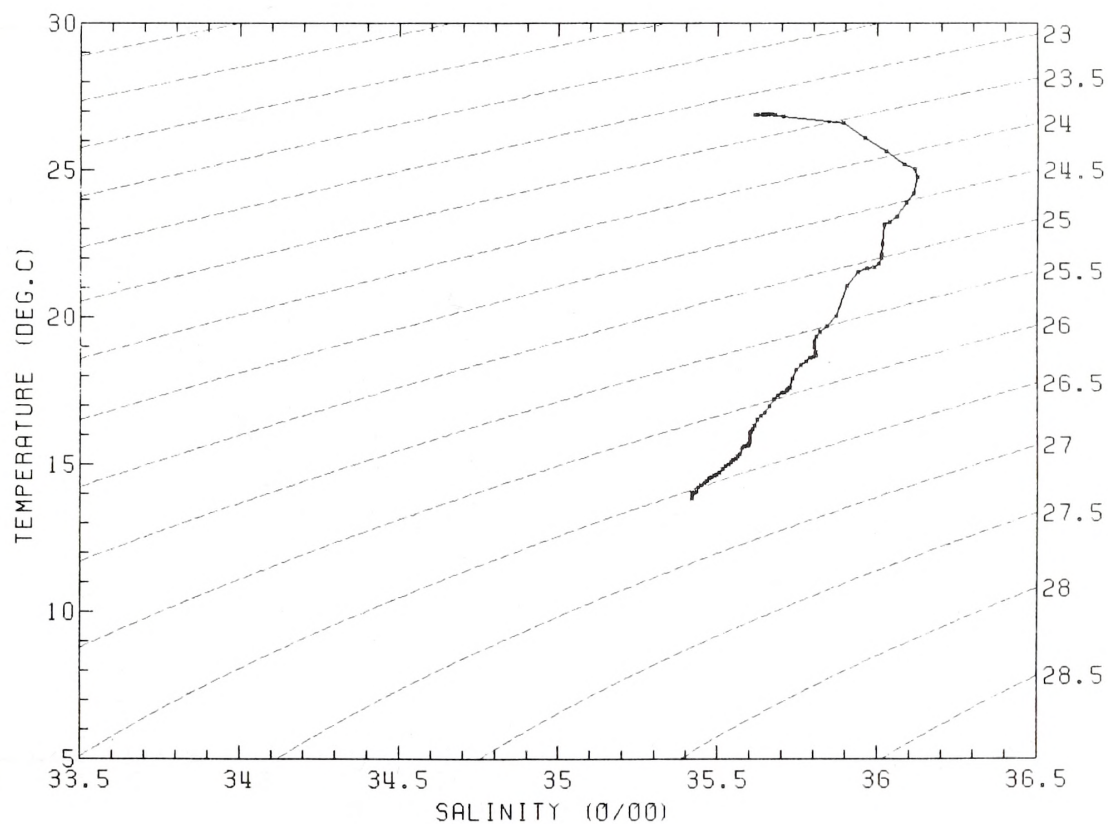
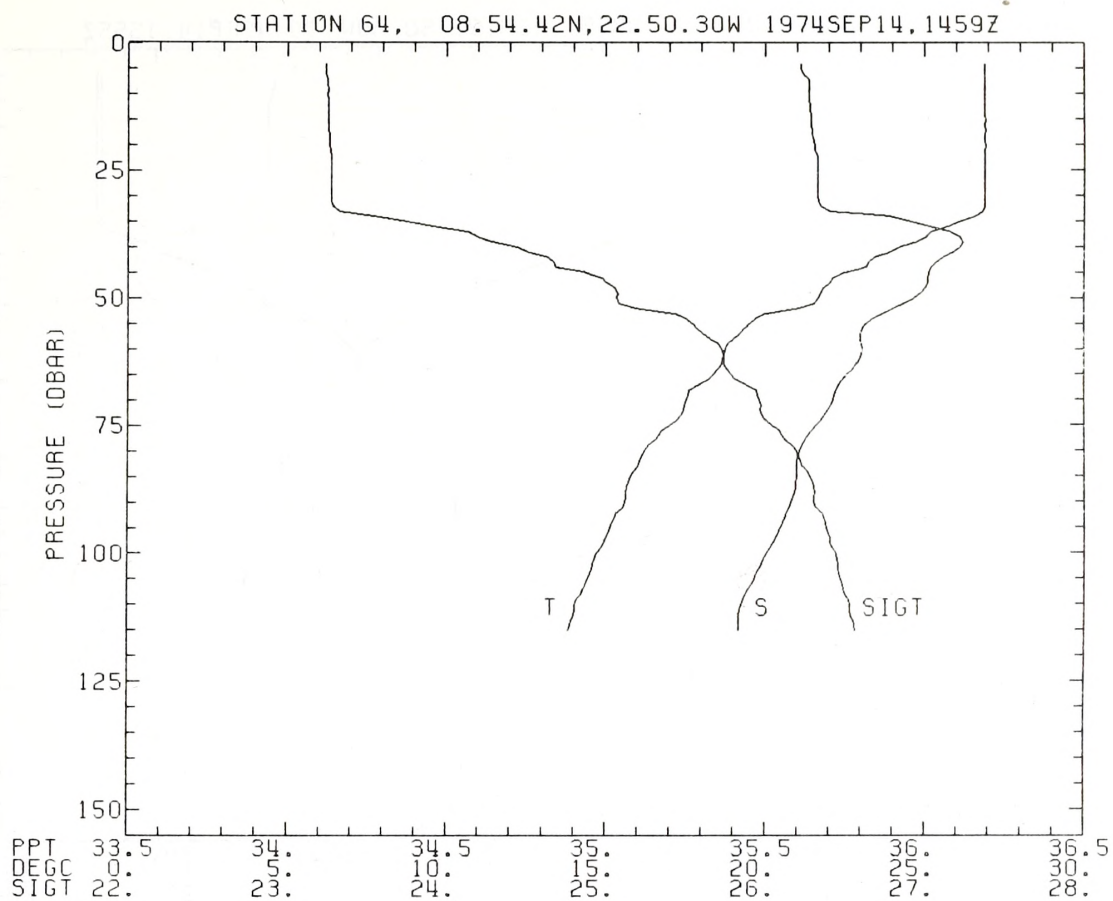


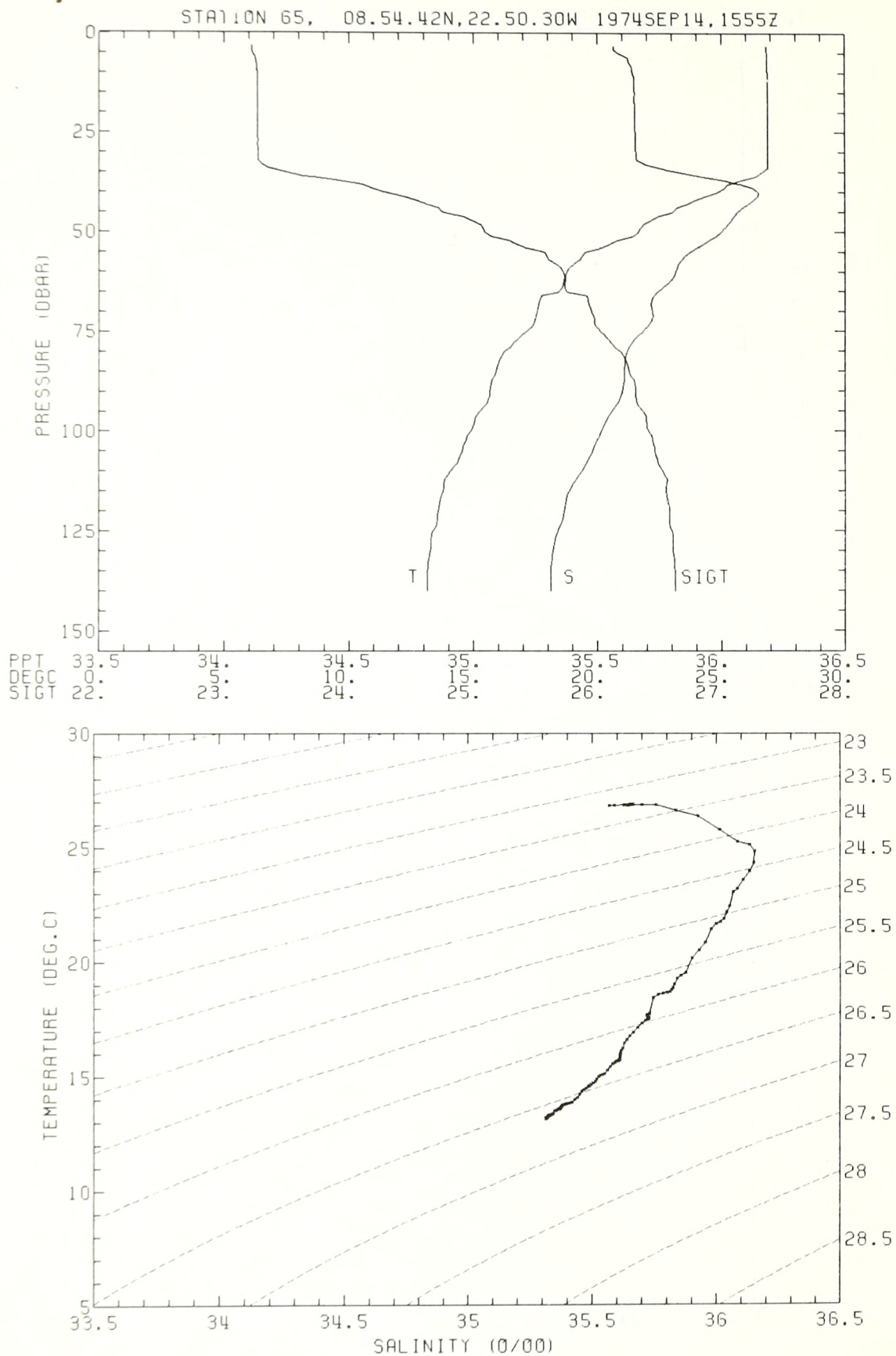


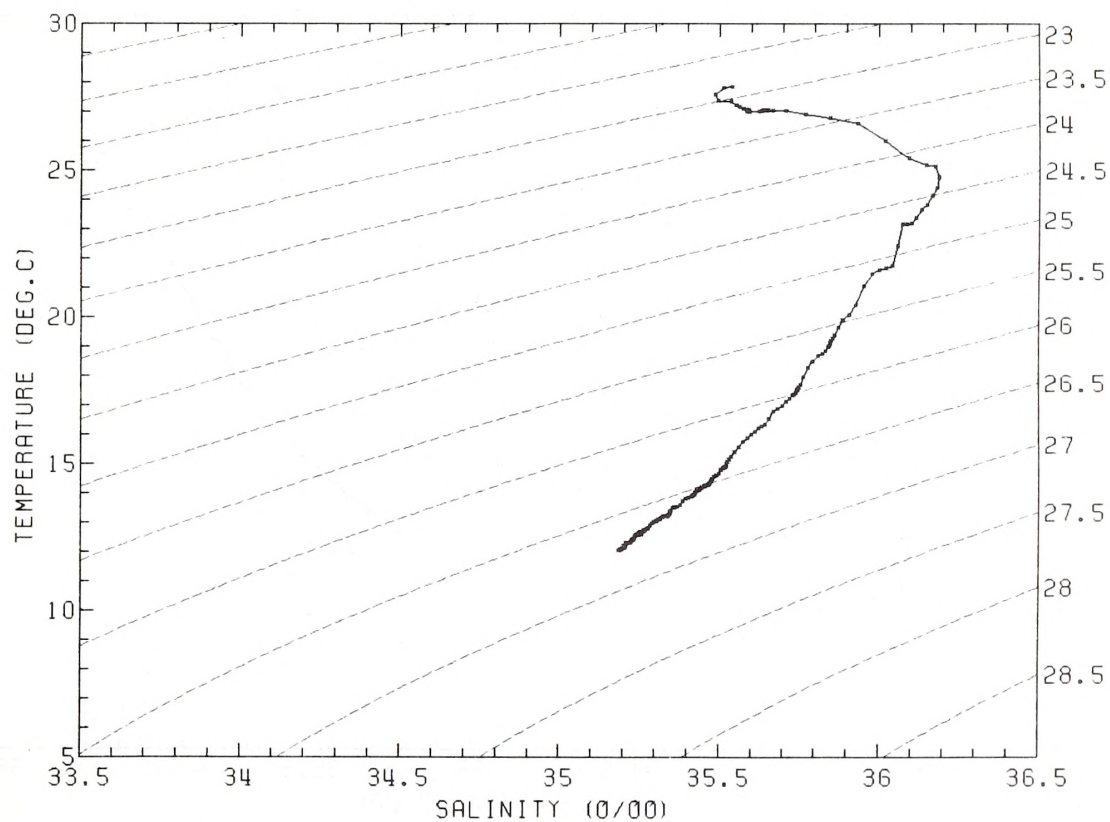
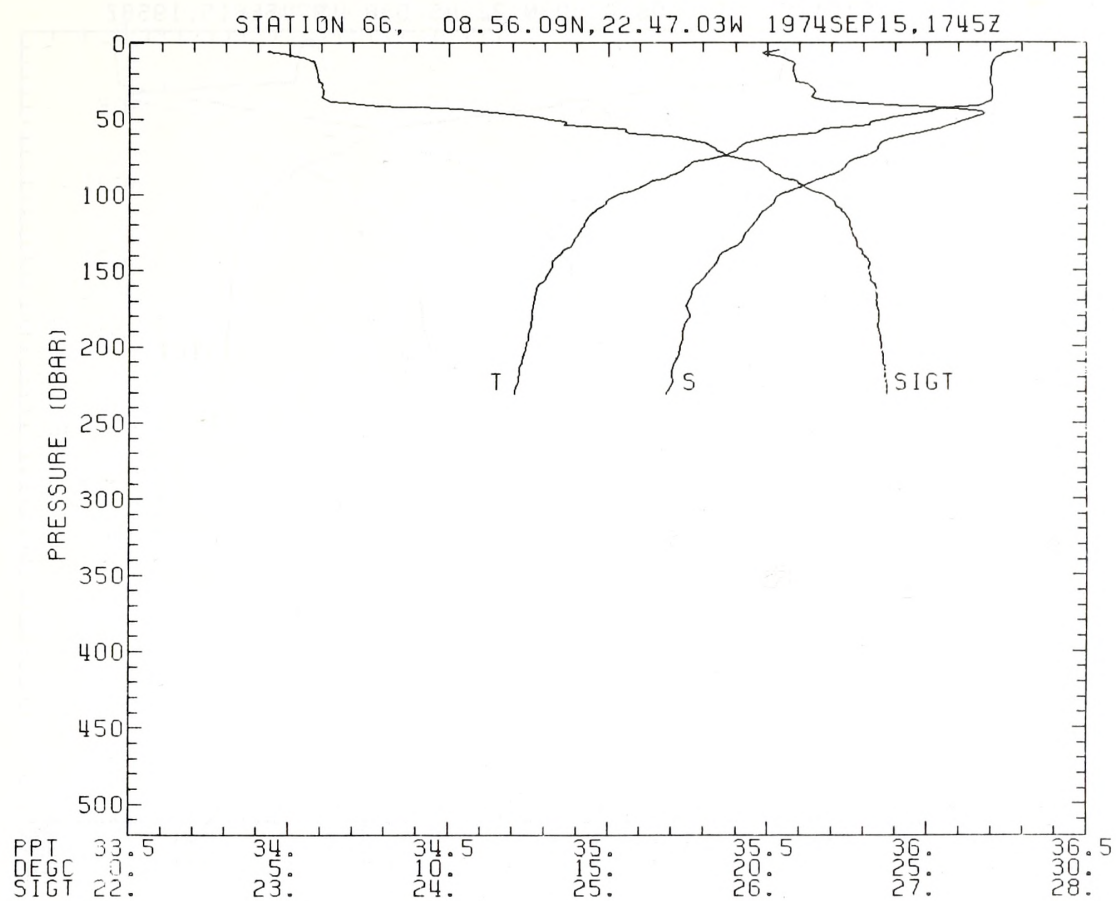


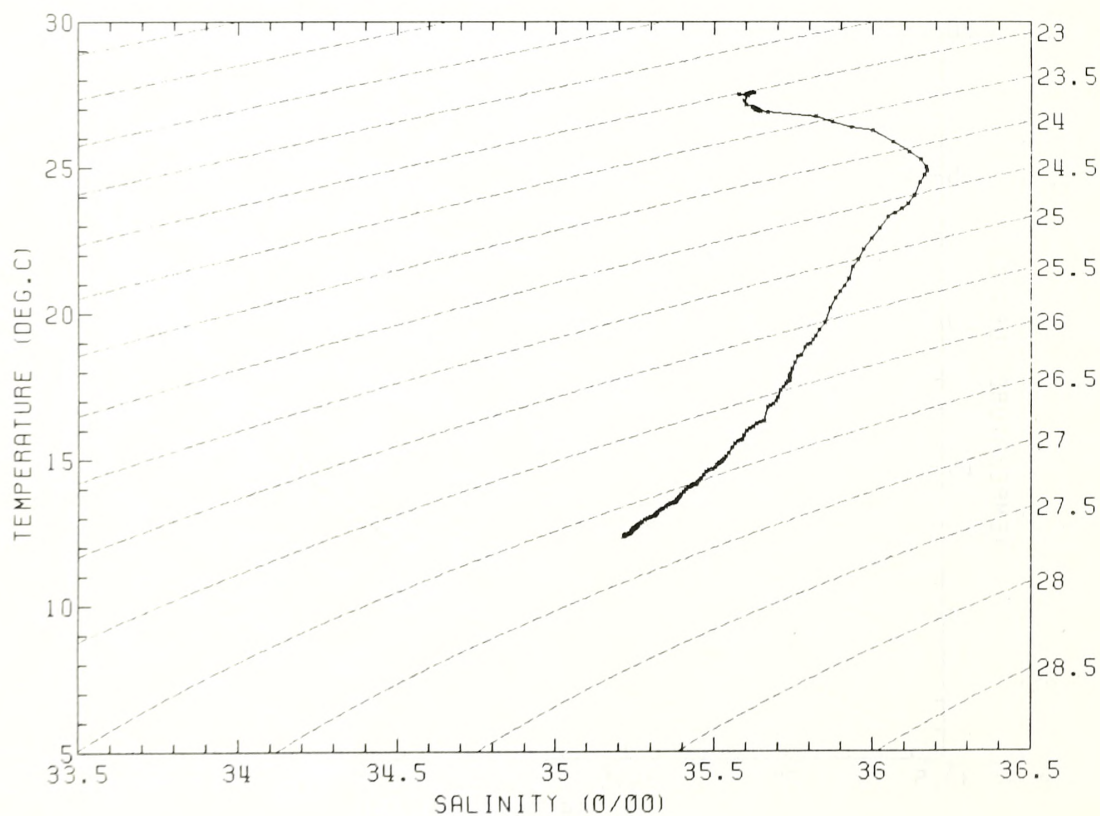
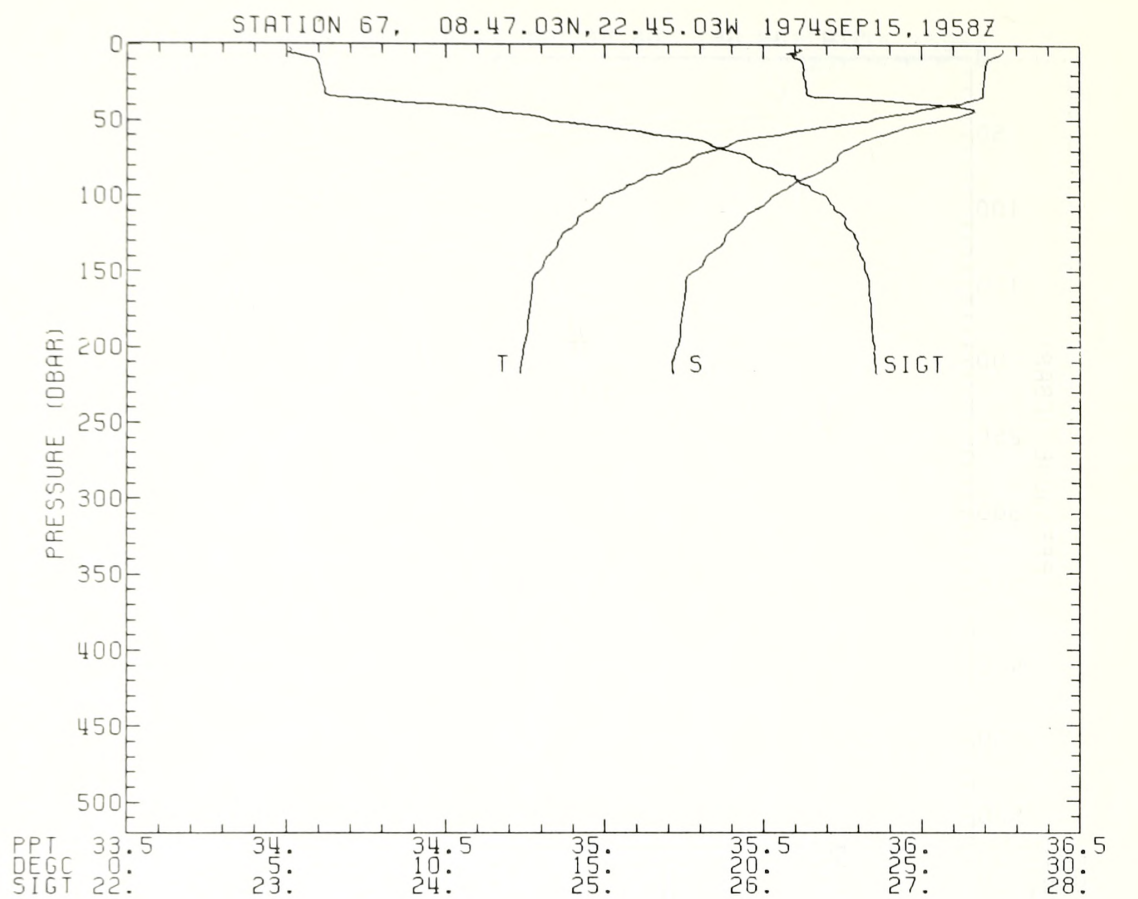


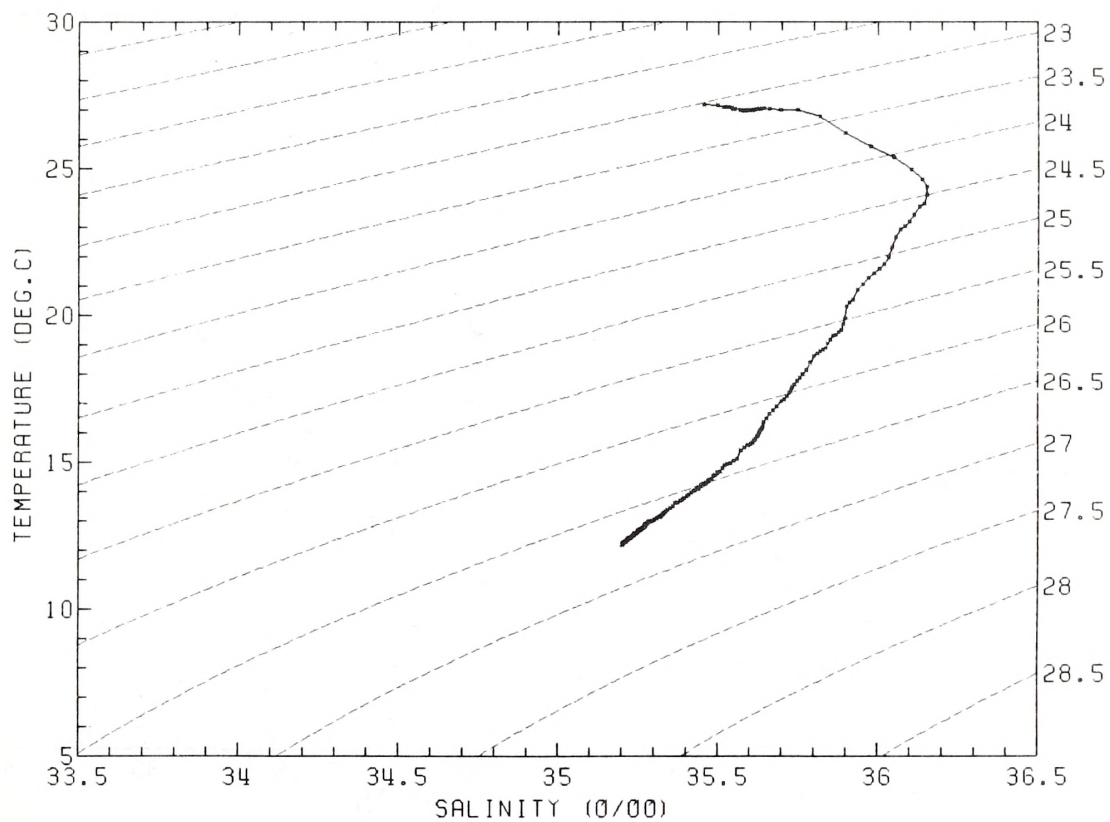
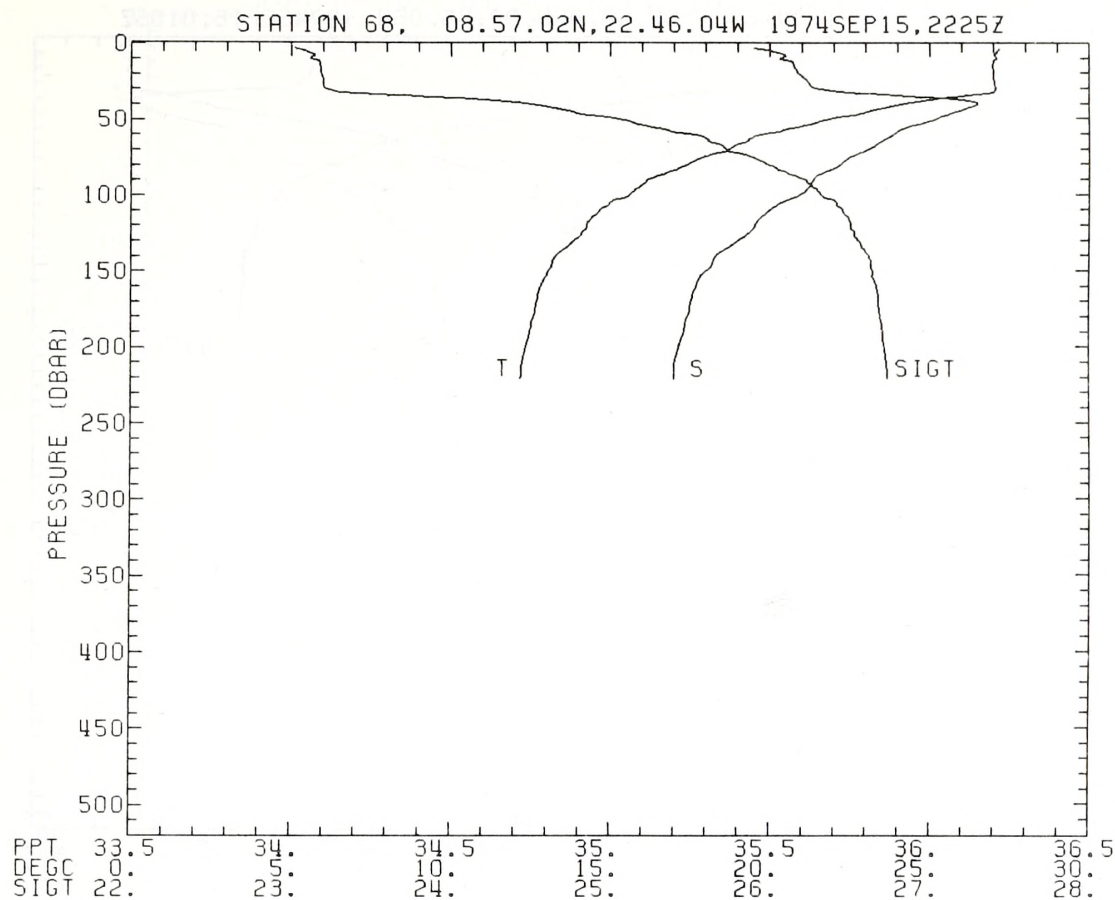


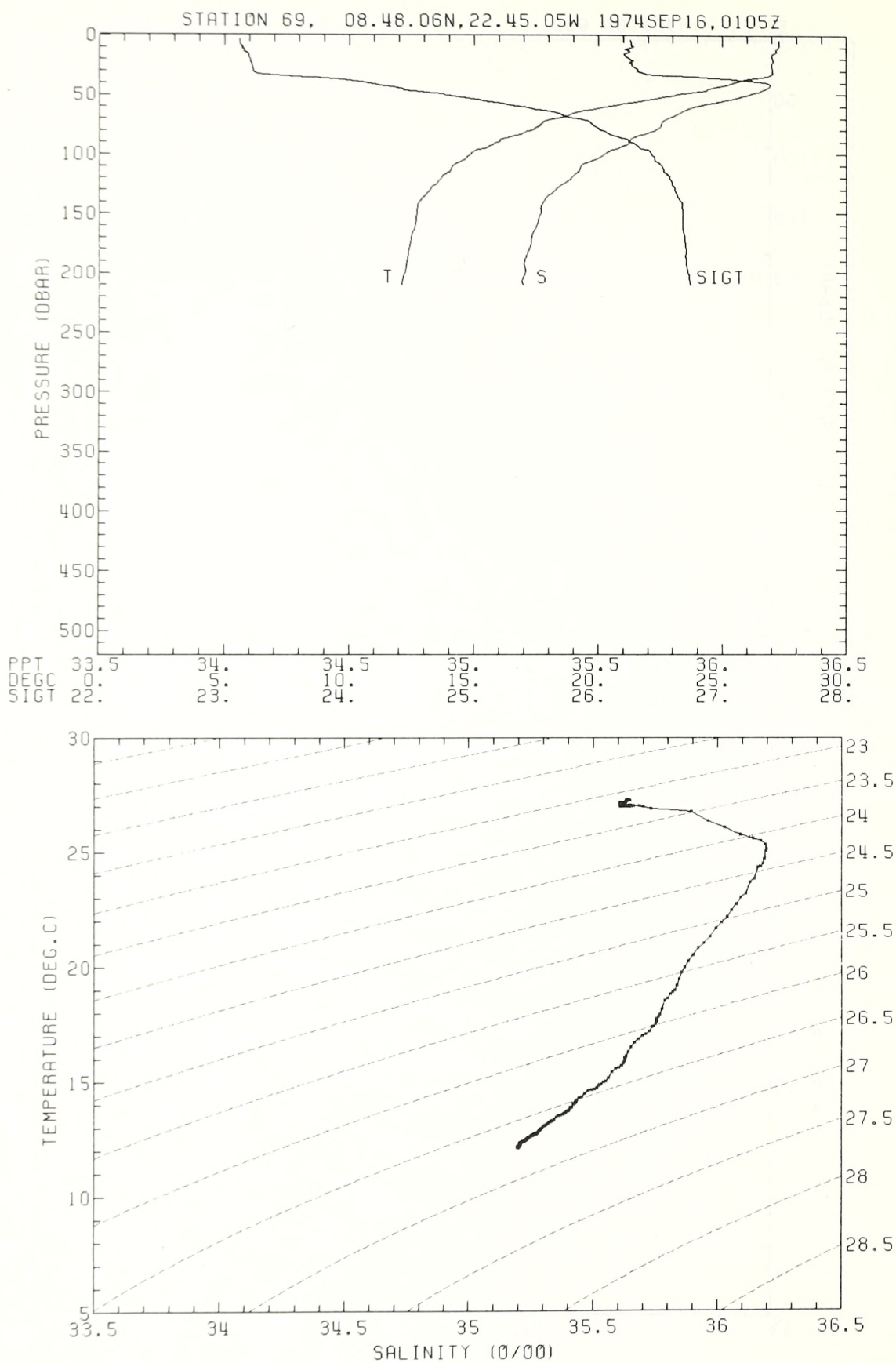


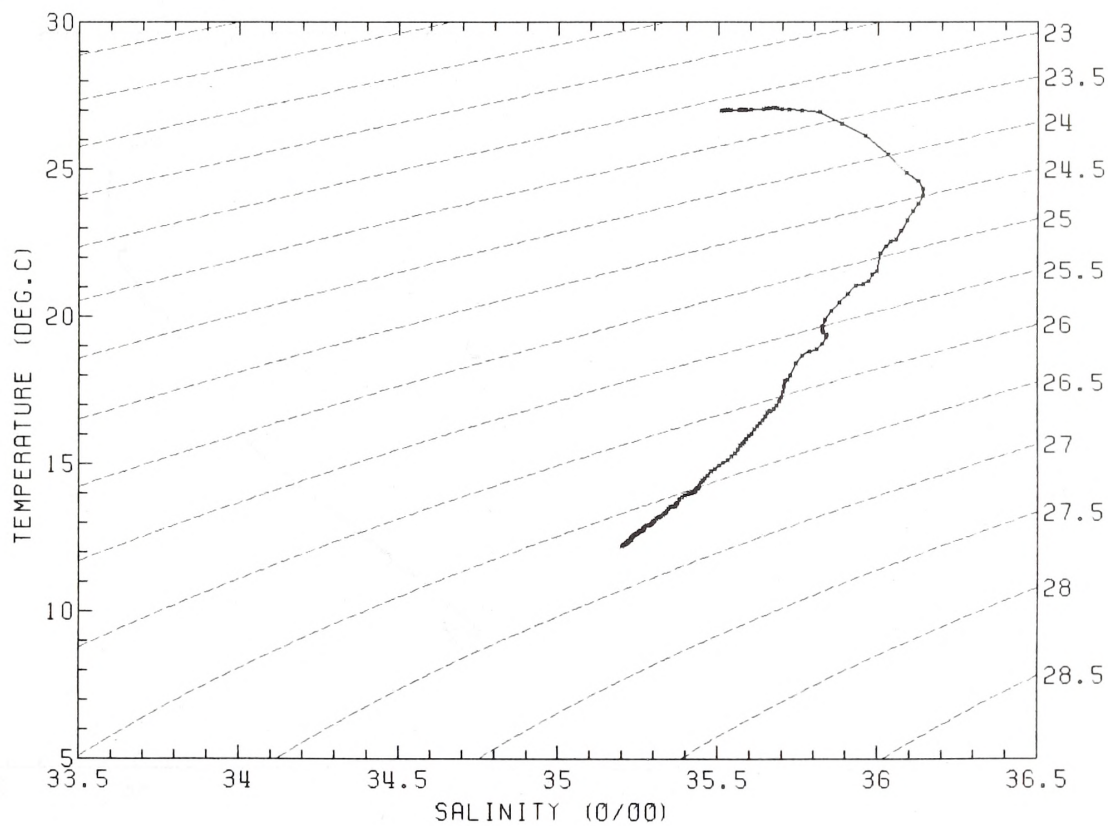
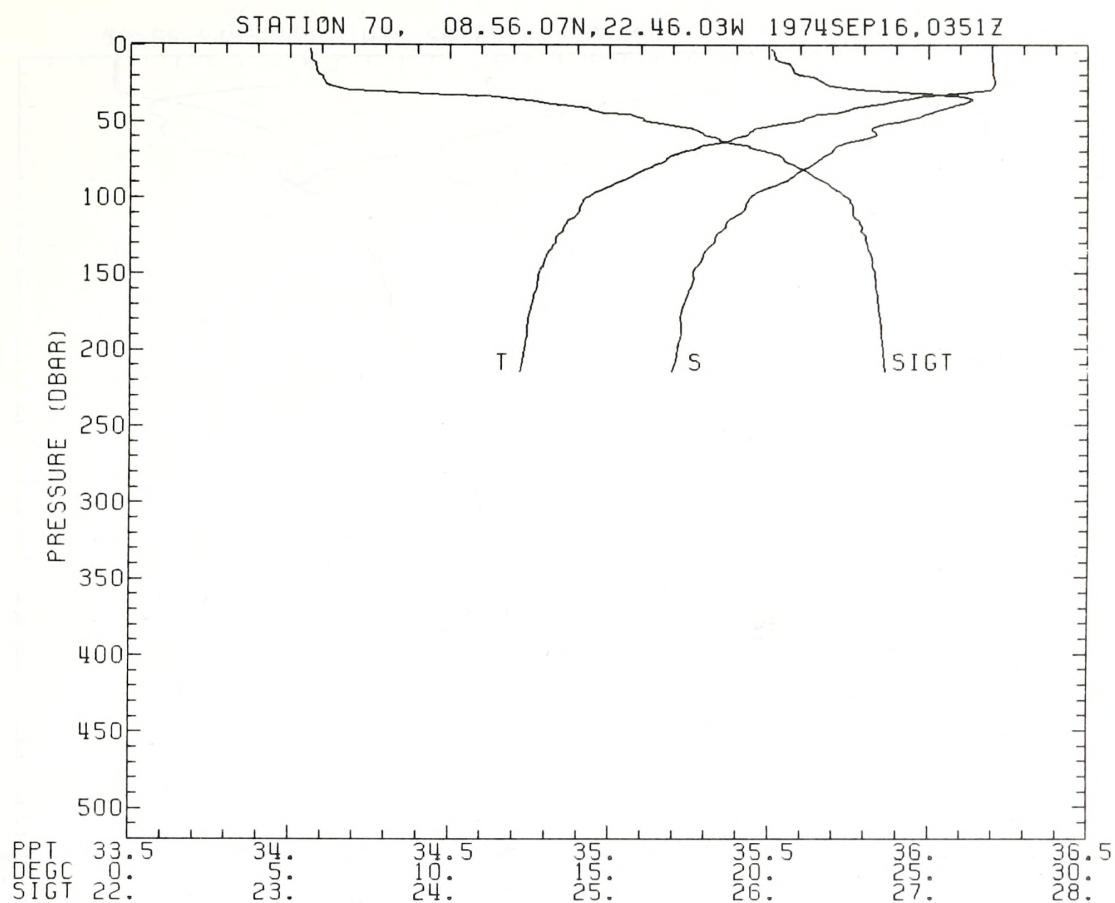


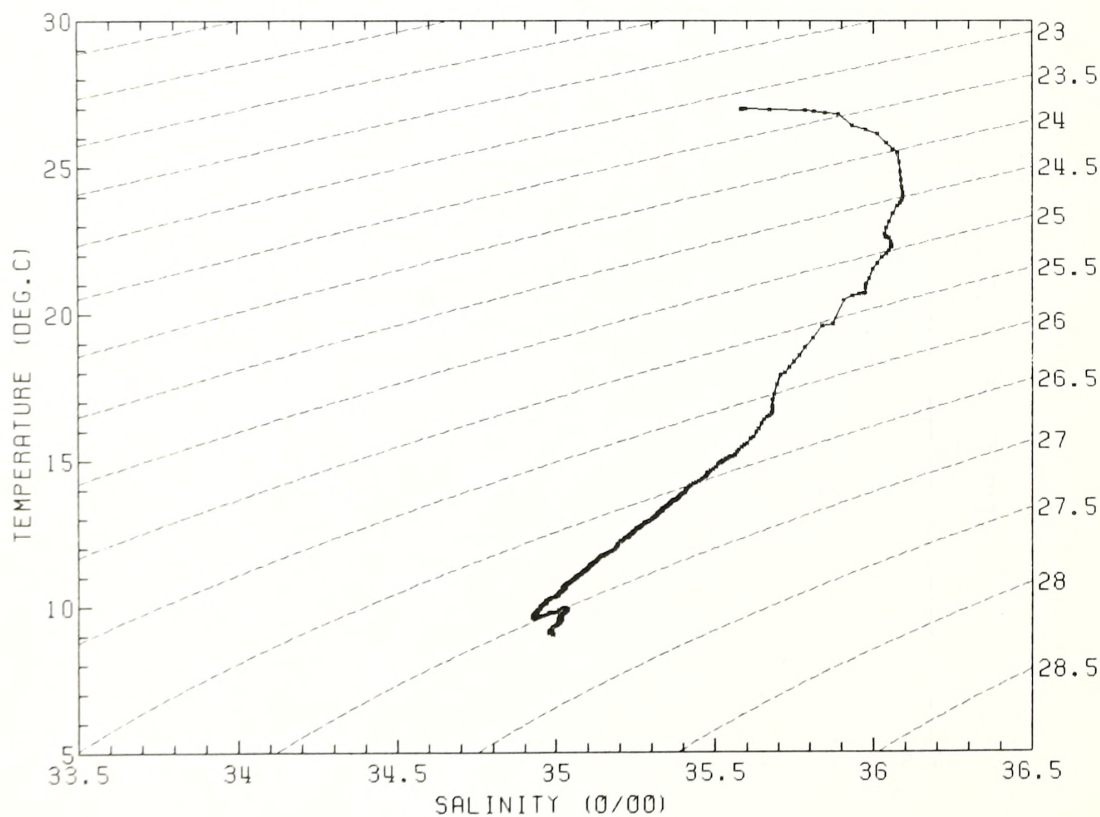
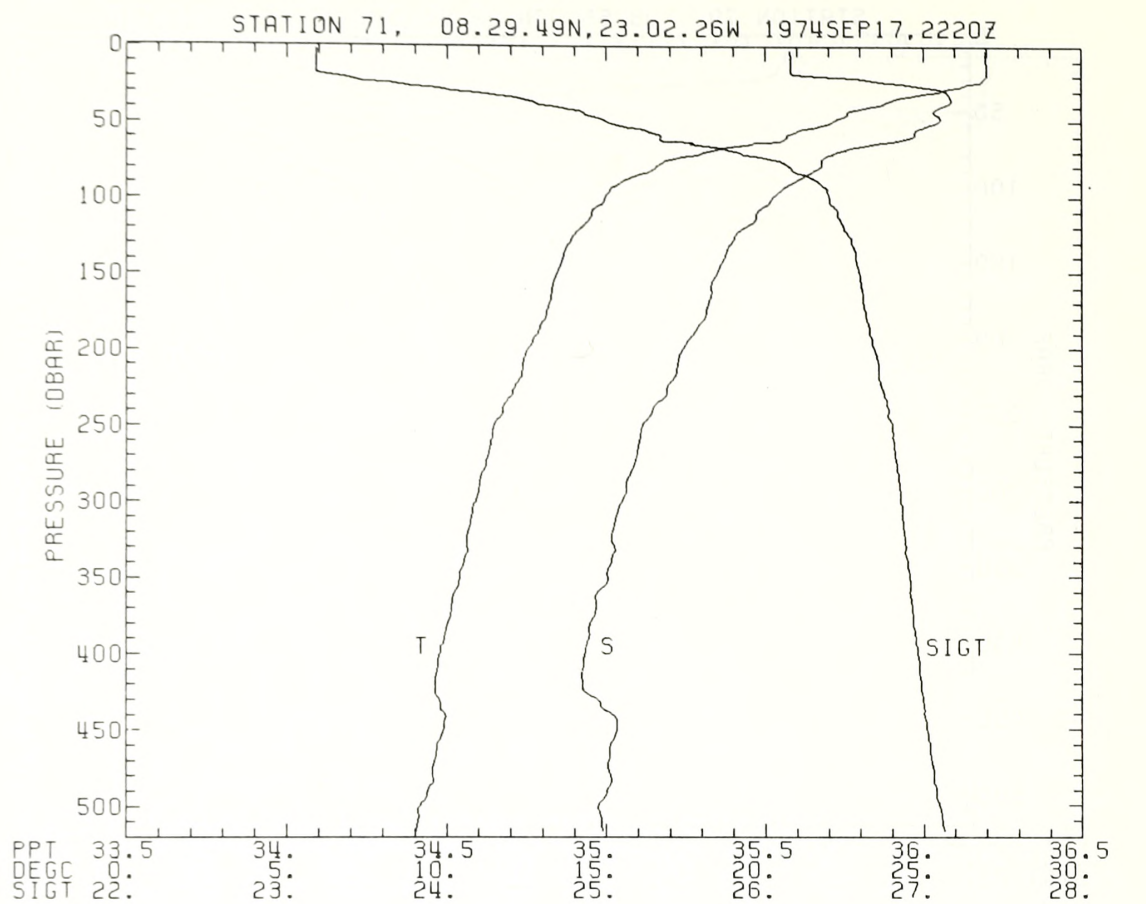


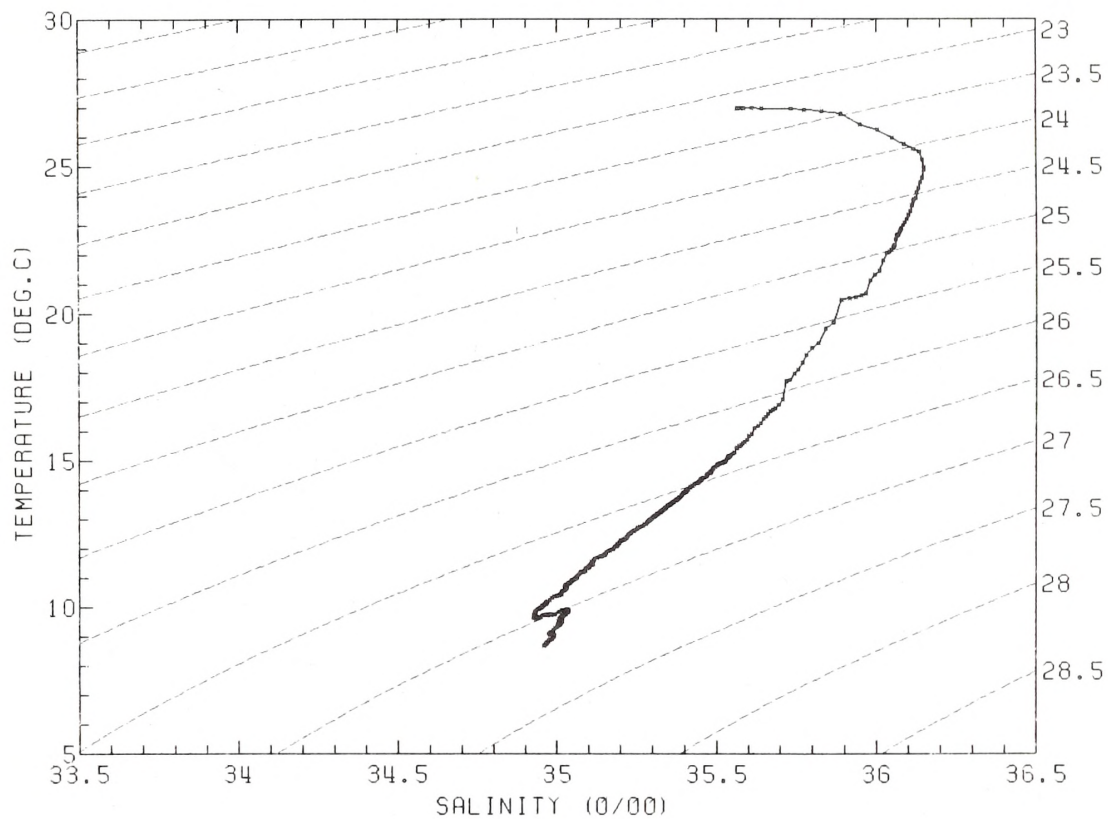
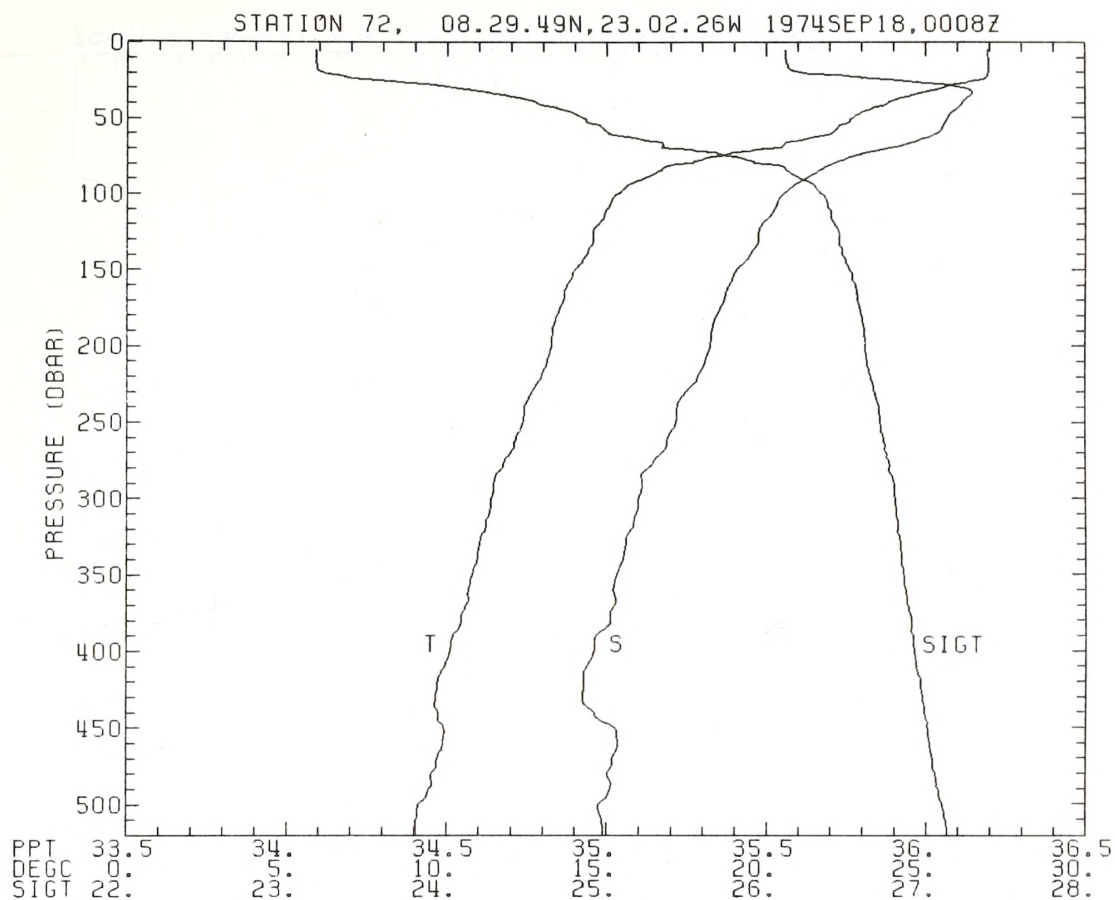


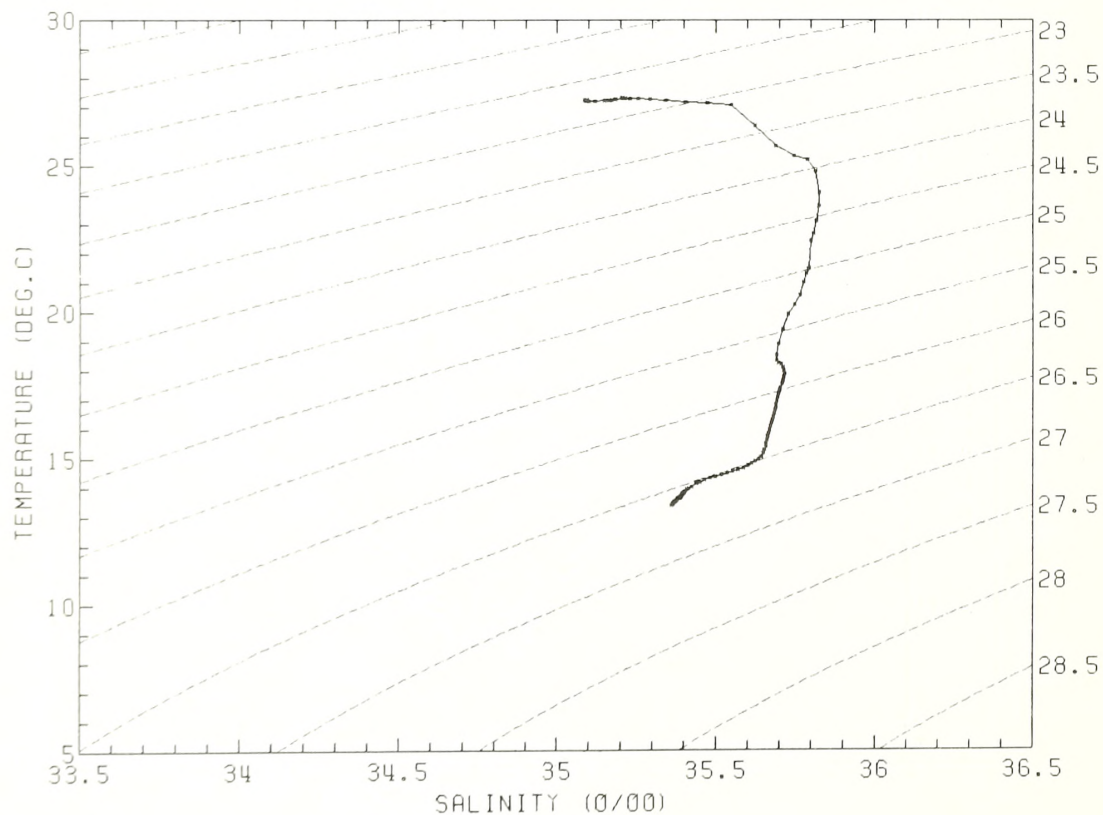
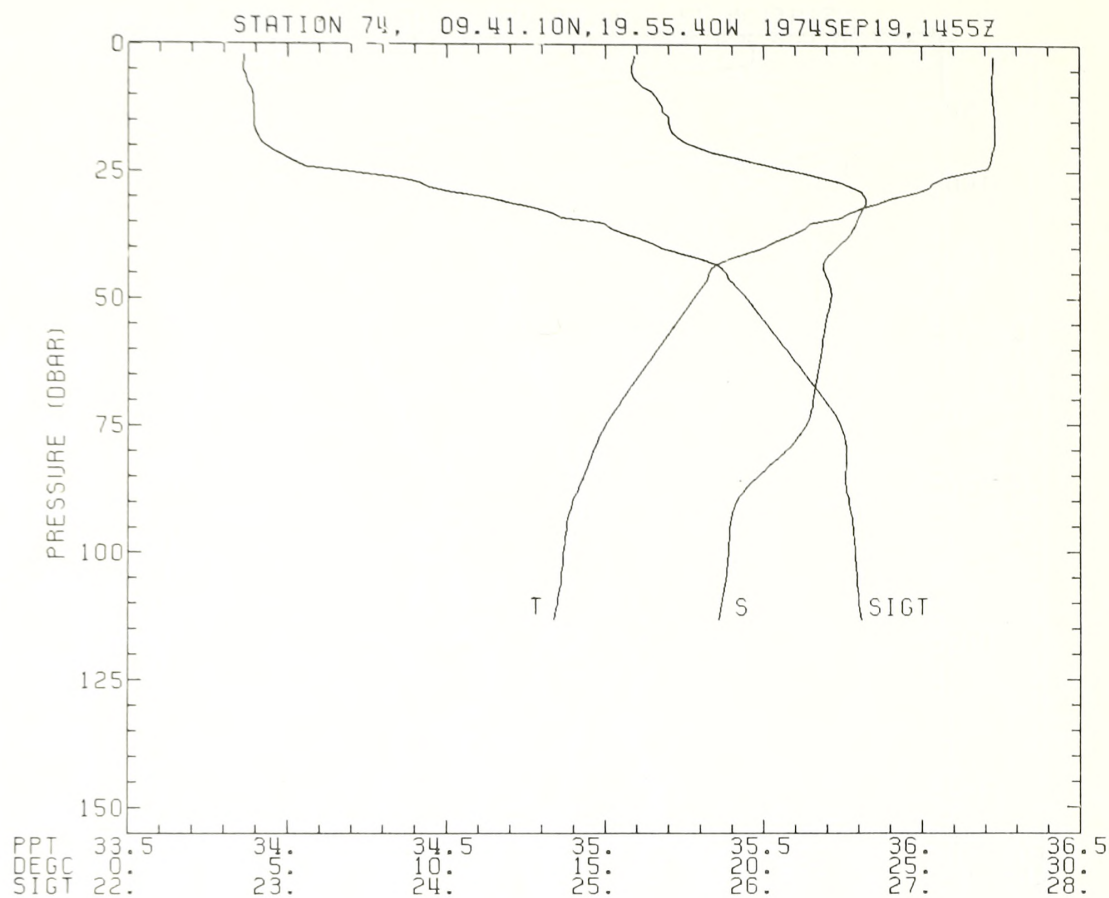


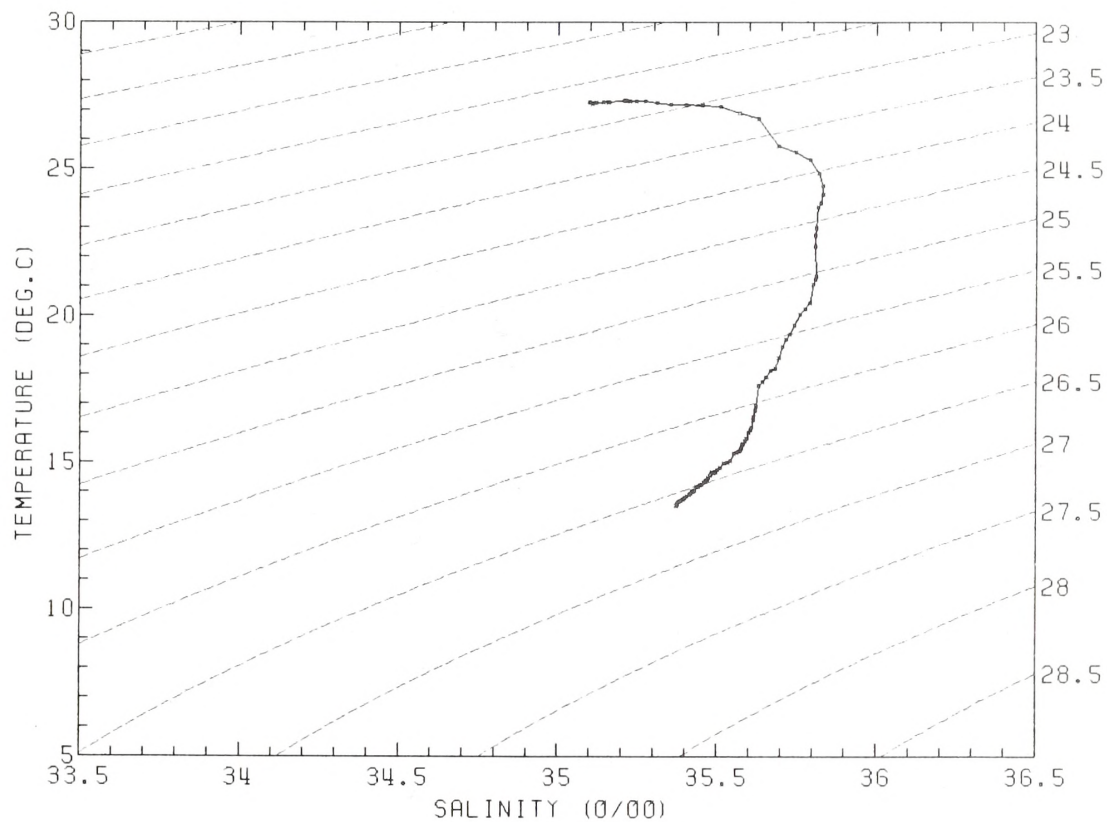
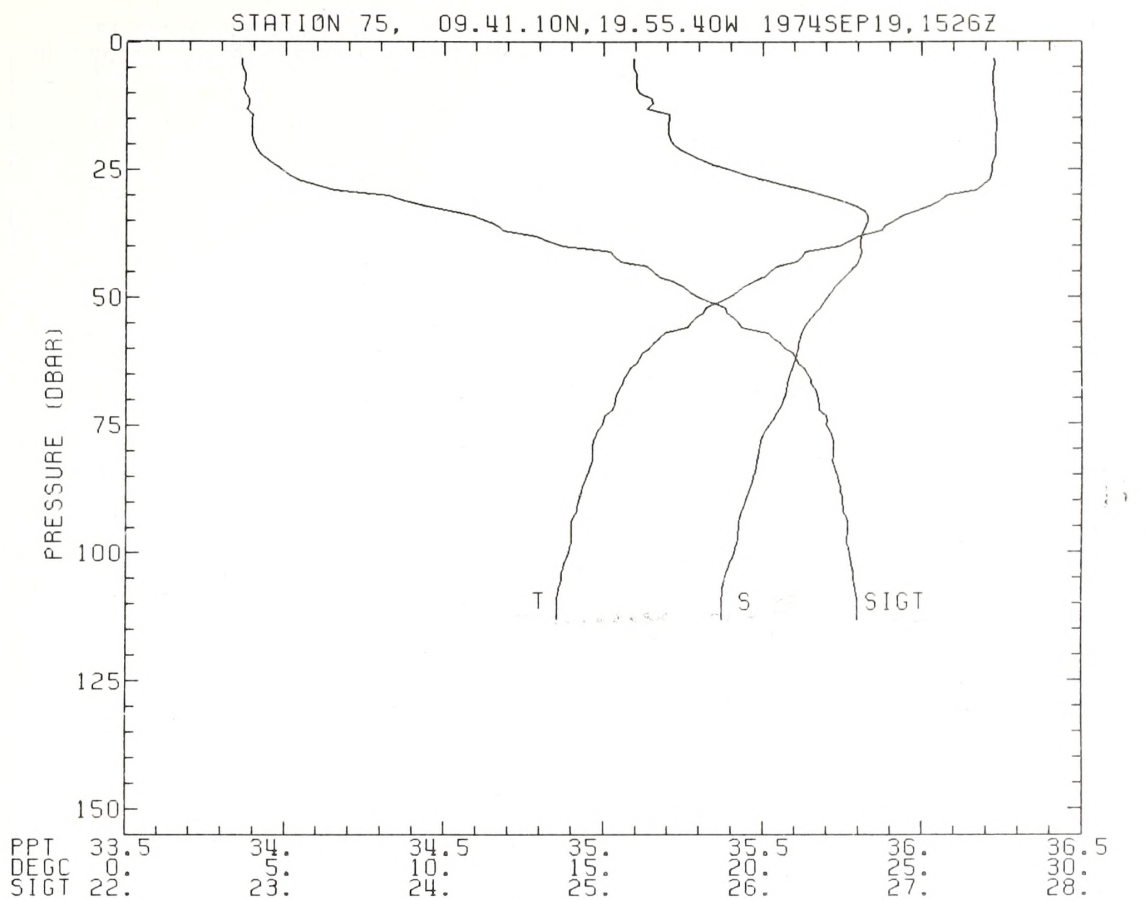


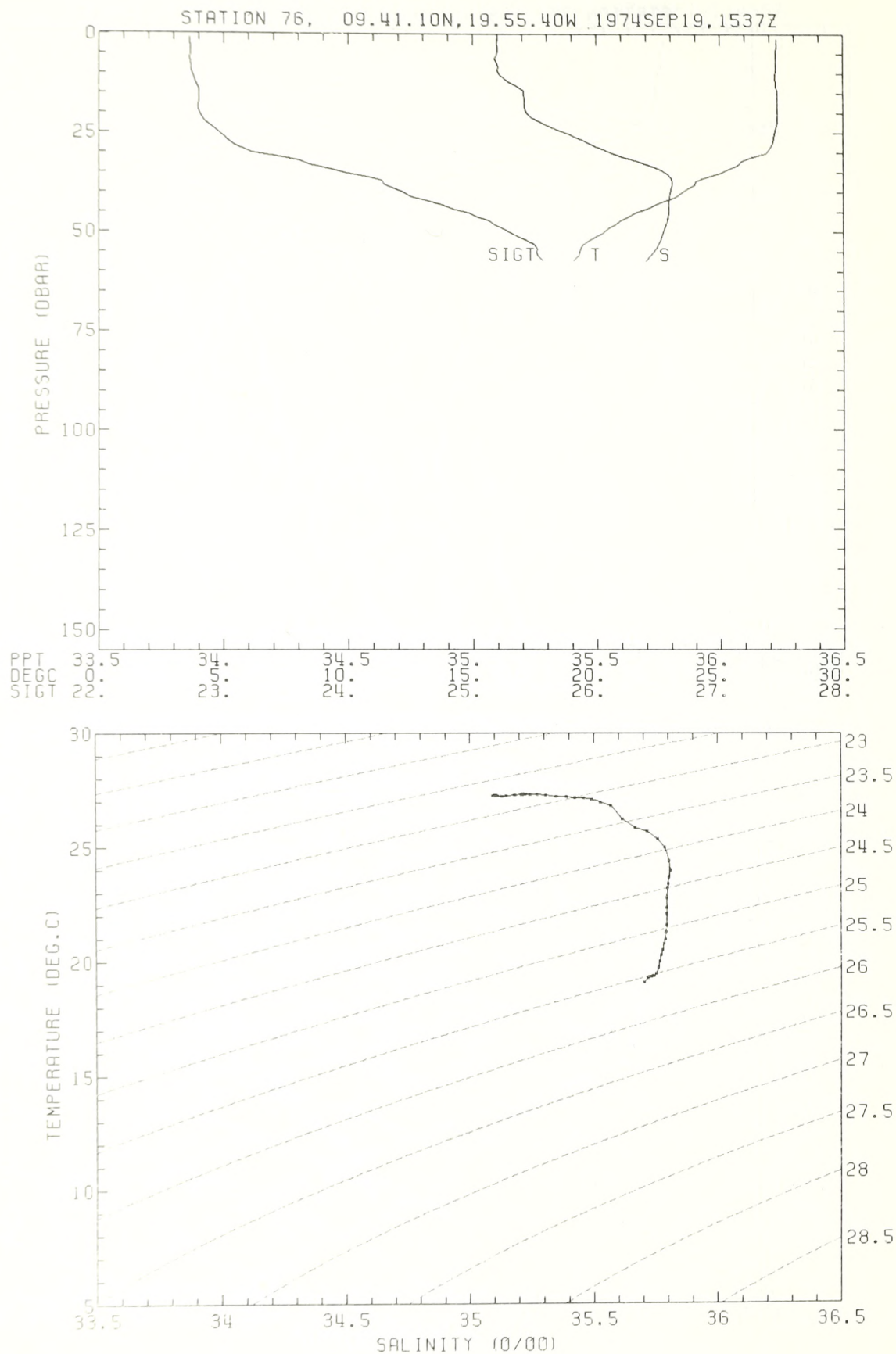


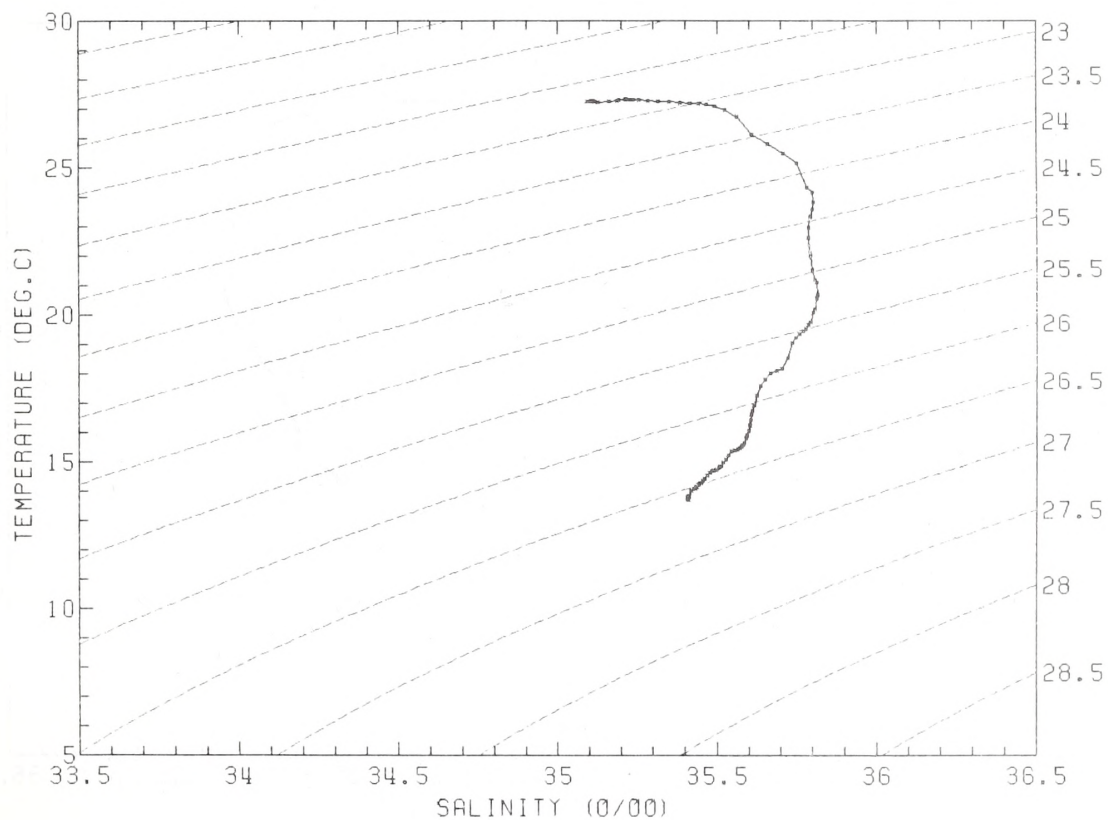
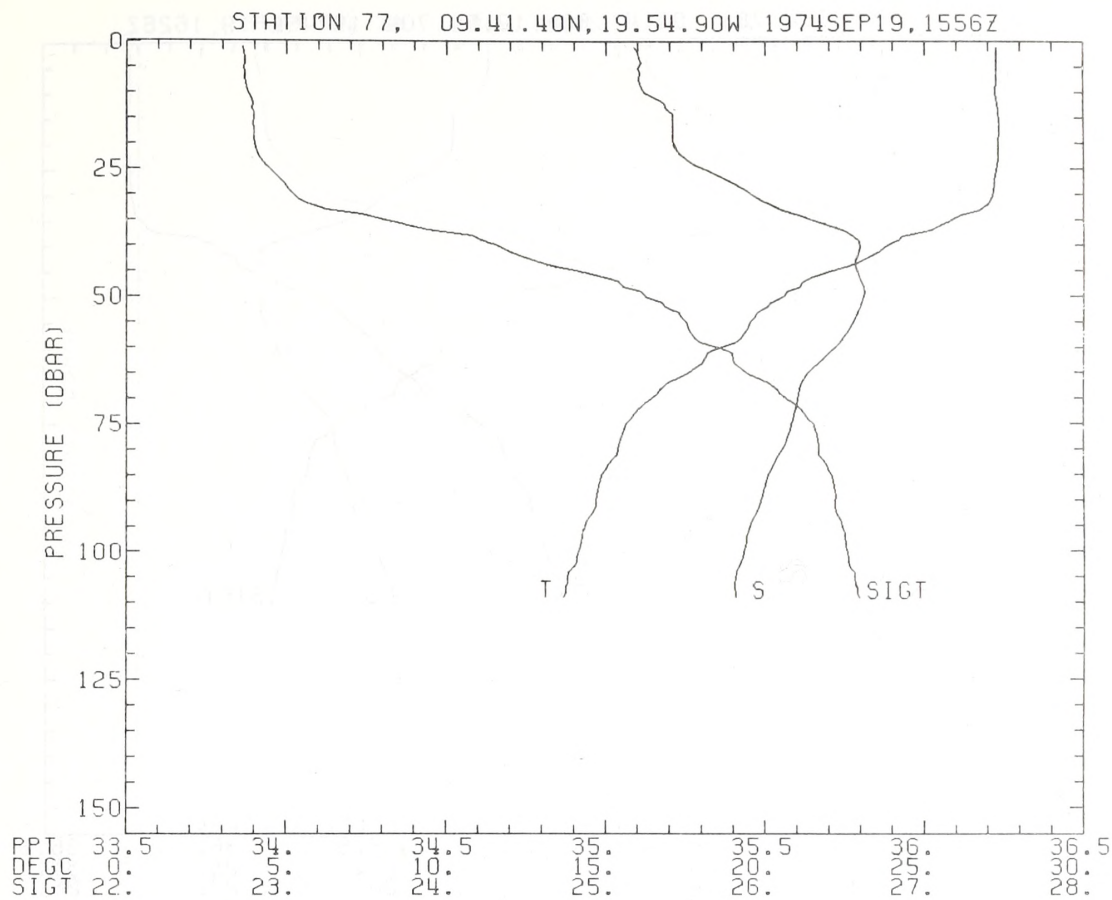


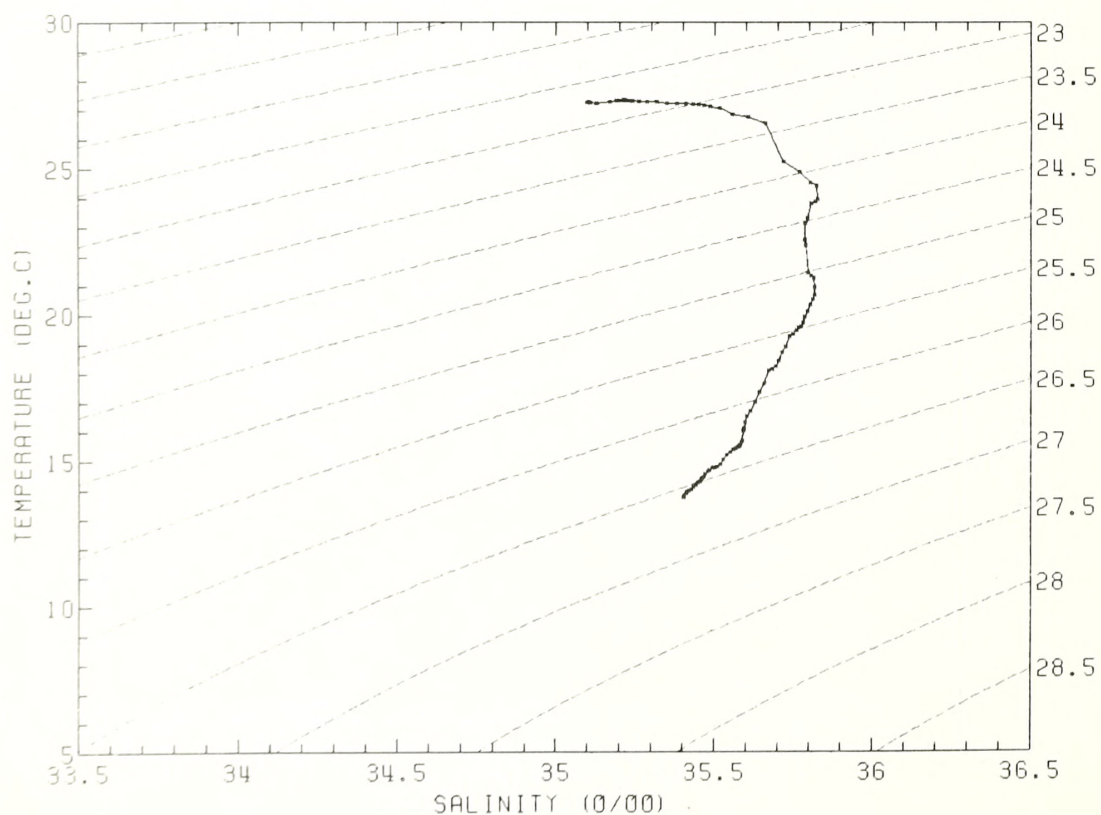
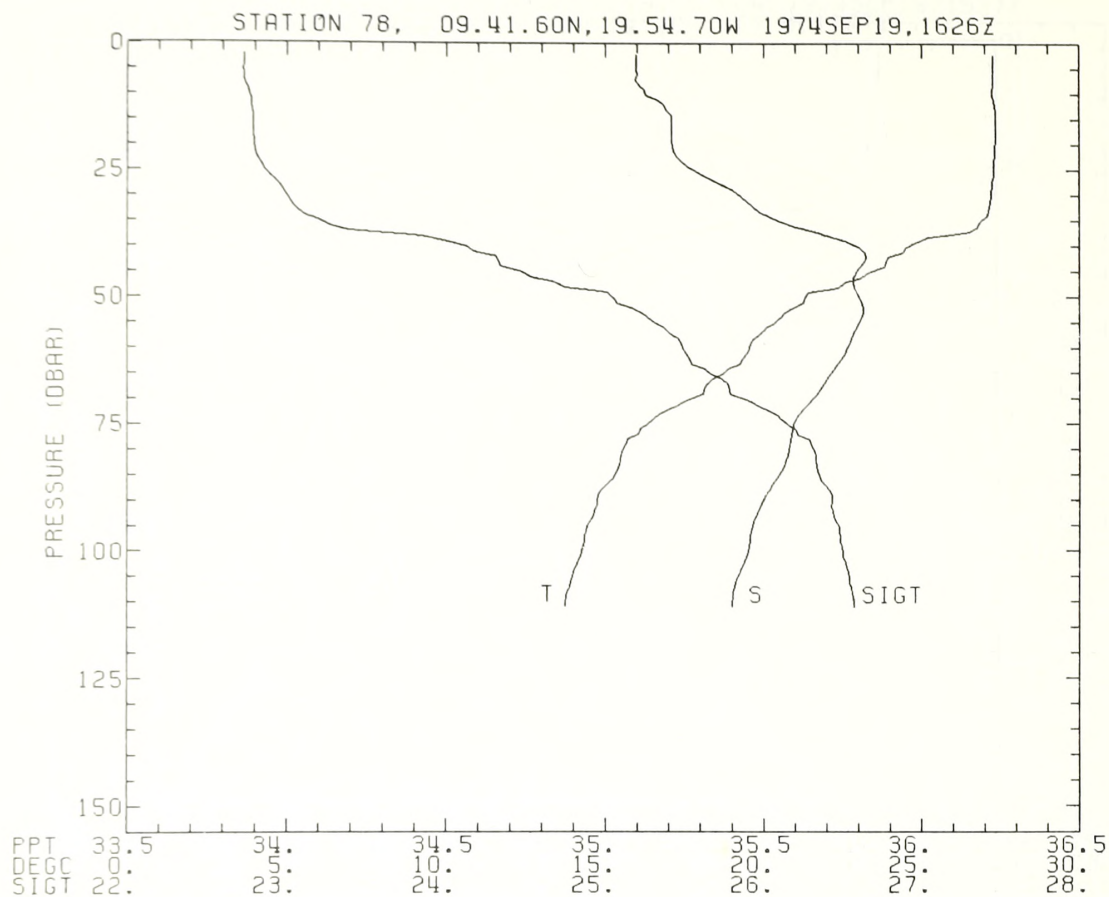


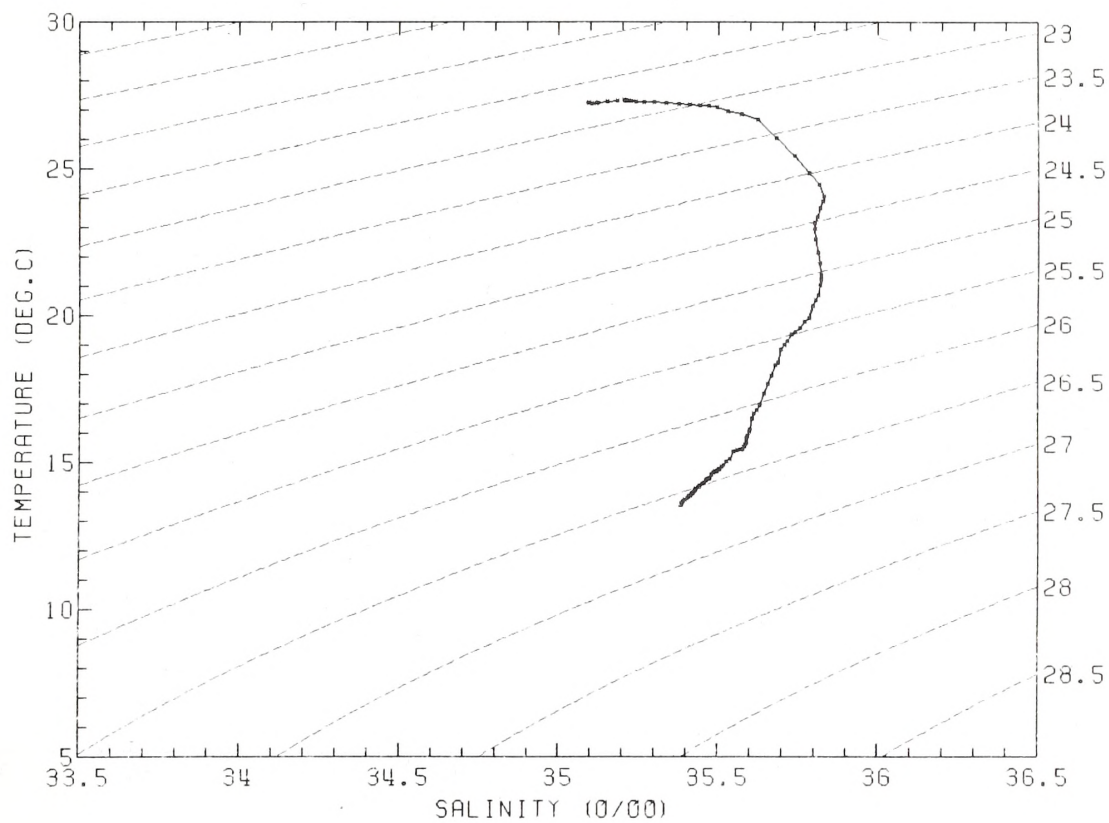
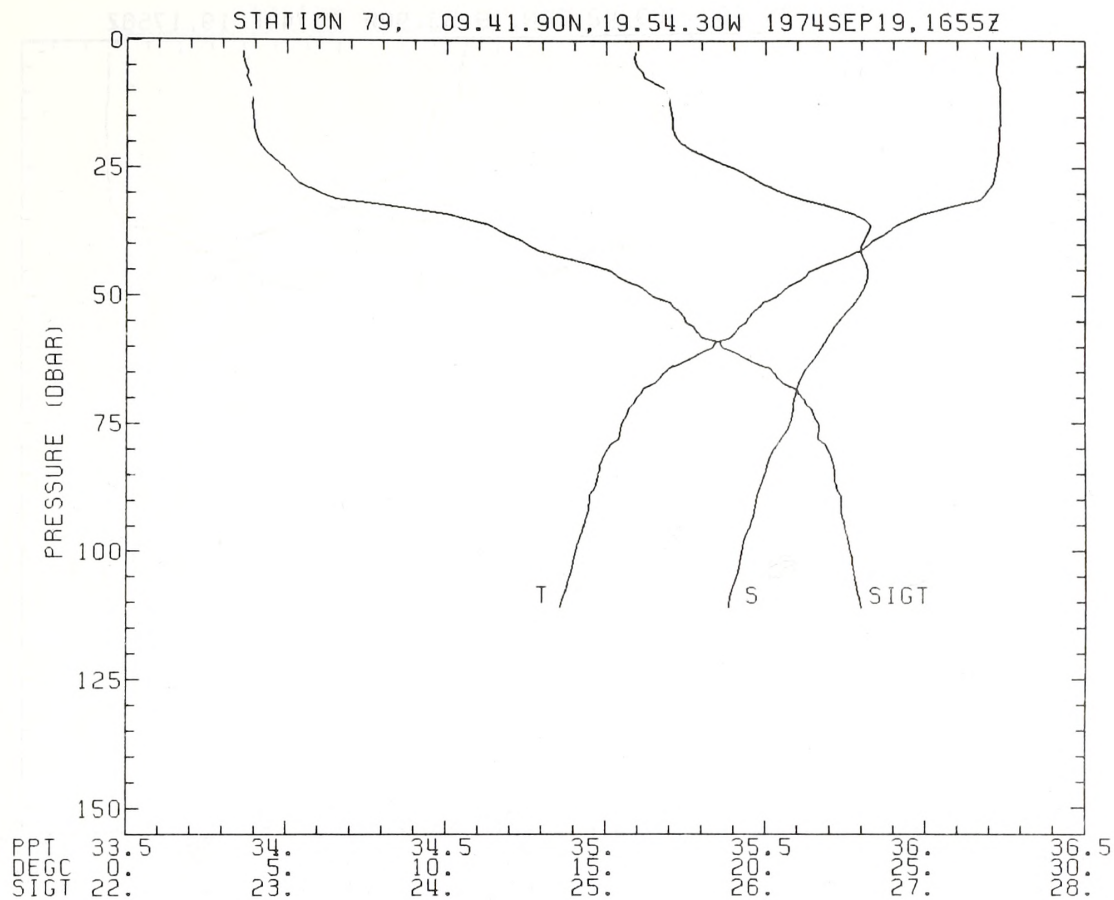


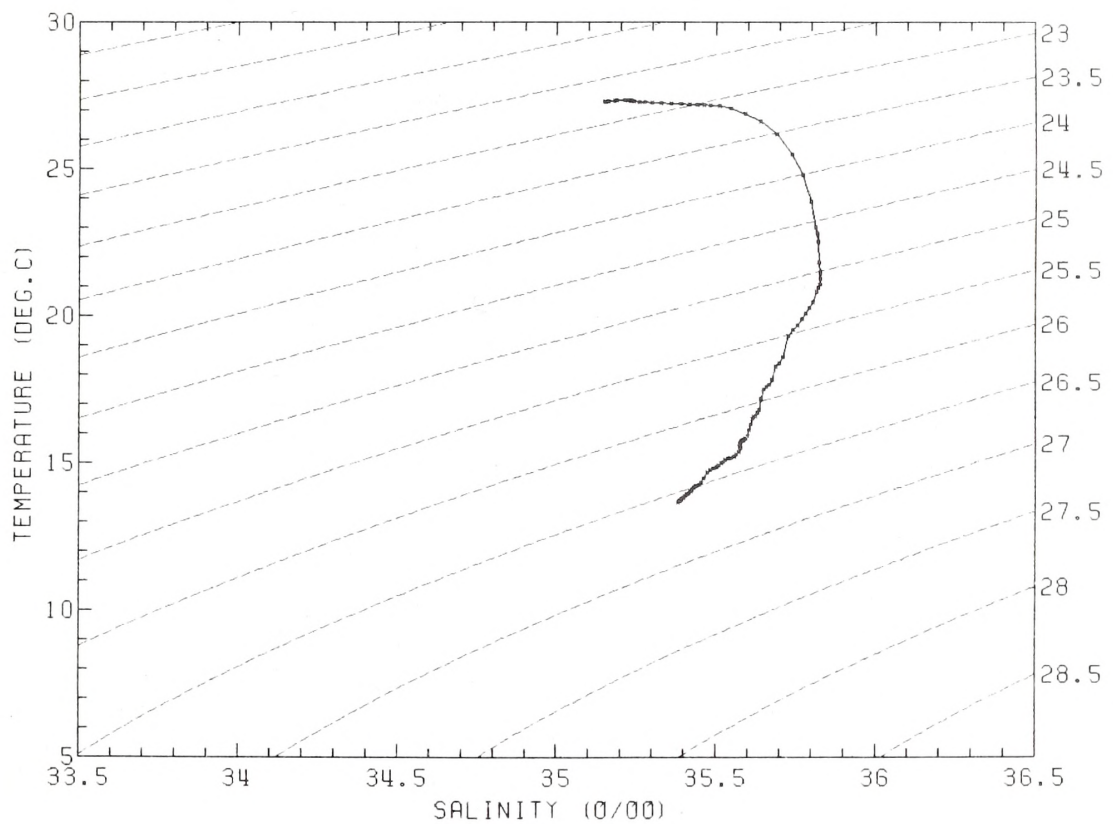
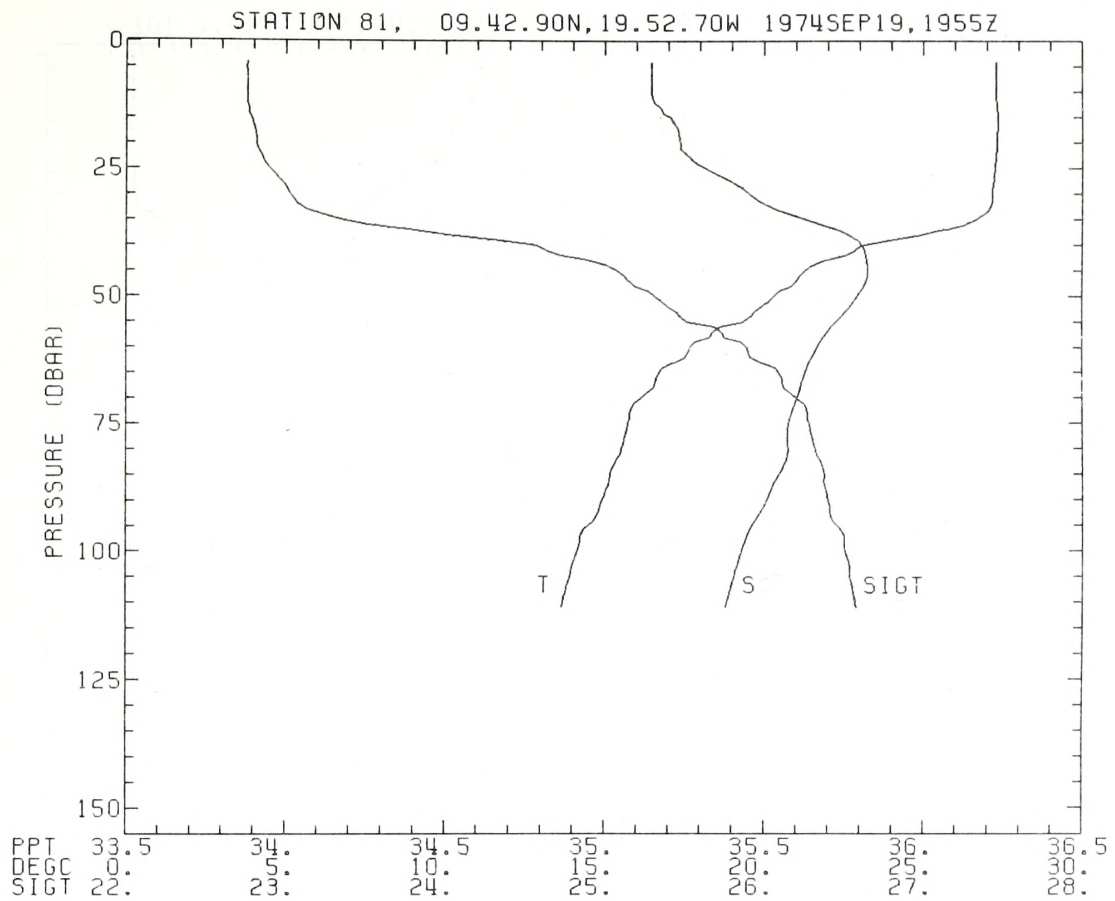


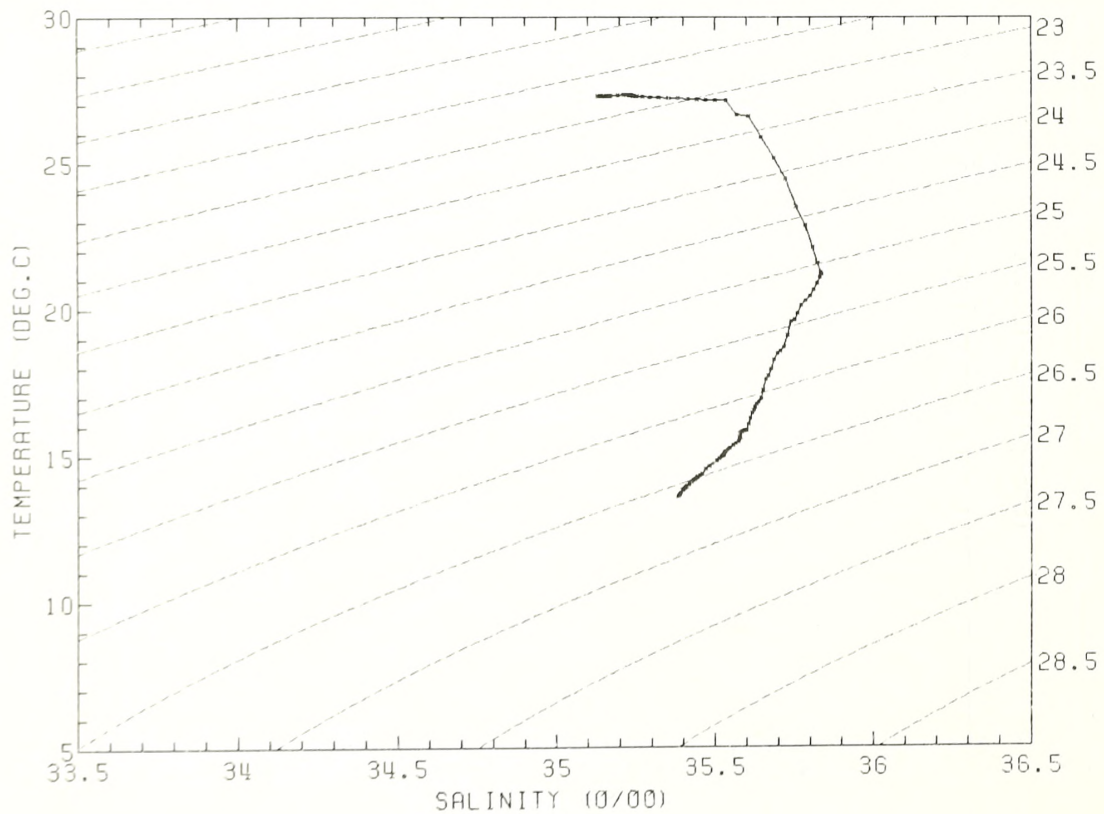
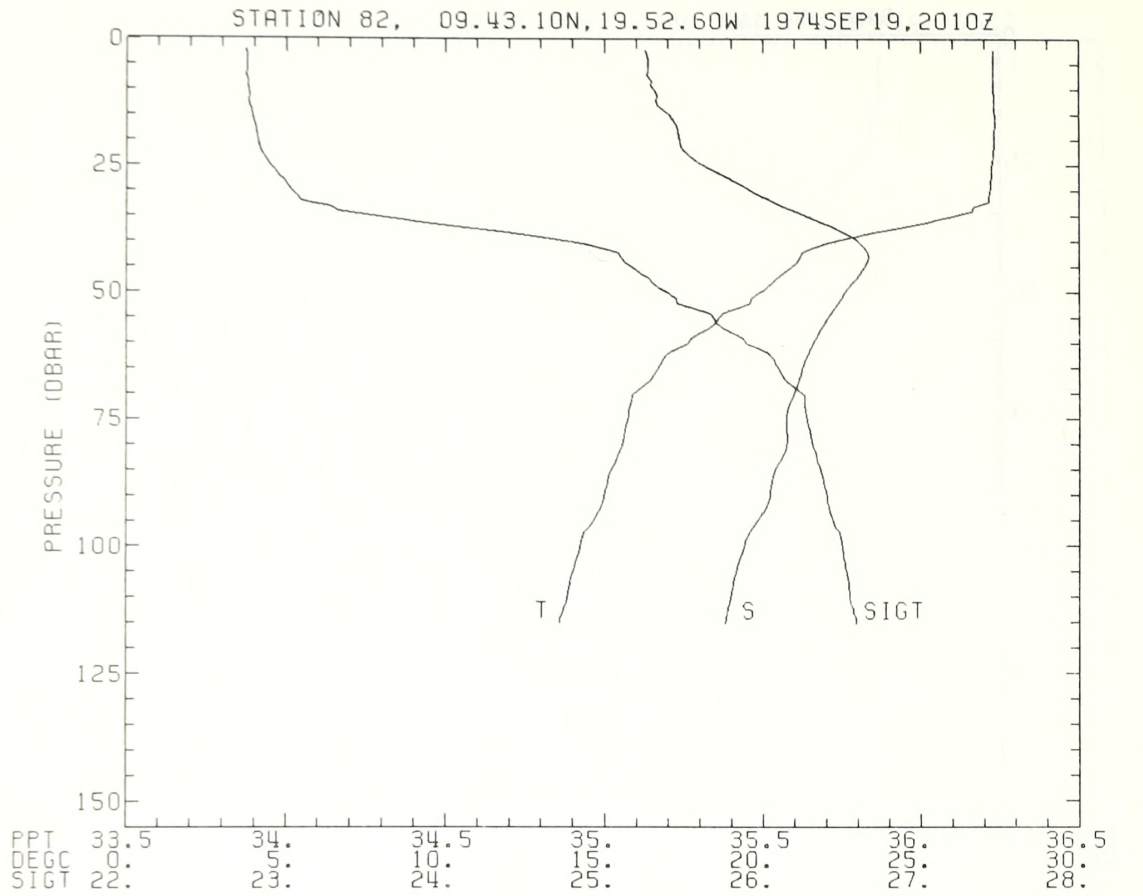


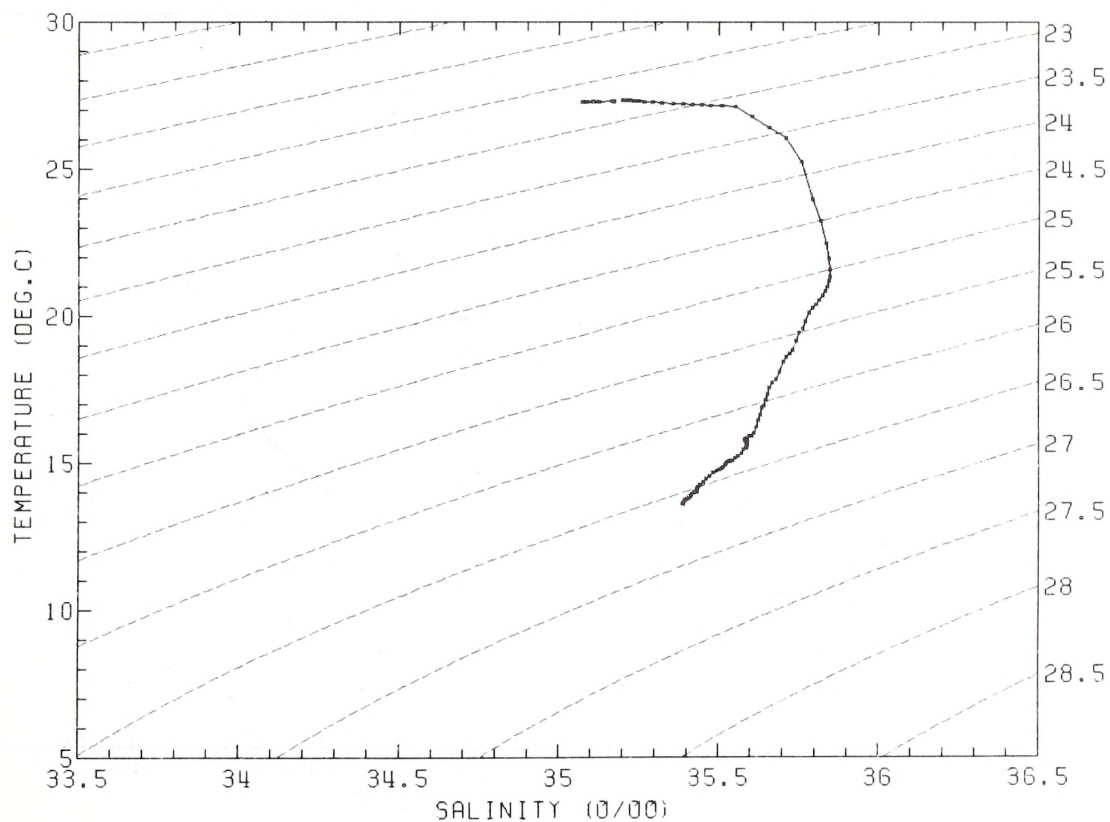
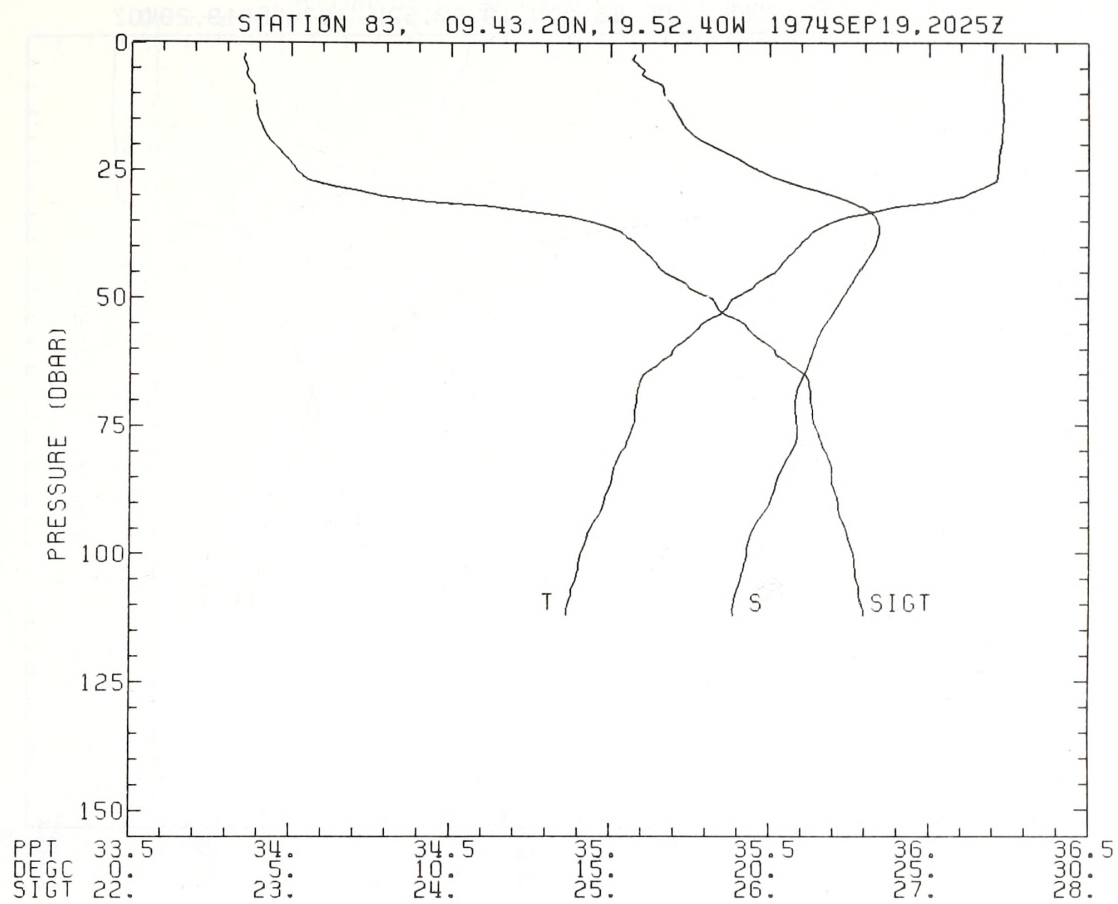


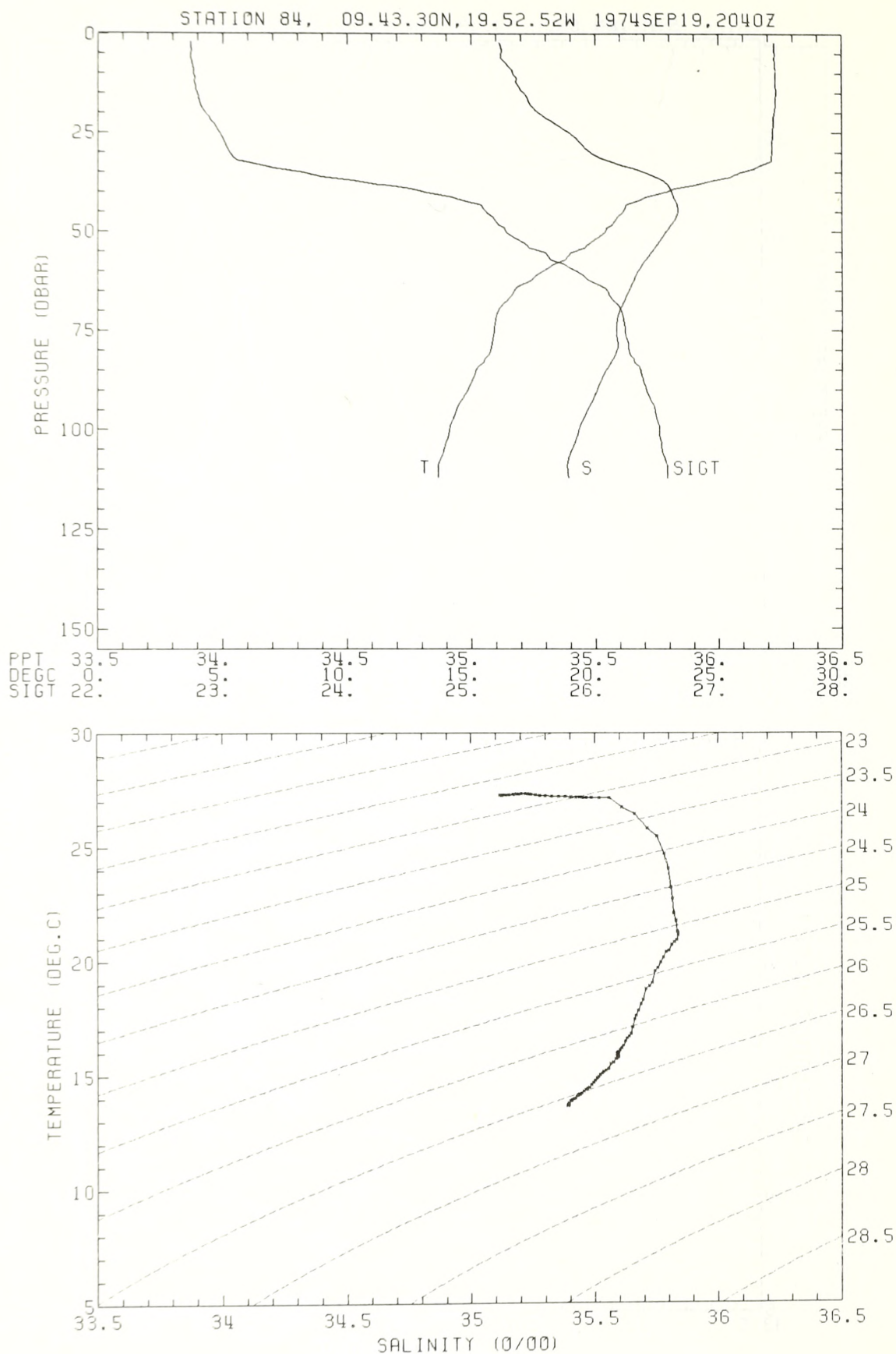


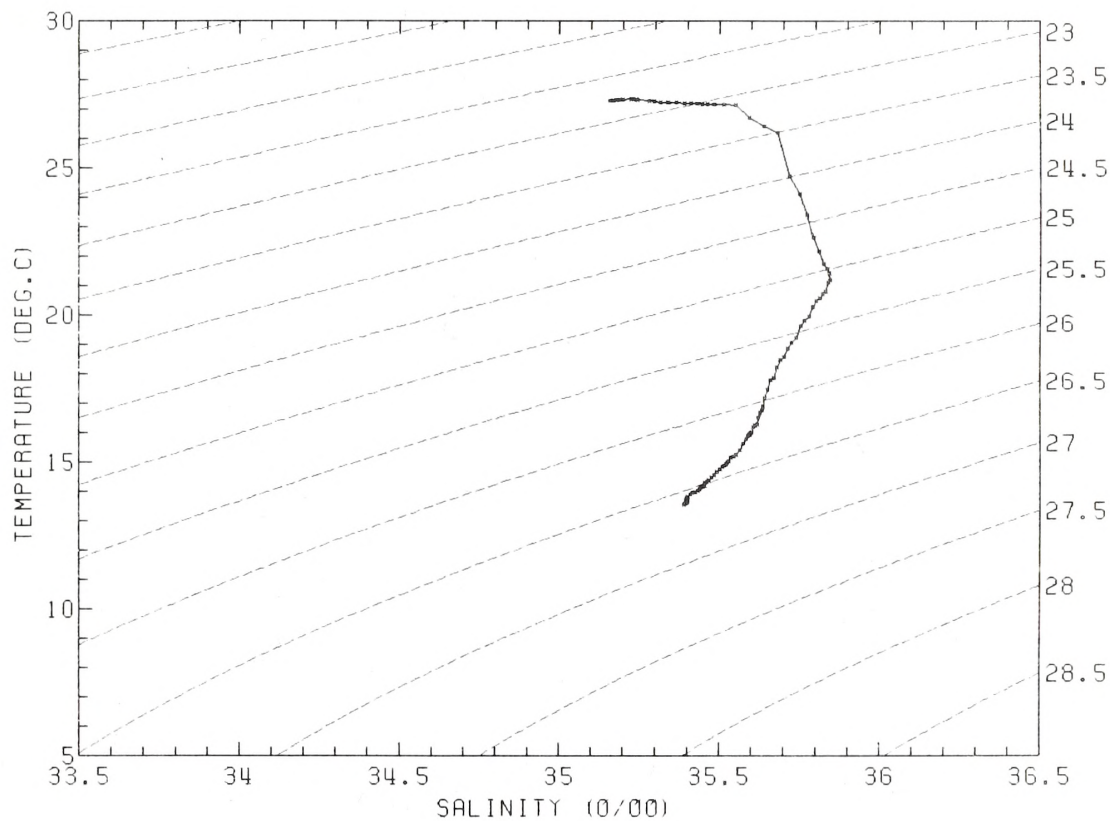
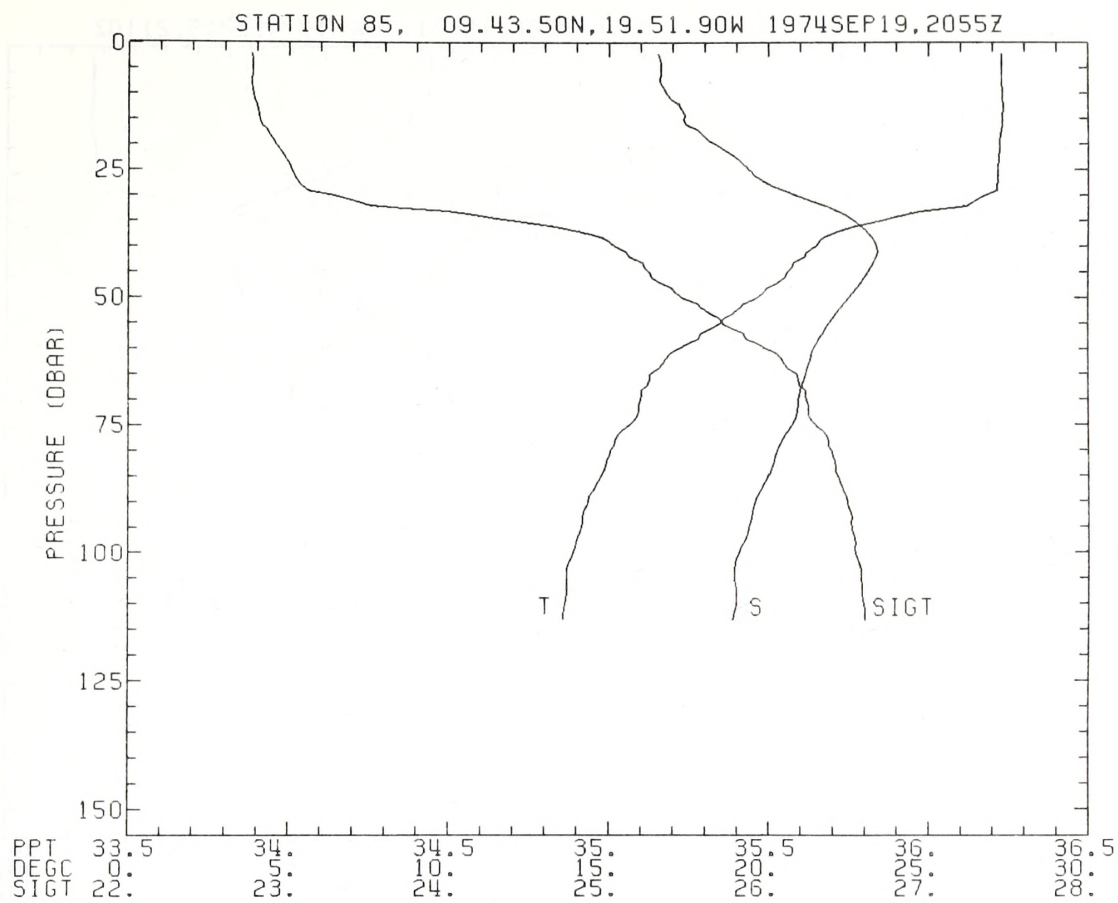


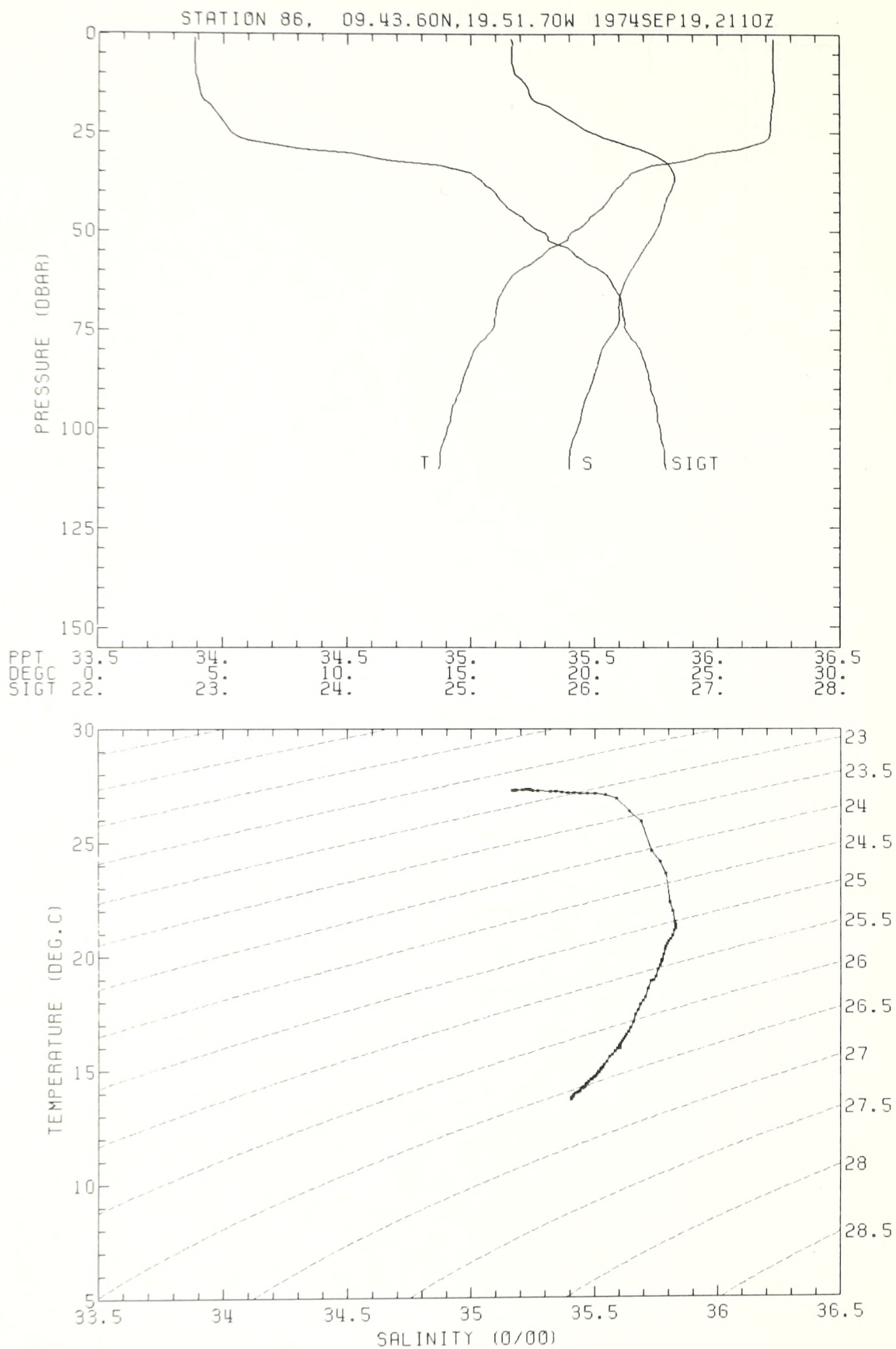


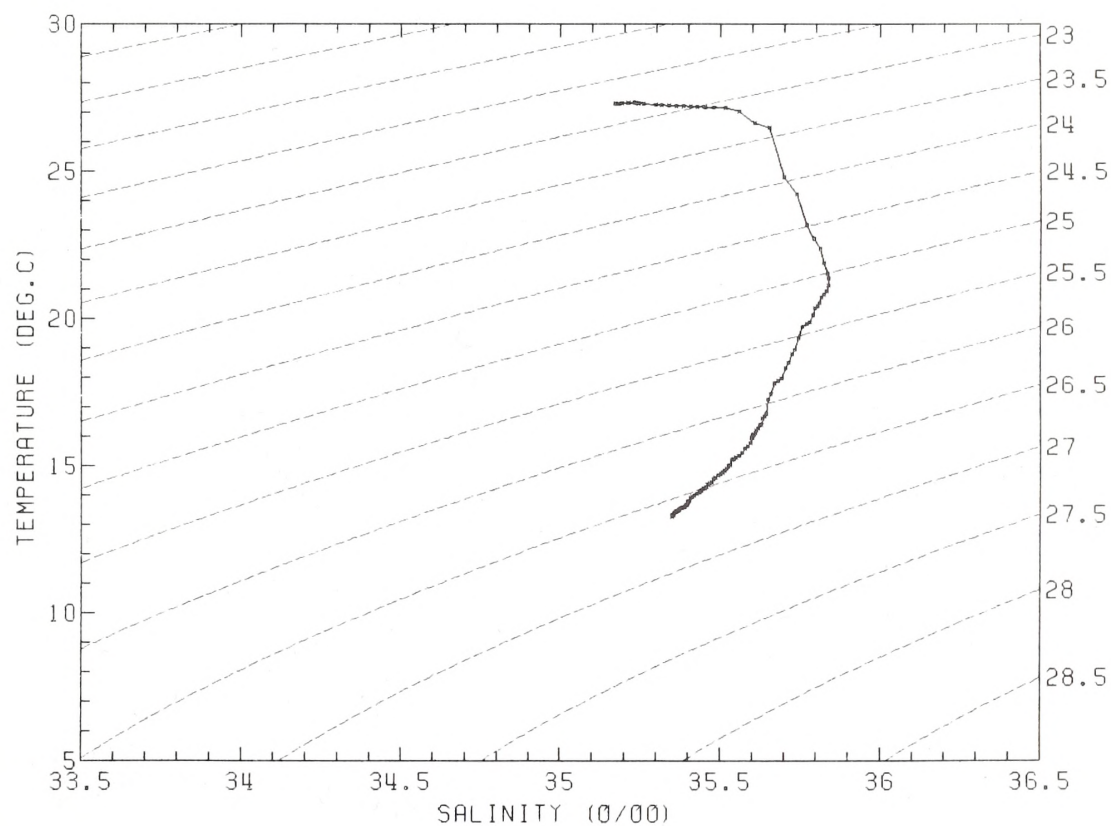
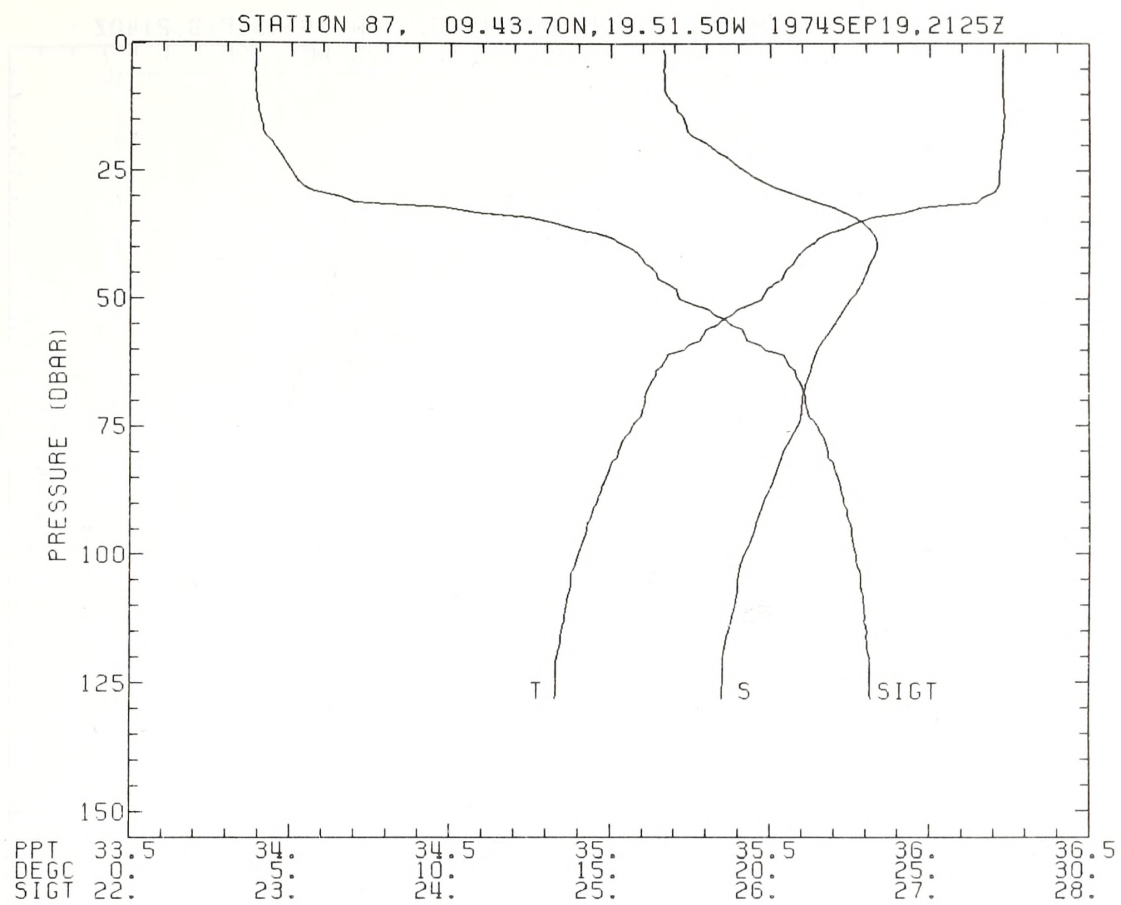


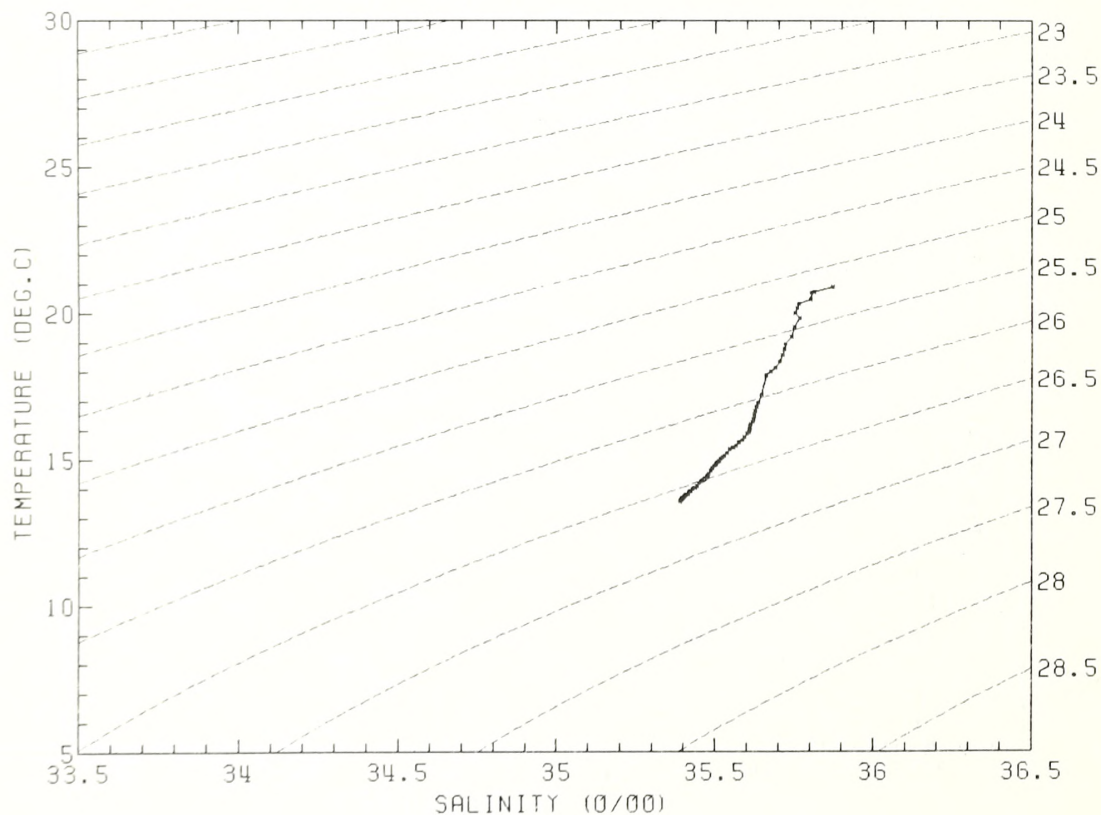
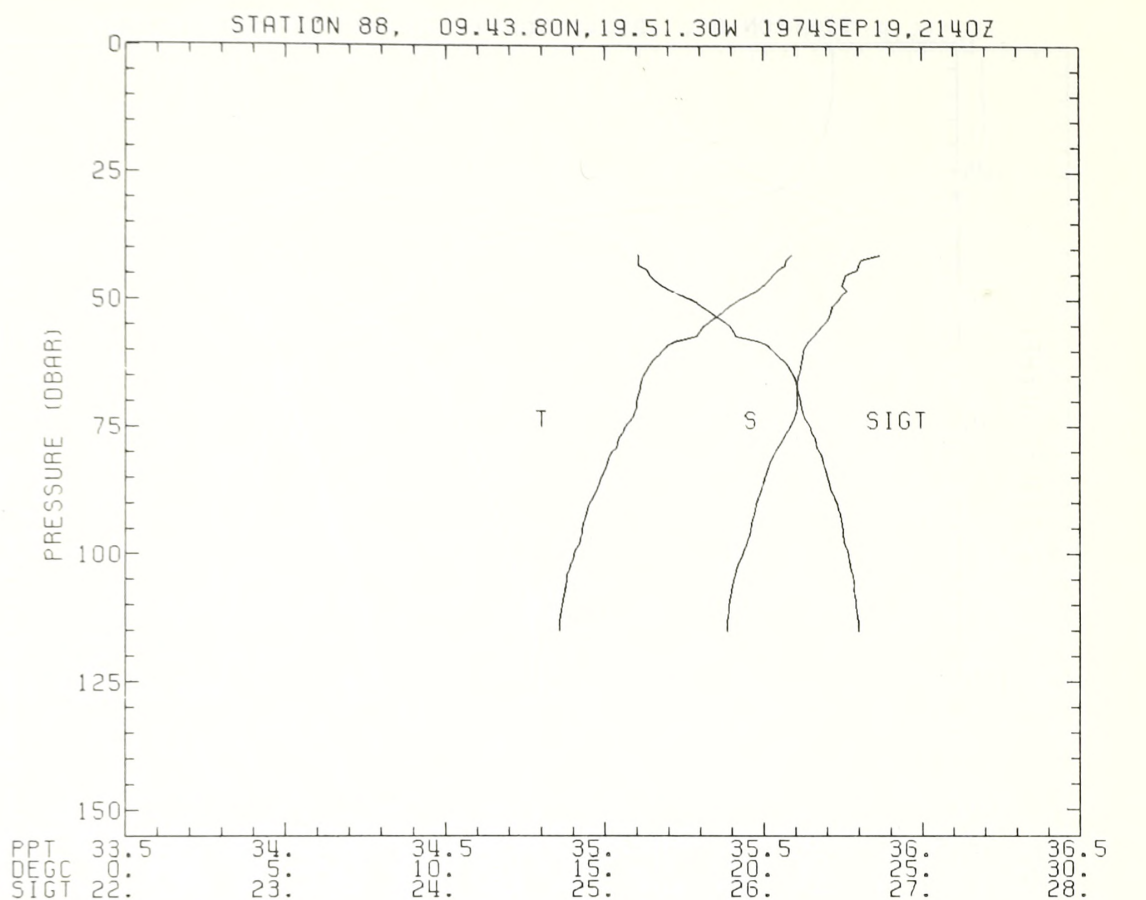


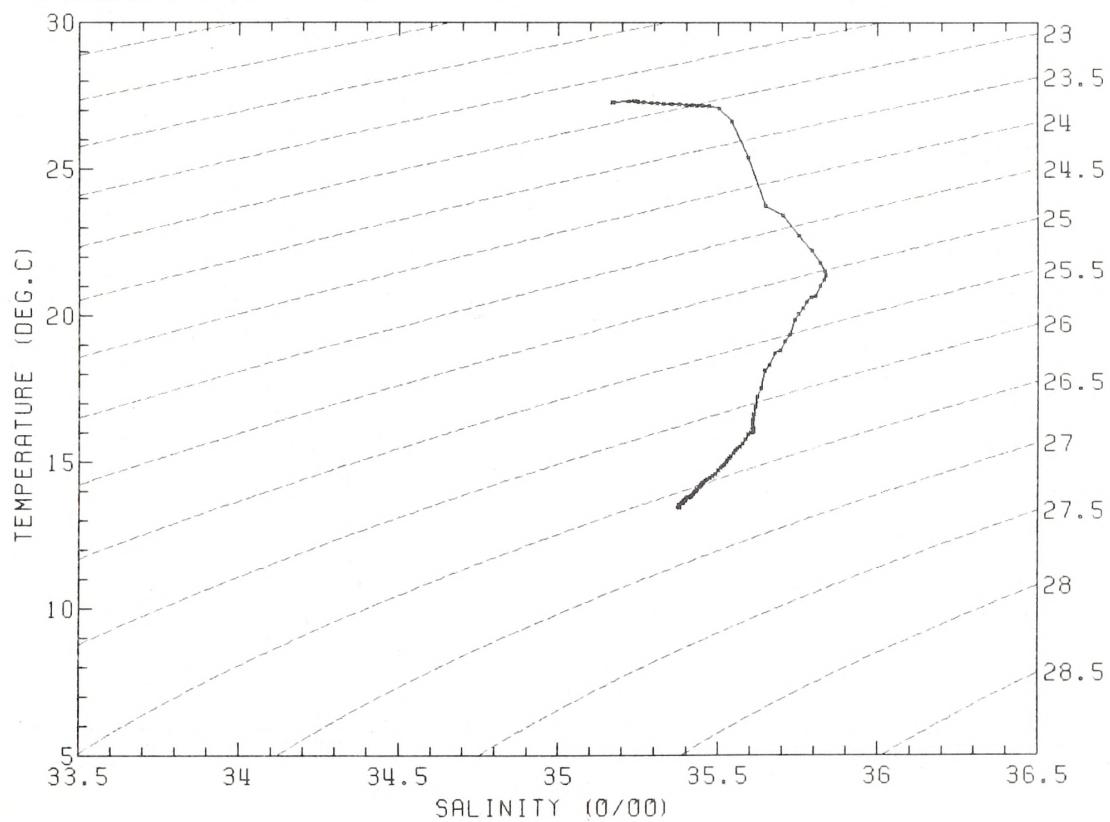
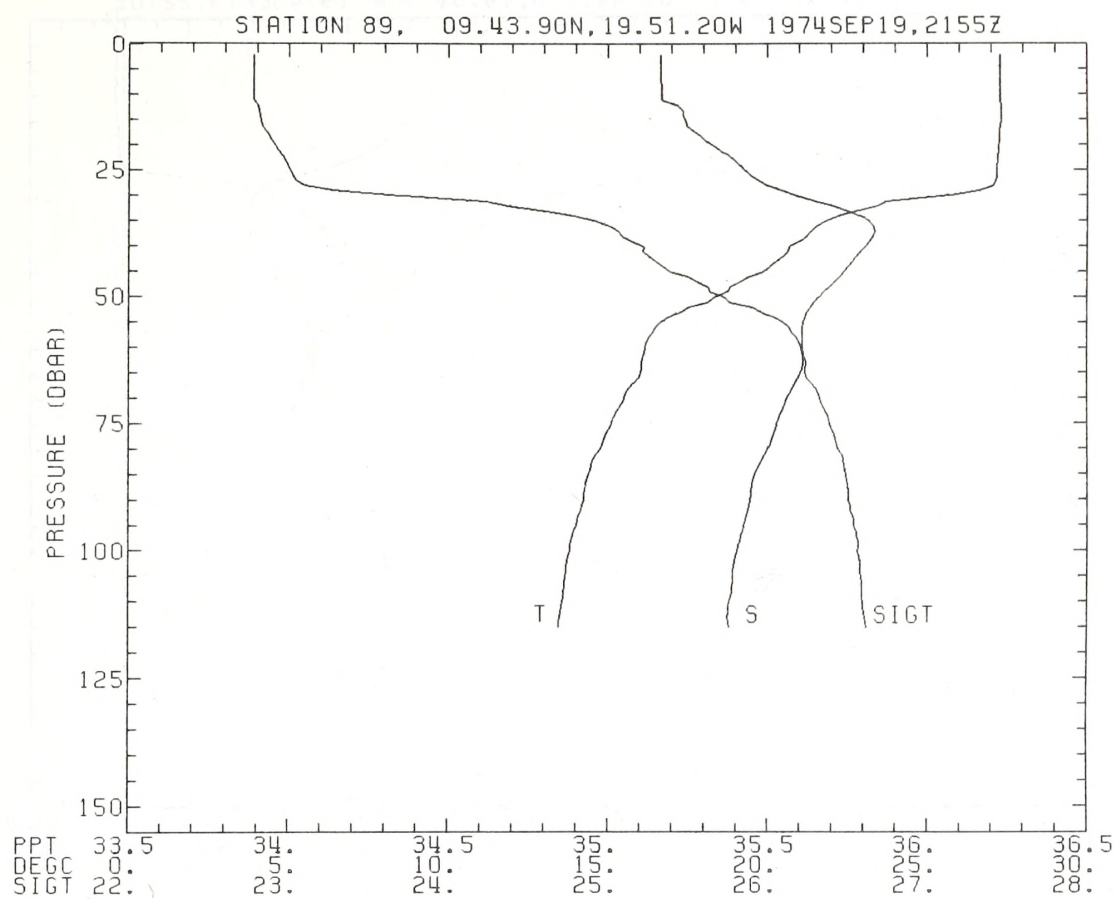


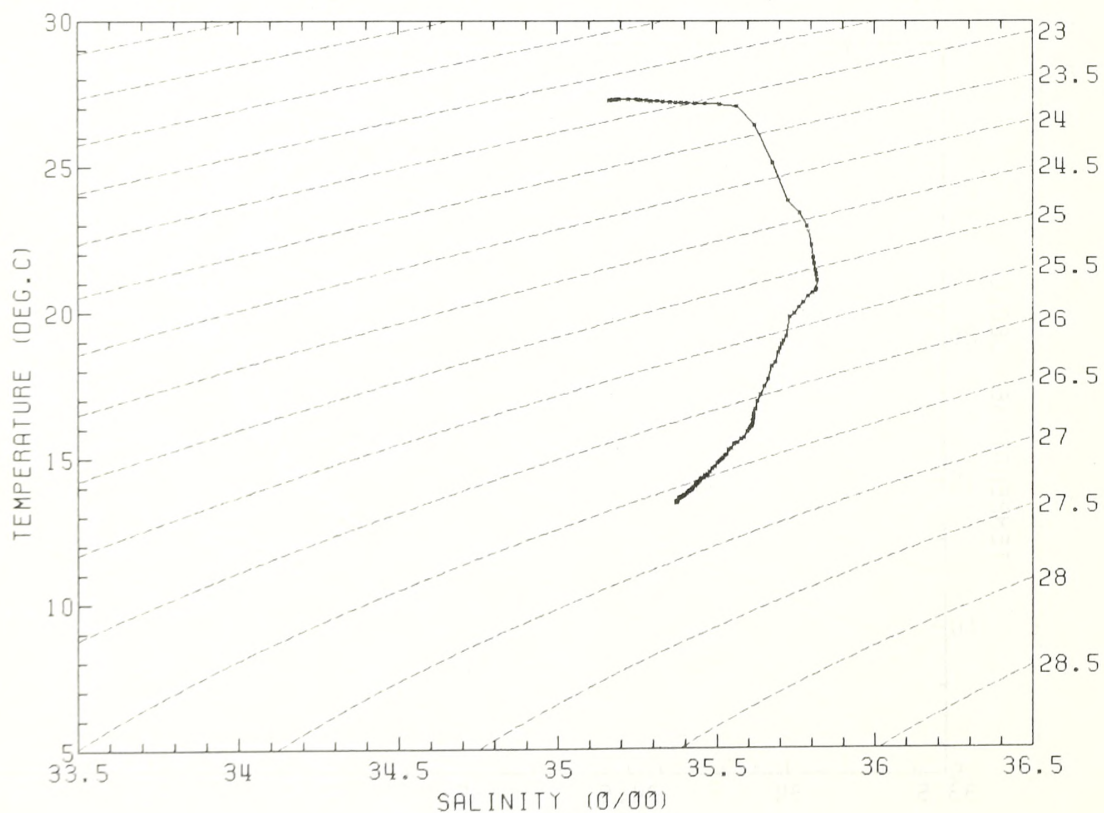
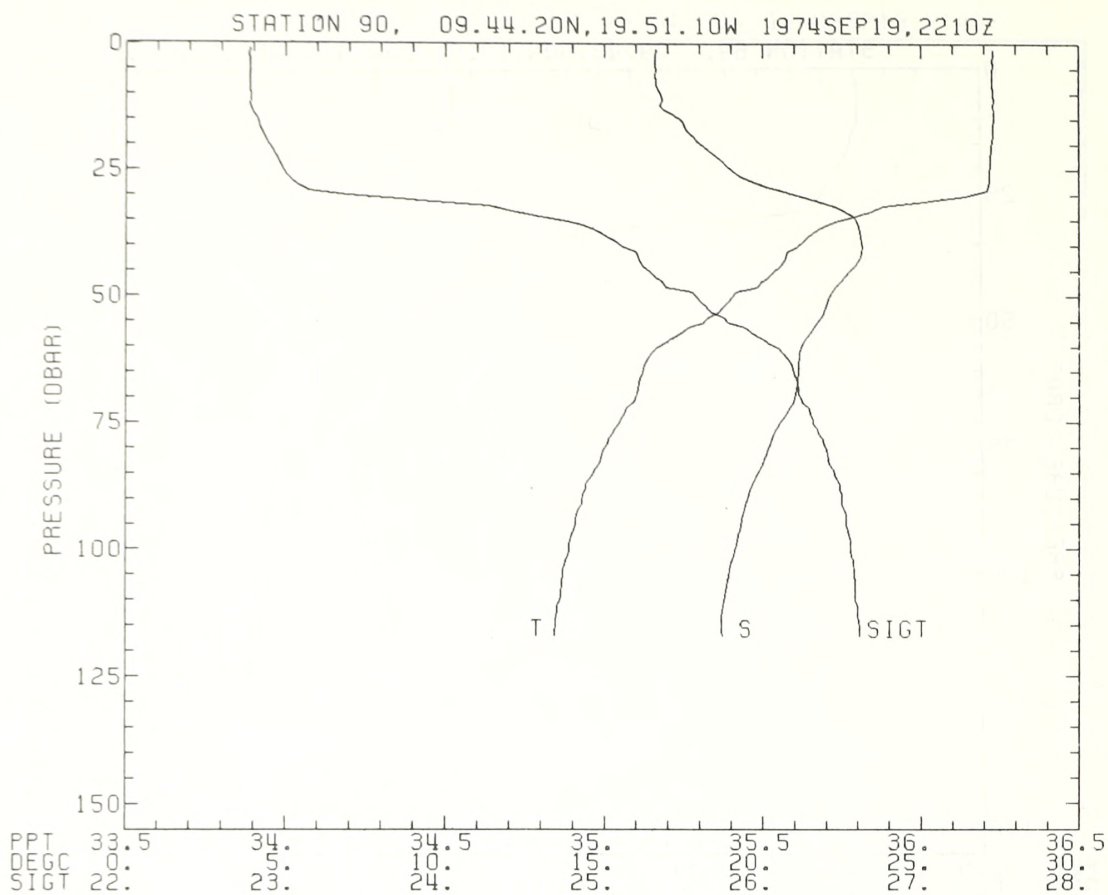


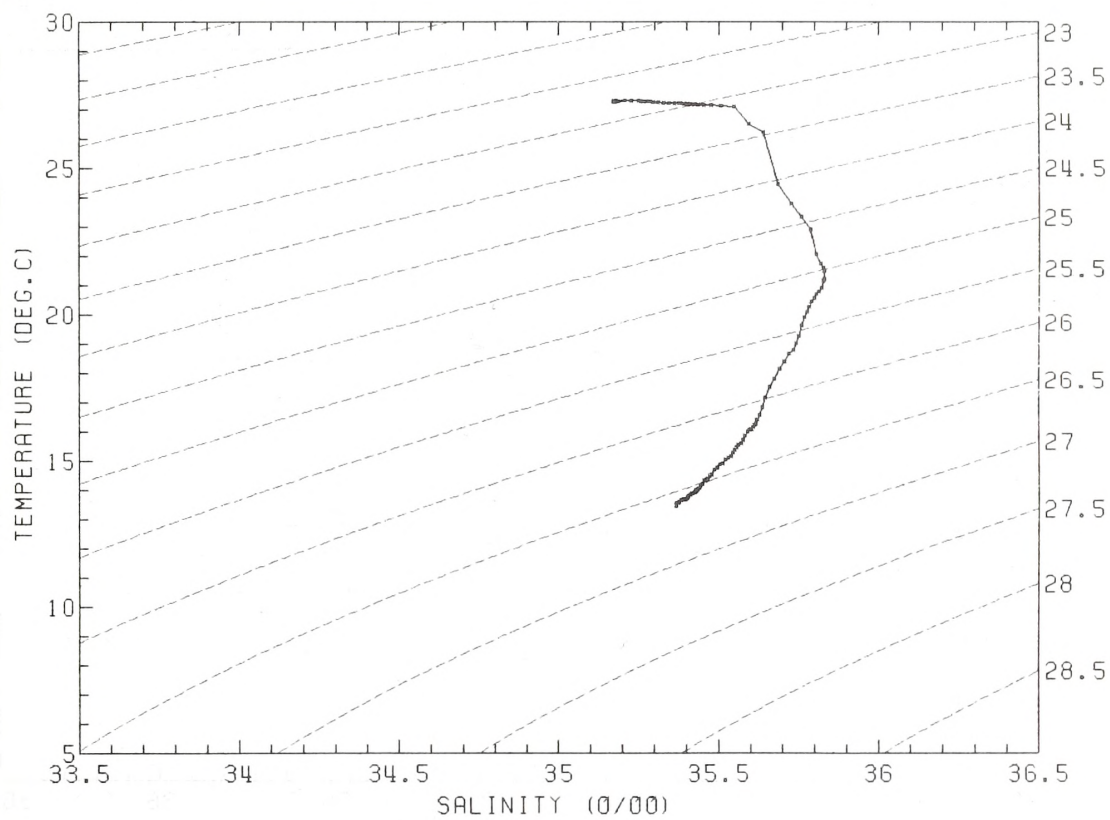
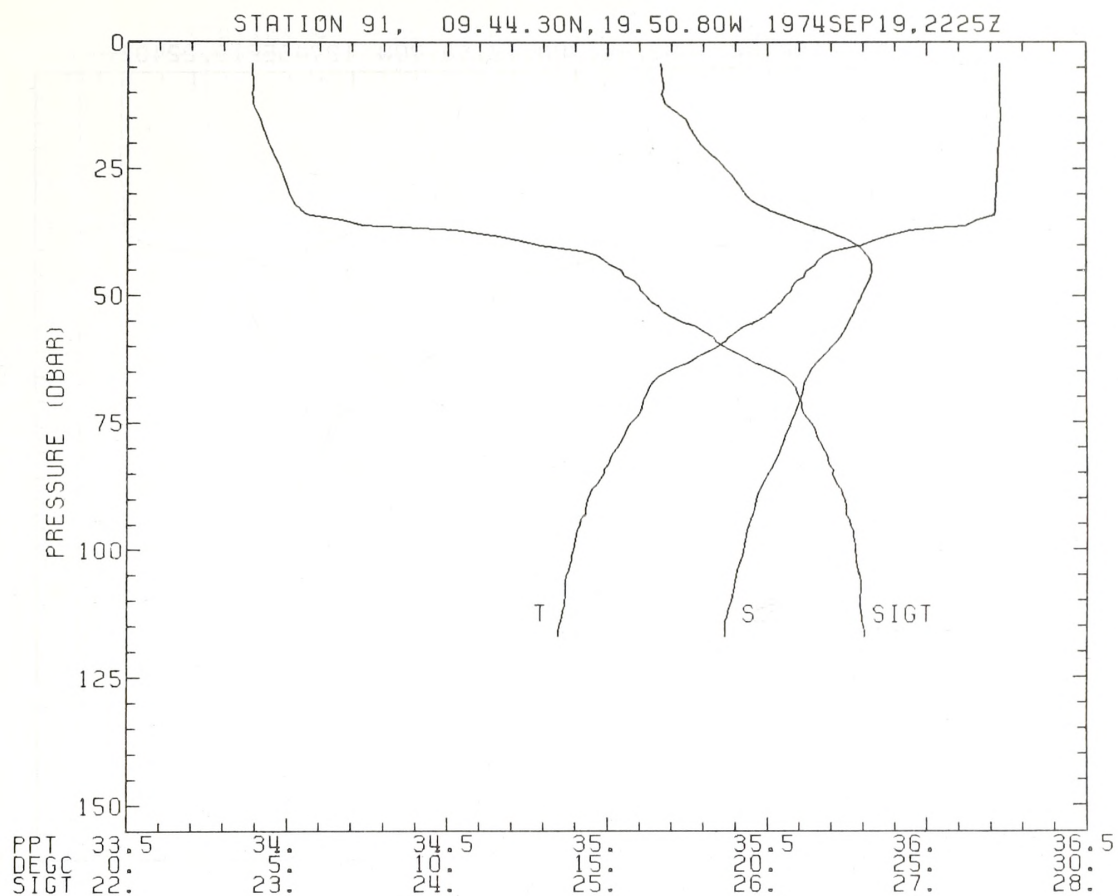


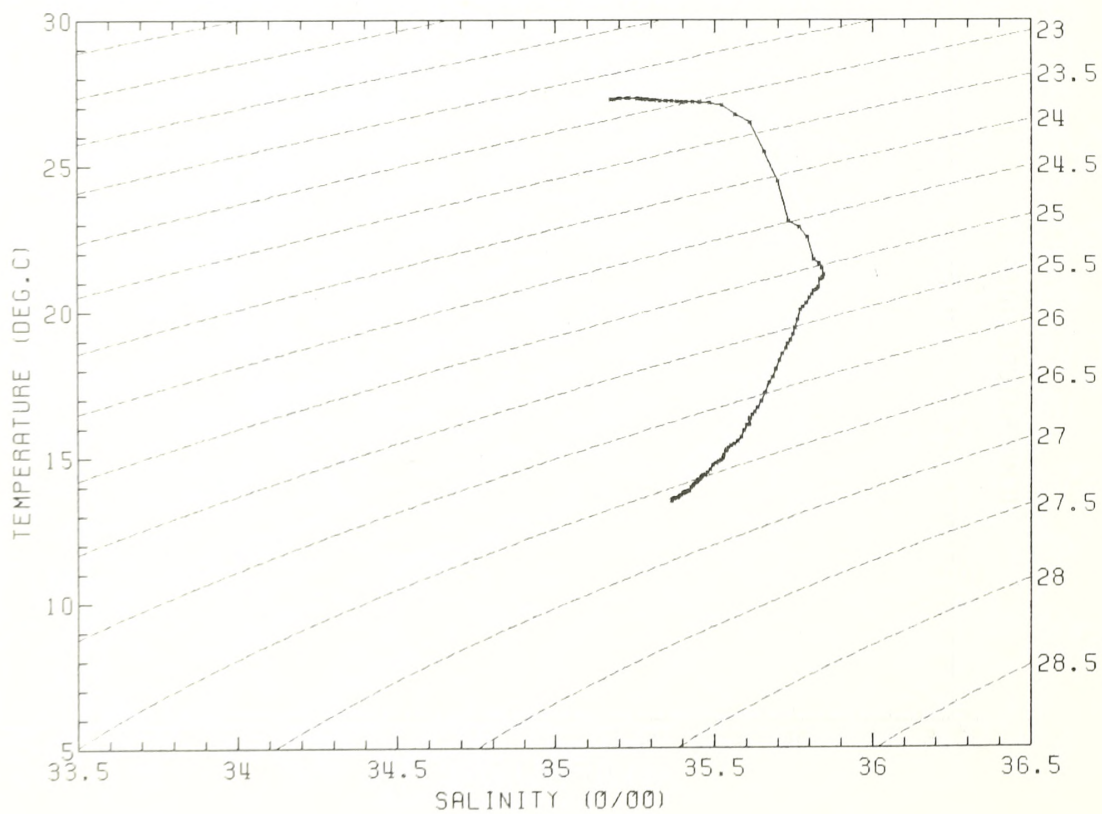
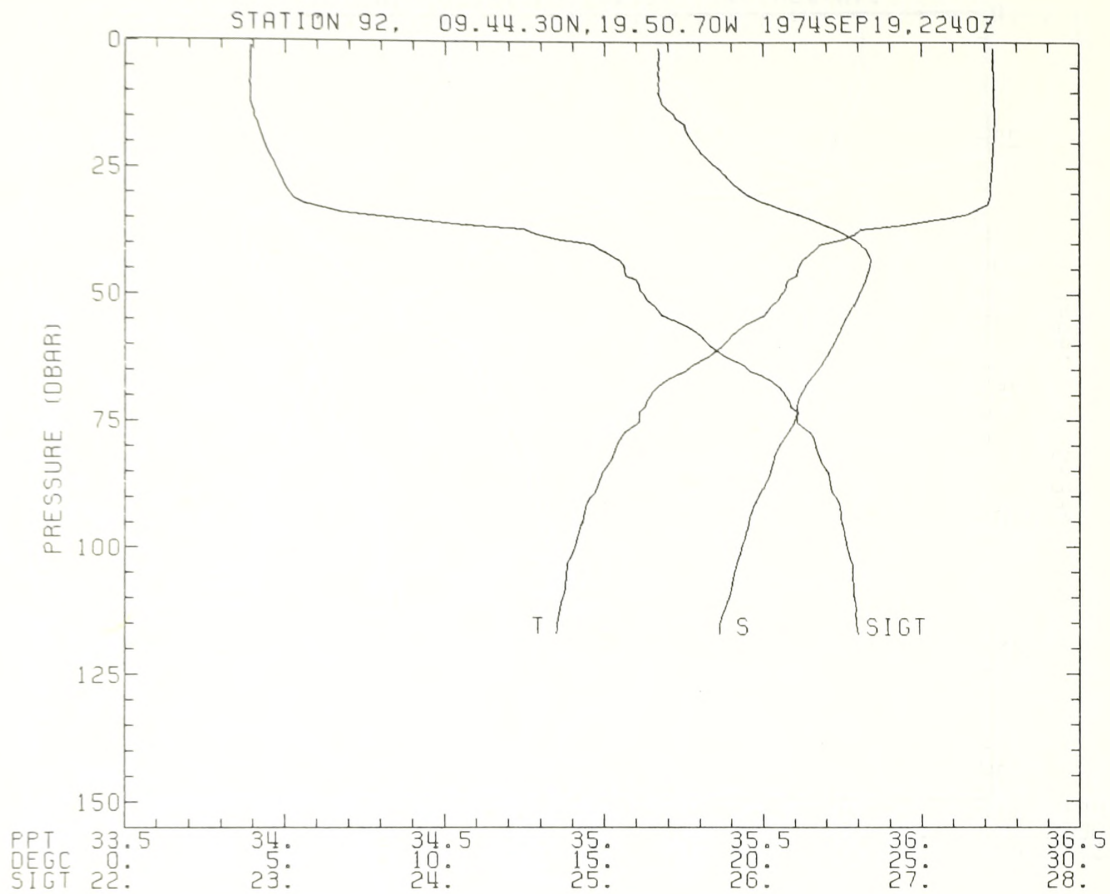


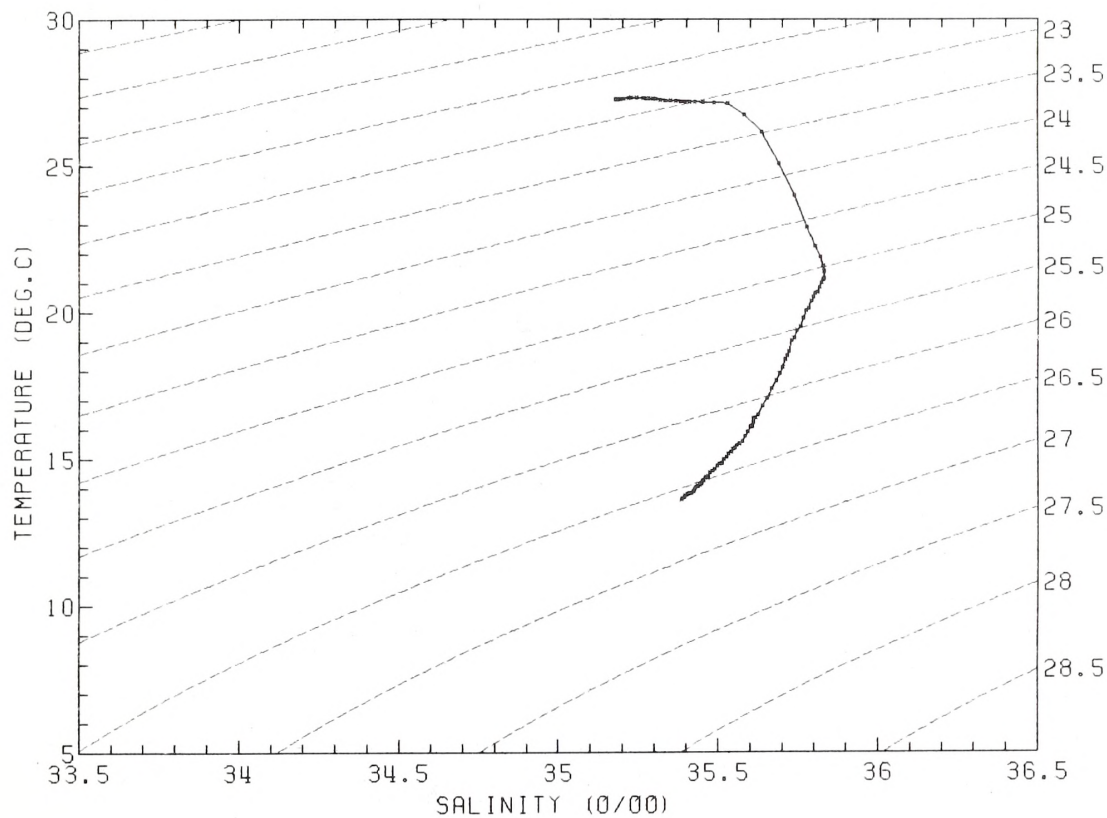
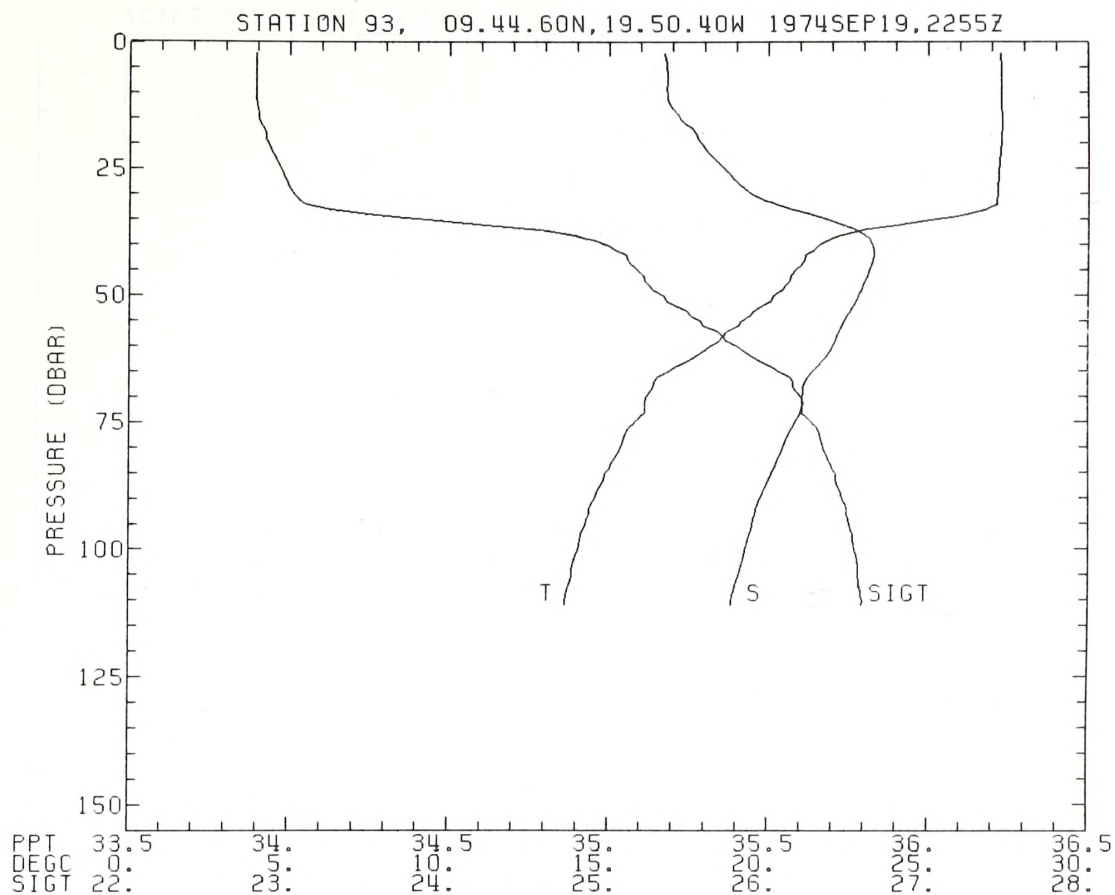


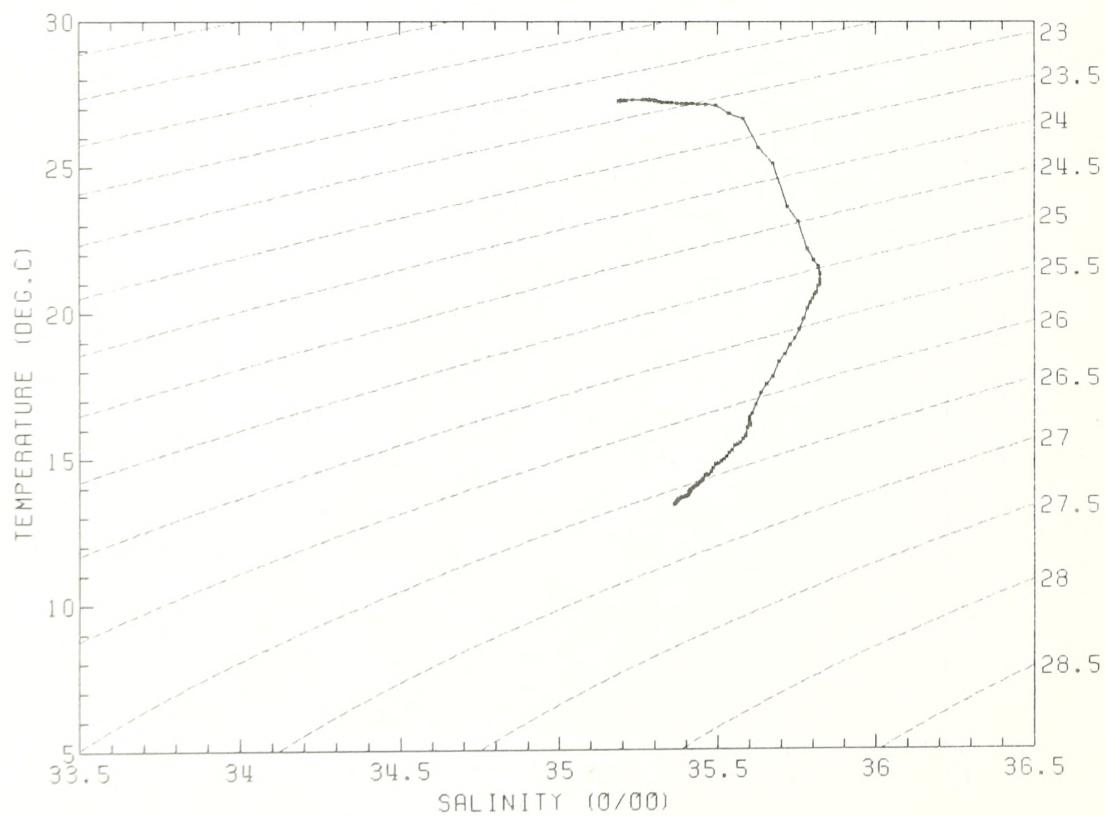
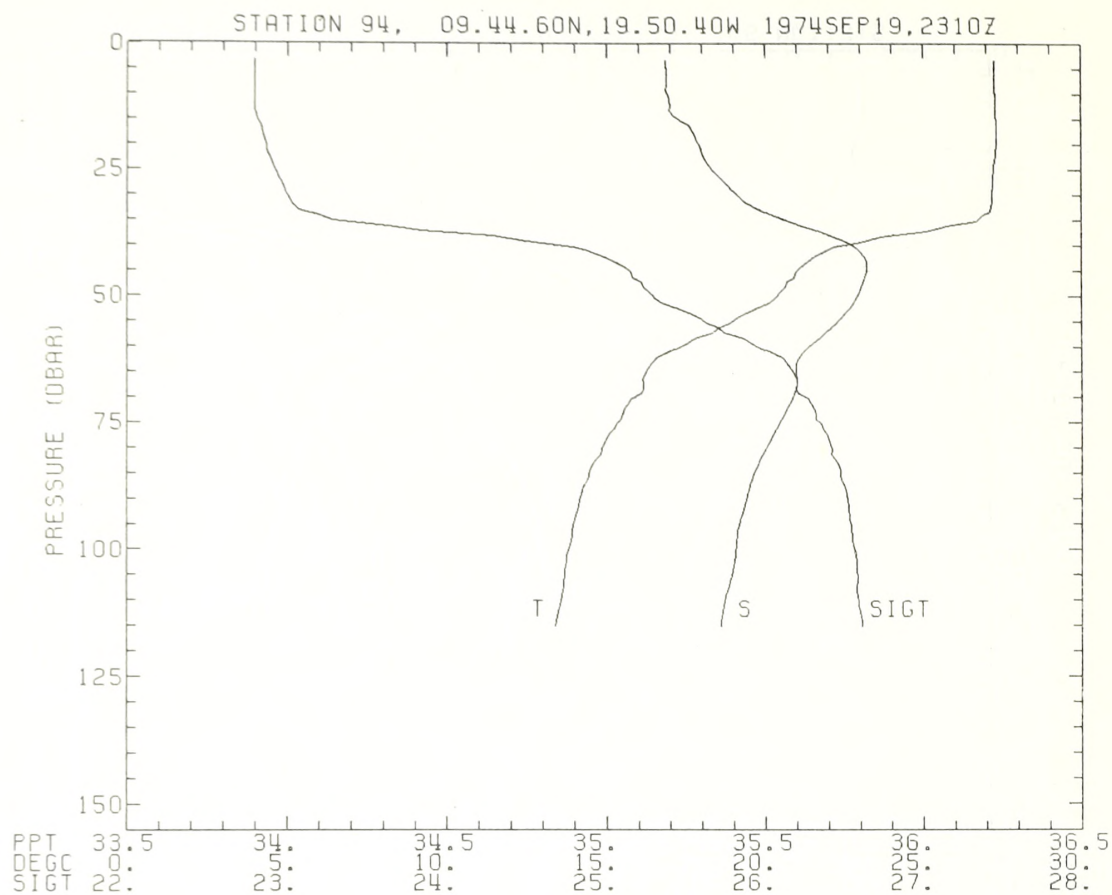


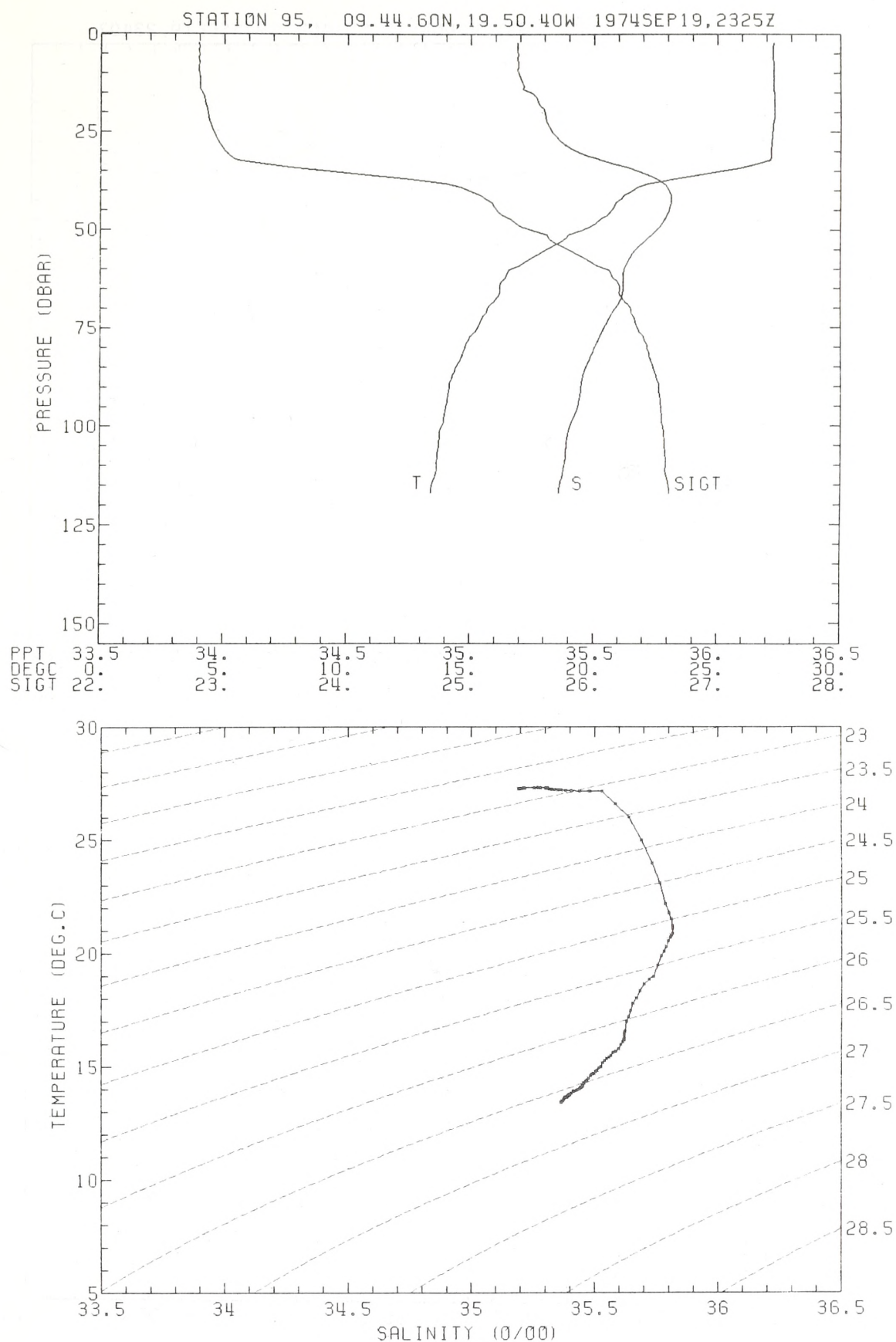




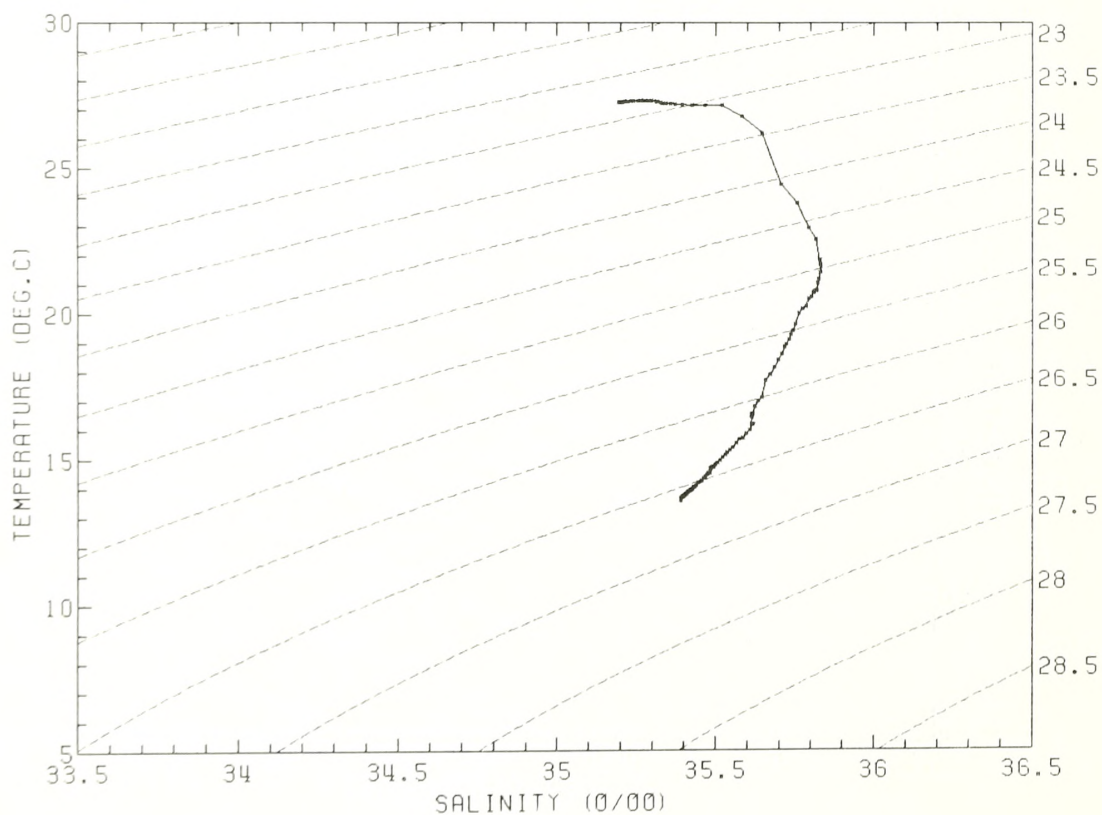
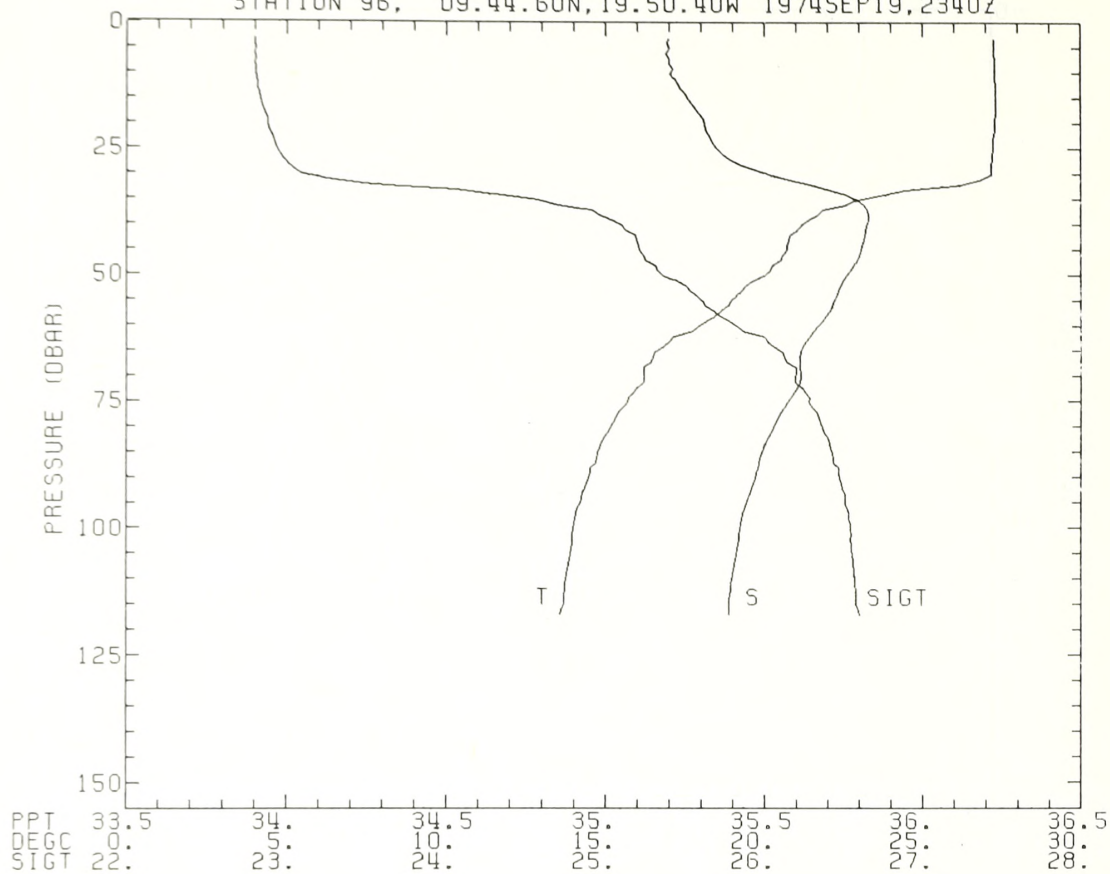


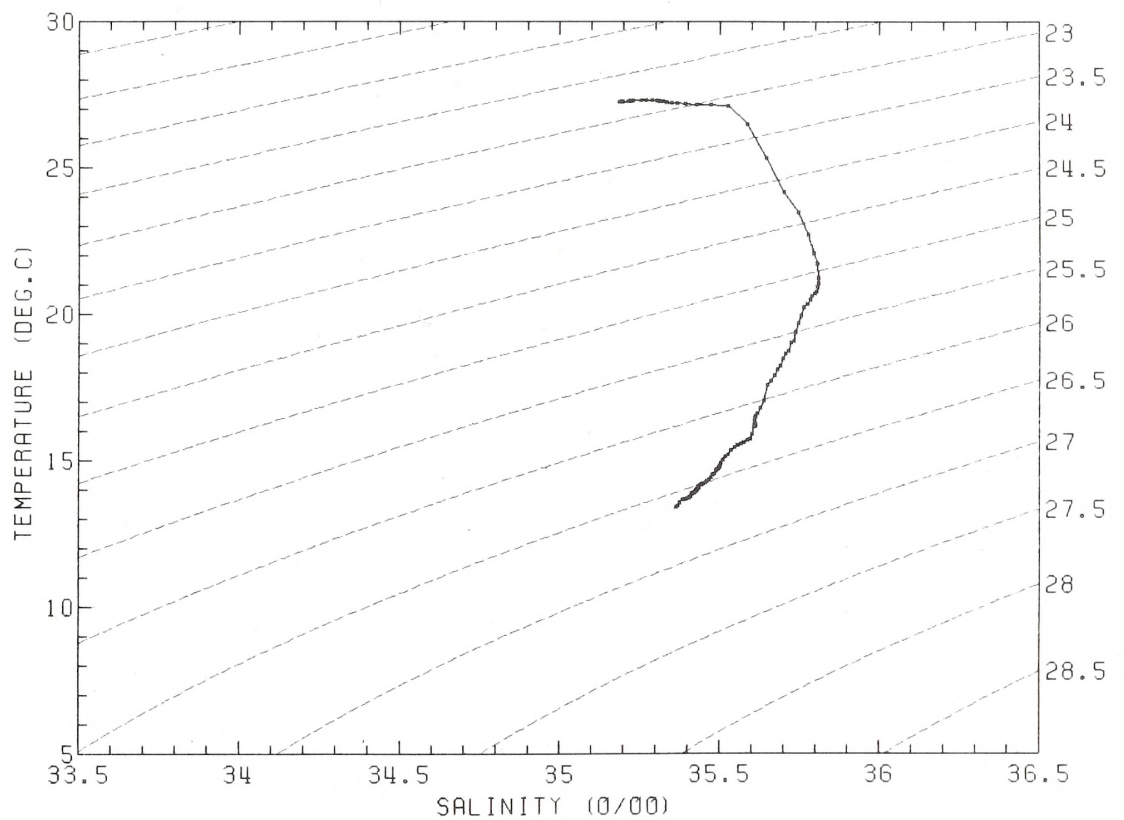
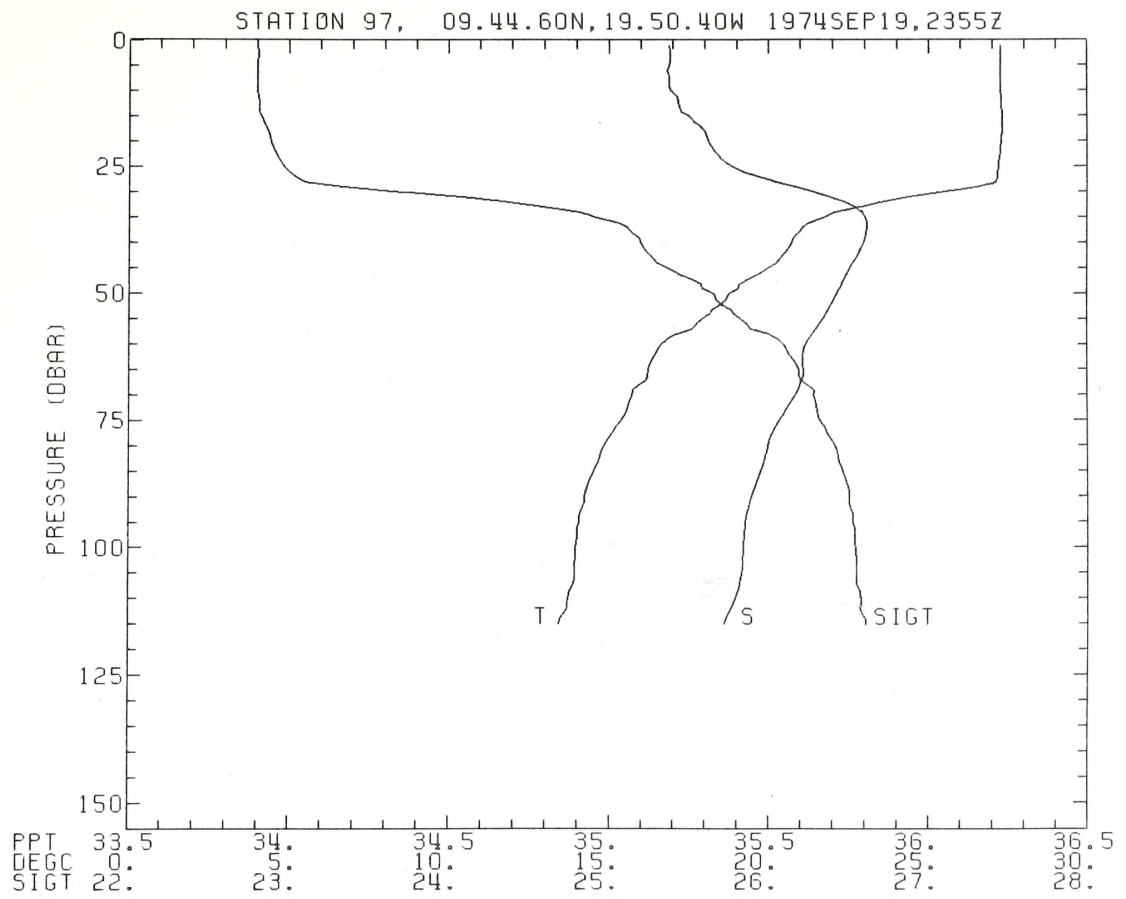






STATION 96, 09.44.60N, 19.50.40W 1974SEP19, 2340Z





Environmental Research LABORATORIES

The mission of the Environmental Research Laboratories (ERL) is to conduct an integrated program of fundamental research, related technology development, and services to improve understanding and prediction of the geophysical environment comprising the oceans and inland waters, the lower and upper atmosphere, the space environment, and the Earth. The following participate in the ERL missions:

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|-------------|--|
| MESA | <i>Marine EcoSystems Analysis Program.</i> Plans, directs, and coordinates the regional projects of NOAA and other federal agencies to assess the effect of ocean dumping, municipal and industrial waste discharge, deep ocean mining, and similar activities on marine ecosystems. | GFDL | <i>Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory.</i> Studies the dynamics of geophysical fluid systems (the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, and the cryosphere) through theoretical analysis and numerical simulation using powerful, high-speed digital computers. |
| OCSEA | <i>Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program.</i> Plans, directs, and coordinates research of federal, state, and private institutions to assess the primary environmental impact of developing petroleum and other energy resources along the outer continental shelf of the United States. | APCL | <i>Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry Laboratory.</i> Studies cloud and precipitation physics, chemical and particulate composition of the atmosphere, atmospheric electricity, and atmospheric heat transfer, with focus on developing methods of beneficial weather modification. |
| WM | <i>Weather Modification Program Office.</i> Plans, directs, and coordinates research within ERL relating to precipitation enhancement and mitigation of severe storms. Its National Hurricane and Experimental Meteorology Laboratory (NHEML) studies hurricane and tropical cumulus systems to experiment with methods for their beneficial modification and to develop techniques for better forecasting of tropical weather. The Research Facilities Center (RFC) maintains and operates aircraft and aircraft instrumentation for research programs of ERL and other government agencies. | NSSL | <i>National Severe Storms Laboratory.</i> Studies severe-storm circulation and dynamics, and develops techniques to detect and predict tornadoes, thunderstorms, and squall lines. |
| AOML | <i>Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories.</i> Studies the physical, chemical, and geological characteristics and processes of the ocean waters, the sea floor, and the atmosphere above the ocean. | WPL | <i>Wave Propagation Laboratory.</i> Studies the propagation of sound waves and electromagnetic waves at millimeter, infrared, and optical frequencies to develop new methods for remote measuring of the geophysical environment. |
| PMEL | <i>Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory.</i> Monitors and predicts the physical and biological effects of man's activities on Pacific Coast estuarine, coastal, deep-ocean, and near-shore marine environments. | ARL | <i>Air Resources Laboratories.</i> Studies the diffusion, transport, and dissipation of atmospheric pollutants; develops methods of predicting and controlling atmospheric pollution; monitors the global physical environment to detect climatic change. |
| GLERL | <i>Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.</i> Studies hydrology, waves, currents, lake levels, biological and chemical processes, and lake-air interaction in the Great Lakes and their watersheds; forecasts lake ice conditions. | AL | <i>Aeronomy Laboratory.</i> Studies the physical and chemical processes of the stratosphere, ionosphere, and exosphere of the Earth and other planets, and their effect on high-altitude meteorological phenomena. |
| | | SEL | <i>Space Environment Laboratory.</i> Studies solar-terrestrial physics (interplanetary, magnetospheric, and ionospheric); develops techniques for forecasting solar disturbances; provides real-time monitoring and forecasting of the space environment. |

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