



Fig. 2. Panel (a) shows the etopo5 topography of the region studied. The numbers indicate respectively, Pantelleria Island (1), Malta Island (2), Sicily (3) and Tunisia (4). The (i)'s indicate topographic features: the Ionian slope (i), Tunisian shelf (ii), Adventure Bank (iii) and Maltese plateau (iv). Panel (b) is the bottom topography at tracer grid points employed in the PE numerical model.

1996, ~ 38.8 PSU and $\sim 14.2^\circ\text{C}$) enters the Channel usually within the sills south of Malta, and slowly flows out the Strait, into the western basin. The MLIW core is commonly found around 250–300 m. The present results confirm these facts and clearly indicate that the deep MLIW variability can influence the variability of the surface-intensified features.