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**Daniel Coutand** and **Steve Shkoller\*** ([shkoller@math.ucdavis.edu](mailto:shkoller@math.ucdavis.edu)), Department of Mathematics, University of California at Davis, Davis, CA 95616. *Well-posedness of the free-surface Euler equations with or without surface tension.*

The incompressible Euler equations with a free surface describe the motion of an ideal, inviscid fluid whose boundary or interface moves with the fluid. We prove well-posedness for this PDE for short-time and any initial data in sufficiently smooth Sobolev spaces, with or without surface tension. The method requires spacetime a priori estimates, as well as the construction of a new class of approximate solutions for the Euler equations. (Received September 19, 2005)