An analysis of the reduced overturning state of the North Atlantic observed by the RAPID-MOCHA-WBTS array

David Smeed (1), William Johns (), Molly Baringer (), Ben Moat (), Darren Rayner (), Chris Meinen (), Denis Volkov (), and Gerard McCarthy ()

(1) National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, United Kingdom (das@noc.ac.uk), (2) Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Miami, Miami, FL, United States, (3) Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, NOAA, Miami, FL, United States, (4) Maynooth University, Co. Kildare, Ireland

Since 2008 the AMOC, as observed by the RAPID-MOCHA-WBTS array has been about 2.7 Sv less than during the first 4 years of observation (2004-2007). There has been no significant long-term change in the Ekman transport, and about 20% of the reduction is accounted for by the flow in the Florida Straits. Almost all of the change has occurred in the non-Ekman flow east of the Bahamas. Analysis of temperature and salinity data from moorings in the western boundary, the mid-Atlantic Ridge and the eastern boundary show that most of the change can be attributed to changes on the western boundary. Roughly 60% of the AMOC reduction is driven by changes in and above the thermocline and 40% is associated with changes below the thermocline. The changes also shed light on the mechanism of the AMOC reduction.