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## Pending recovery in the strength of the meridional overturning circulation at 26°N

**Ben Moat**<sup>1</sup>, David Smeed<sup>1</sup>, Eleanor Frajka-Williams<sup>1</sup>, Damien Desbruyeres<sup>2</sup>, Claudie Beaulieu<sup>3</sup>, William Johns<sup>4</sup>, Darren Rayner<sup>1</sup>, Alejandra Sanchez-Franks<sup>1</sup>, Molly Baringer<sup>5</sup>, Denis Volkov<sup>5</sup>, and Harry Bryden<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton Waterfront Campus, European Way, Southampton, SO14 3ZH, UK. (ben.moat@noc.ac.uk)

<sup>2</sup>Ifremer, University of Brest, CNRS, IRD, Laboratoire d'Océanographie Physique et Spatiale, IUEM, Ifremer centre de Bretagne, Plouzané, 29280, France.

<sup>3</sup>Ocean Sciences Department, University of California Santa Cruz, CA, USA.

<sup>4</sup>Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, Miami, FL, USA.

<sup>5</sup>Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, NOAA, Miami, FL, USA,

<sup>6</sup>School of Ocean and Earth Science, University of Southampton Waterfront Campus, European Way, Southampton, SO14 3ZH, UK.

The strength of the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) at 26°N has now been continuously measured by the RAPID array over the period April 2004 - Sept 2018. This record provides unique insight into the variability of the large-scale ocean circulation, previously only measured by sporadic snapshots of basin-wide transports from hydrographic sections. The continuous measurements have unveiled striking variability on timescales of days to a decade, driven largely by wind-forcing, contrasting with previous expectations about a slowly-varying, buoyancy forced large-scale ocean circulation. However, these measurements were primarily observed during a warm state of the Atlantic Multidecadal Variability (AMV) which has been steadily declining since a peak in 2008-2010. In 2013-2015, a period of strong buoyancy-forcing by the atmosphere drove intense watermass transformation in the subpolar North Atlantic and provides a unique opportunity to investigate the response of the large-scale ocean circulation to buoyancy forcing.

Modelling studies suggest that the AMOC in the subtropics responds to such events with an increase in overturning transport, after a lag of 3-9 years. At 45°N, observations suggest that the AMOC may already be increasing. We have therefore examined the record of transports at 26°N to see whether the AMOC in the subtropical North Atlantic is now recovering from a previously reported low period commencing in 2009. Comparing the two latitudes, the AMOC at 26°N is higher than its previous low. Extending the record at 26°N with ocean reanalysis from GloSea5, the transport fluctuations follow those at 45°N by 0-2 years, albeit with lower magnitude. Given the

short span of time and anticipated delays in the signal from the subpolar to subtropical gyres, it is not yet possible to determine whether the subtropical AMOC strength is recovering.