Air temperature variations on the Atlantic – Arctic boundary since 1802: the low-frequency pattern in observations and 20th Century Reanalysis (V. 2)

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A two-hundred year instrumental record of annual surface air temperature (SAT) in the Atlantic – Arctic boundary region was reconstructed from four station-based composite time series. Credibility is supported by ice core records, other temperature proxies, and historical evidence. This record (designated $T_{\rm NA}$) provides long term perspective in a region where unexplained low-frequency climate variations were observed during the $20^{\rm th}$ century. No obvious analog was detected over the preceding 100 years. However, evidence of a strong teleconnection between $T_{\rm NA}$ (and related SAT records) and SST anomalies in the western boundary current – southern recirculation gyre (WBC) region of the North Atlantic Ocean provides an opportunity to reframe the problem of low-frequency variability in the region in terms tractable to theory and empirical investigation. Here we examine the imprint of observed low-frequency SAT and SST variations in the $20^{\rm th}$ Century Reanalysis and related subsidiary data sets.