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The influence of the NAO on oceanic precipitation variability

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North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) related precipitation anomalies have been widely documented to affect significantly wintertime, and to some extent, spring precipitation in the European and Middle Eastern regions. However the impacts of the NAO on global oceanic precipitation and the associated atmospheric circulation anomalies have not yet been fully described. The main goal of this work is to advance the current understanding of the precipitation variations over the global oceans related to the NAO on interannual time scales over the period 1979-2002. Among the open science questions which will be discussed: what are the robust features of the NAO related oceanic precipitation anomalies and what are the main mechanisms? Are there asymmetries in the high/low NAO phase precipitation anomalies and what causes them? Is there a significant coupling between the NAO and tropical precipitation variability? What are the implications of the observed precipitation anomalies for the oceanic water budget? The investigation will use multiple state-of-the-art global precipitation datasets and re-analyses. In order to assess the robustness of the precipitation features, observed anomalies will be substantiated by the investigation of the associated anomalous circulation.