

北アメリカの厳冬を引き起こす新たな要因
～夏季北太平洋亜熱帯からのテレコネクションの影響～

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Summertime atmosphere-ocean preconditionings for the Bering Sea ice retreat and the following severe winters in North America

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Recently, it was reported that atmospheric responses to sea ice retreat in the Bering Sea have been linked to recent extreme winters in North America [Lee *et al.* 2015; Kug *et al.* 2015]. In this study, we investigated the leading factor for the interannual variability of Bering Sea ice area (SIA) in early winter (November–December), using canonical correlation analysis (CCA) based on seasonally resolved atmosphere and ocean data for 1980–2014. The preprocessing and procedure for CCA is mostly identical to Nakanowatari *et al.* [2014]. We found that the 3-month leading (August–September) geopotential height at 500 hPa (Z500) in the Northern Hemisphere explains 29% of SIA variability. The spatial pattern of Z500 for positive (negative) sea ice anomalies is associated with negative (positive) anomalies over the Gulf of Alaska related to the Pacific Transition (PT) pattern. The heat budget analysis indicates that summertime atmospheric conditions influence SIA through the ocean temperature anomalies of the Alaskan Coastal Current forced by atmospheric turbulent heat fluxes. The PT pattern highly correlates with convective precipitation in the western subtropical Pacific, implying that weakened subtropical forcing is the likely cause for the recent extreme winters in North America. The manuscript of this study was accepted by Environmental Research Letters [Nakanowatari *et al.* 2015].

References

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