

Geophysical Research Abstracts,
Vol. 10, EGU2008-A-01792, 2008
SRef-ID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU2008-A-01792
EGU General Assembly 2008
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Change of LSW formation rates inferred from CFC inventories

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In the last decades, the formation rate of Labrador Sea Water (LSW) weakened considerably and the produced LSW was warmer and less dense than in the early 1990s. The weakening of the LSW production also affects the anthropogenic carbon inventory in the subpolar North Atlantic. The high meteorological and oceanographic variability in this area prevents up to now to attribute these changes uniquely to be caused by global warming, although climate models predict the observed trends.