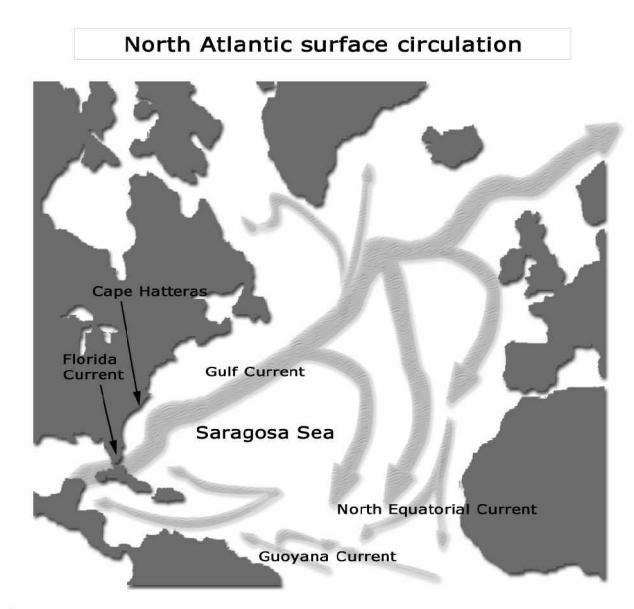


U-boats near Florida and Cape Hatteras - 1942

There was a short period, from January until June 1942, when U-boats operated successfully along the American East coast. Within half a year, they sank about 400 vessels. In only two weeks a few U-boats could sink 25 ships with a total tonnage of 200,000, out of which 70% were tankers. The summer of 1942 meant the end of the U-boat operation called 'Paukenschlag' (Drumbeat). The US Navy had become effective.

The Gulf Current flows from Florida to Cape Hatteras, before turning around at Cape Hatteras and flowing into the Atlantic and eastwards, to Europe. The warm current together with the colder Atlantic water off Cape Hatteras built a highly sensitive water body having a significant impact on the daily weather, seasons and climatic conditions in

the Northern Hemisphere. The war in these sea waters is to be held responsible for considerable changes of the seawater sphere.



U-boats

In August 1942, the German U-boat fleet had reached the number of 340, with almost 300 boats more than three years earlier. During the whole war period, the U-boat force was of about 1,100 boats, out of which 850 participated in at least one combat mission and 630 were destroyed during enemy attacks.

German U-boats attacked and destroyed 2,822 vessels (14,220,000 tons). Italians sank 152 boats, 132 vessels (700,000 tons). The Axis U-boat fleet (German, Italian, and Japan) is said to have sunk 25 big naval vessels, 41 destroyers and about 150 other naval vessels. The main operation field of the U-boats was the Atlantic Ocean. But the success of the U-boats attacks ended shortly as they were effective only between 1942 and March 1943.