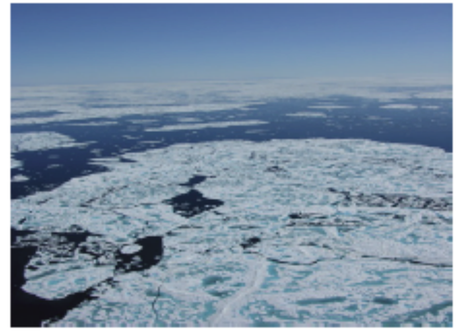
Investigating the Beaufort Sea Marginal Ice Zone with Robotic Technology

Craig Lee (APL-UW), Lee Freitag (WHOI), Martin Doble (LOV), Wieslaw Maslowski (NPS), Tim Stanton (NPS), Jim Thomson (APL-UW), Mary-Louise Timmermans (Yale) and Jeremy Wilkinson (BAS)






Ice Mass Balance Buoys- Wilkinson (BAS), Hwang (SAMS), Maksym (WHOI), Richter-Menge (CRREL)

Wave Buoys- Wadhams (Cambridge), Doble (LOV)

Surface Wave Measurements- Thomson (APL-UW)

Autonomous Ocean Flux Buoys- Stanton, Shaw (NPS)

Autonomous Gliders- Lee, Rainville, Gobat (APL-UW)

Biogechemical Measurements (Perry, U. Maine)

Acoustic Navigation and Wavegliders- Freitag (WHOI)

Profiling Floats- Owens, Jayne (WHOI)

Ice-Tethered Profilers- Toole, Krishfield, Cole, Thwaites (WHOI), Timmermans (Yale)

Remote Sensing- Graber (CSTARS, U. Miami), Hwang (SAMS)

MIZMAS model- Zhang, Schweiger, Steel (APL-UW)

Regional Arctic Climate System Model- Maslowski, Roberts, Cassano, Hughes (NPS)

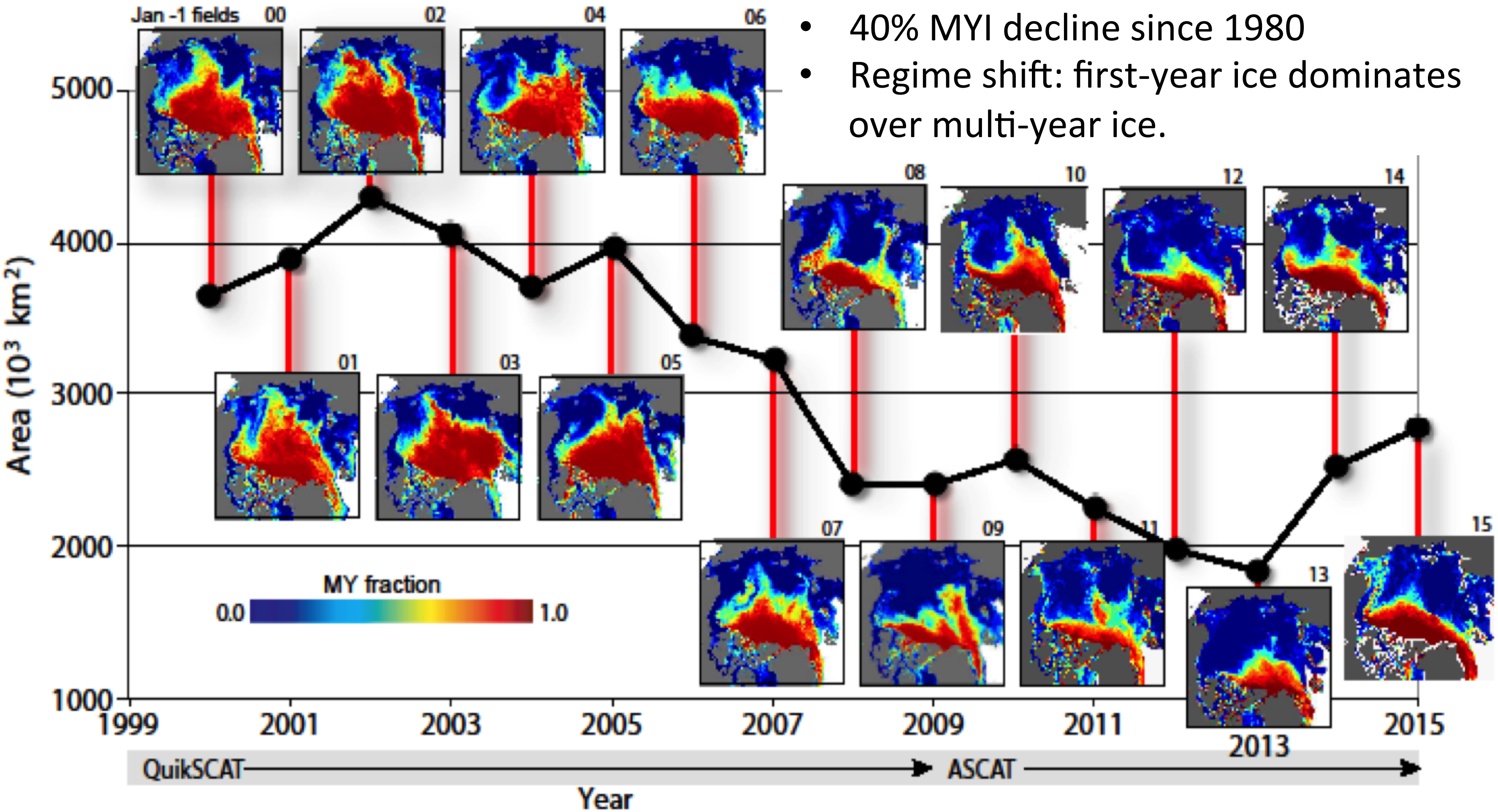
Arctic Nowcast/Forecast Model- Posey, Allard, Brozena, Gardner (NRL)

Melt Ponds, Biology, Biogeochemistry- Kang, Yang & colleagues (Korean Polar Research Institute)

External Collaborations- NRL, NASA, NOAA, ESA

- Tightly integrated program.
- Interdependent elements.
- Exceptional collaboration.
- Strong team effort.

Declining Extent & Multi-Year Fraction



- 40% MYI decline since 1980
- Regime shift: first-year ice dominates over multi-year ice.

Kwok, JPL

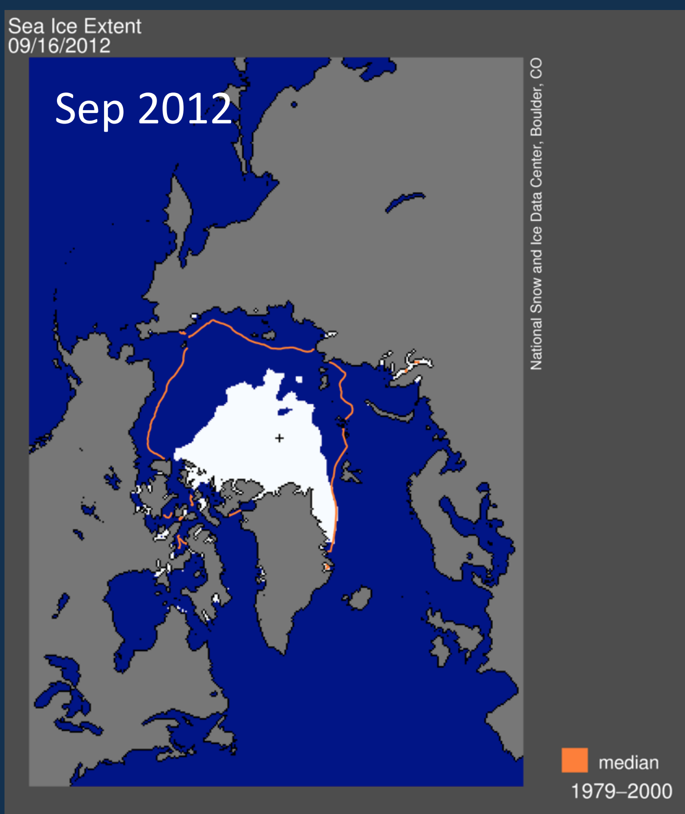
⇓ Extent + ⇓ Thickness = ⇓ sea ice volume

Quantity *and* quality of sea ice impact processes and feedbacks.

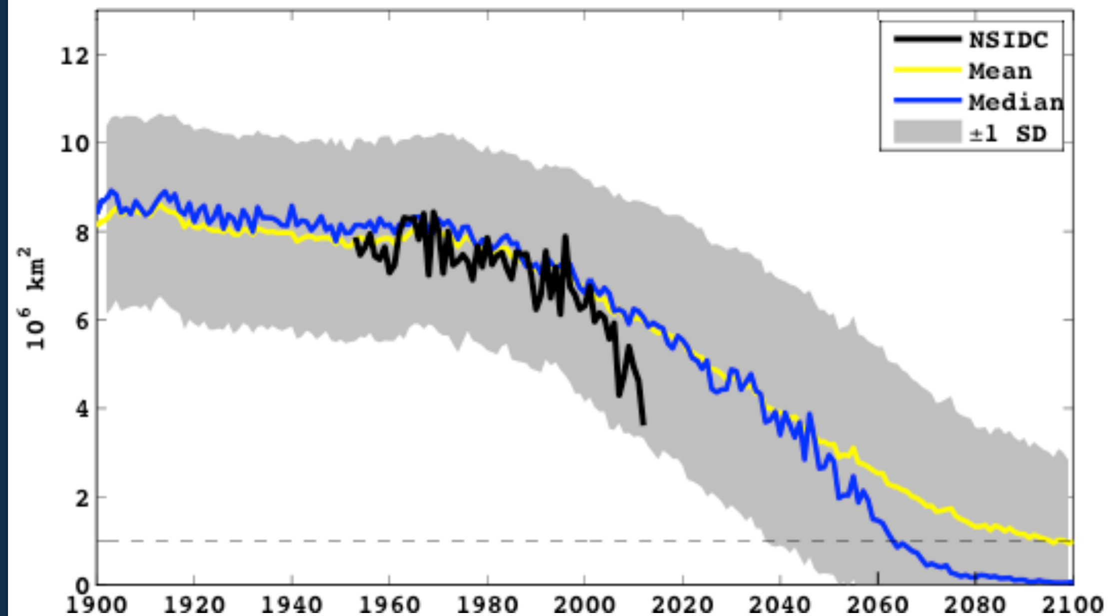
Models Struggle to Reproduce Dramatic Reduction in Summertime Sea Ice Extent

- 50% reduction in summer sea ice extent
  - 7 million km^2 in the 1970s
  - 3.4 million km^2 in 2012
- Wintertime sea ice maximum declining.
- Decline primarily thermodynamic, other processes may increase in importance.

Minimum Sea Ice Extent



Projected Changes in September Arctic Sea Ice Extent



Jeffries, et al. (2013)

Improve Predictability – Refine Models

- Process-level investigations
- Improve physics, parameterizations
- Continued testing against sustained observations

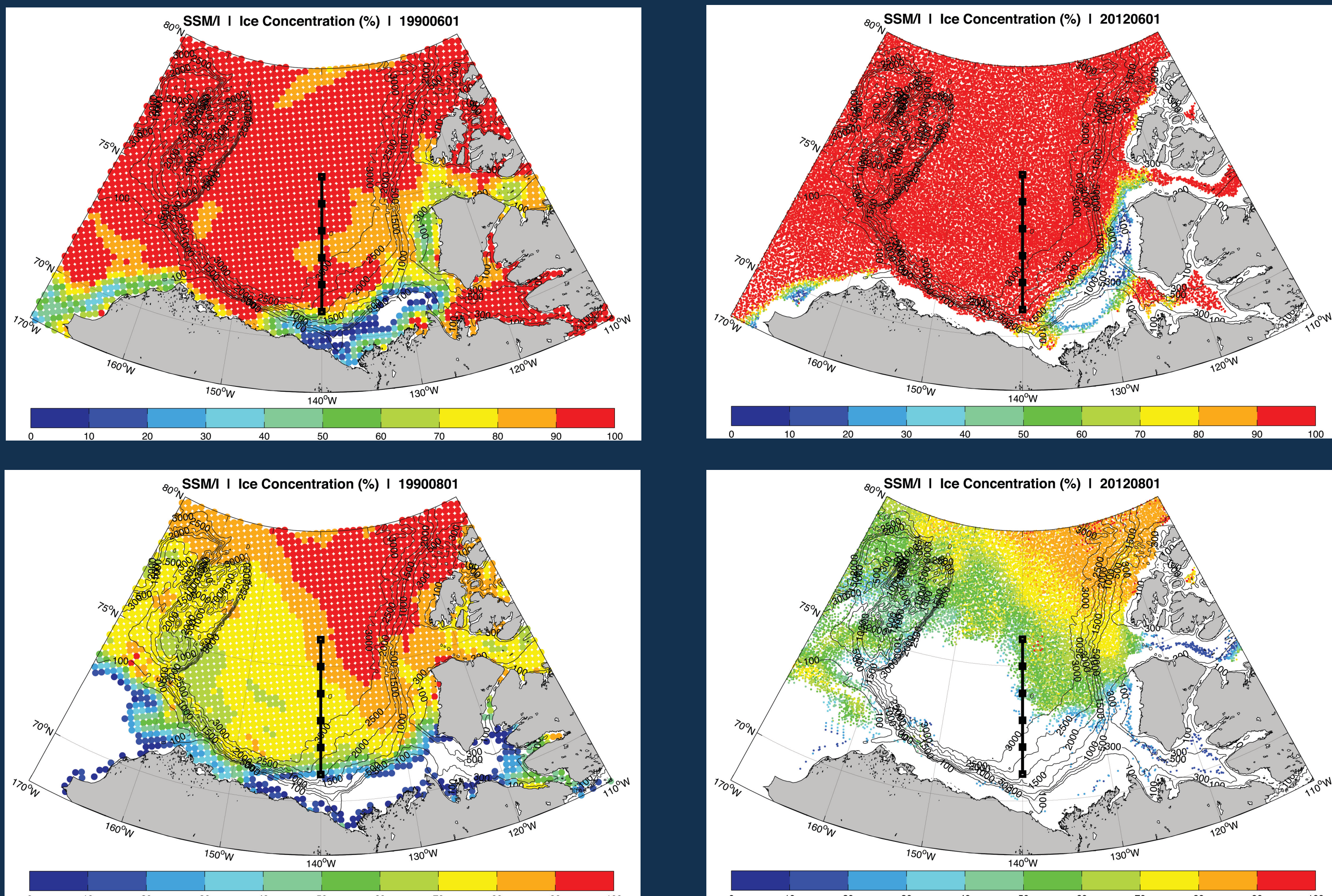
Refine physics <u>at the ice edge</u> – between pack ice and open water – <u>Marginal Ice Zone</u>

Evolving Beaufort MIZ

1990 | 2012

June

August



SSM/I - Posey

Program Objectives

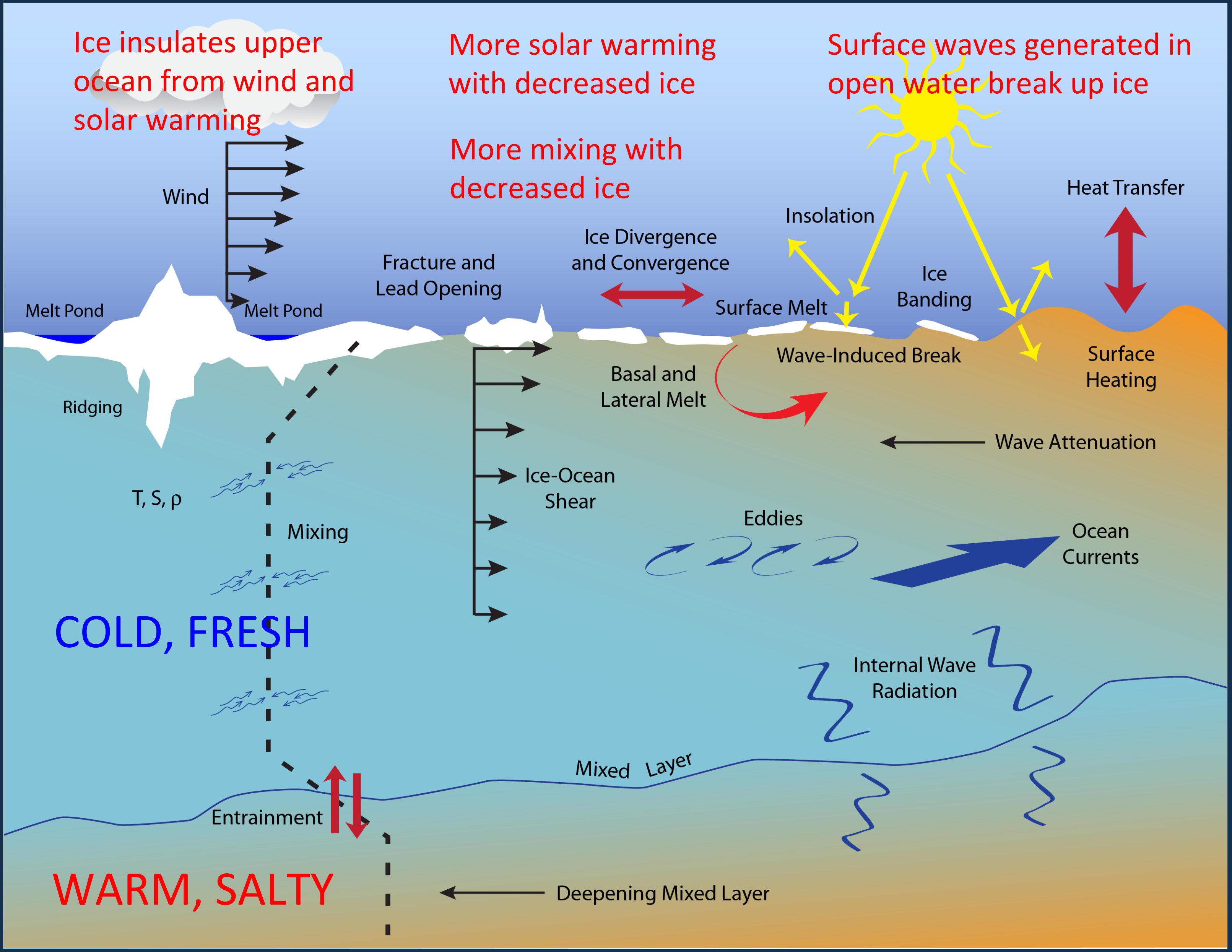
Science

1. Understand the physics that control sea ice breakup and melt in and around the ice edge (Marginal Ice Zone - MIZ).
2. Characterize changes in physics associated with decreasing ice/ increasing open water.
3. Explore feedbacks in the ice-ocean-atmosphere system that might increase/decrease the speed of sea ice decline.
4. Collect a benchmark dataset for refining and testing models.

Technical

1. Develop and demonstrate new robotic networks for collecting observations in, under and around sea ice.
2. Improve interpretation of satellite imagery.
3. Improve numerical models to enhance seasonal forecast capability.

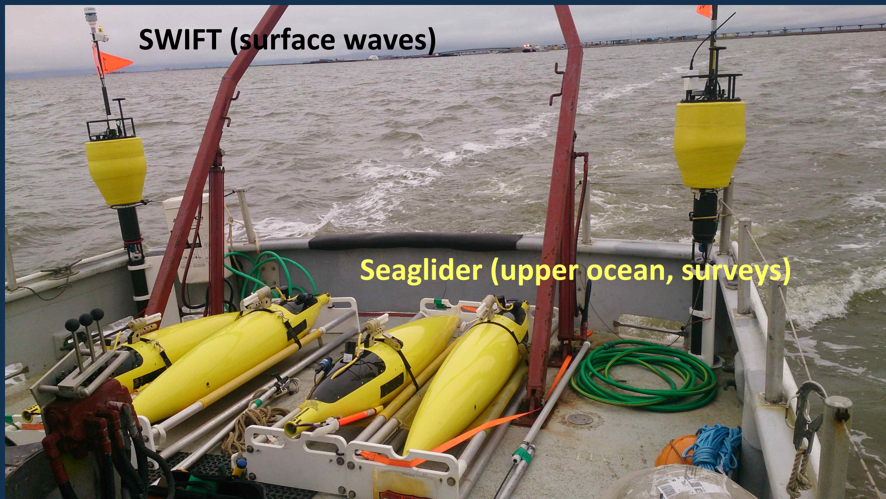
MIZ Atmosphere-Ice-Ocean Interaction



Challenges

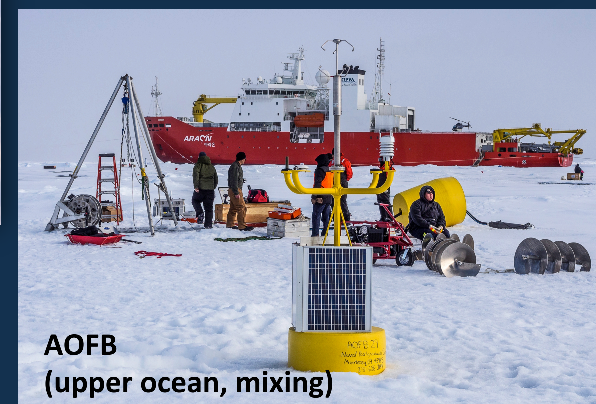
1. Multiple Domains: Simultaneous measurements of atmosphere, ice and upper ocean.
2. Resolution: Resolve temporal evolution and small-scale spatial variability (4-D physics).
3. Persistence: Sample entire melt season (Jun – Sep). Physics change as a function of open water extent.
4. Access: Measurements in full- and partial- ice cover.
5. Scalability: Large number of platforms provide distributed sampling, mitigate risk.

The Revolution in Robotic Observing

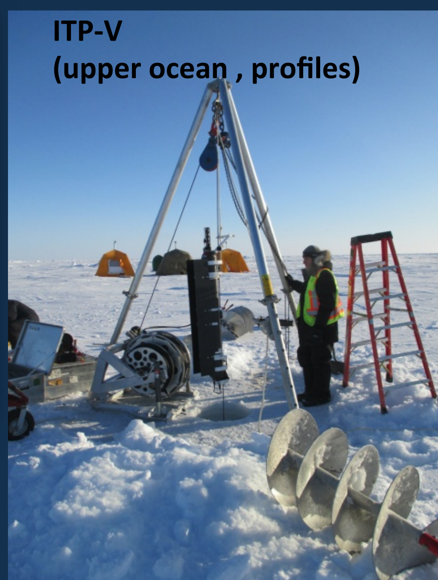

SWIFT (surface waves)
Seaglider (upper ocean, surveys)

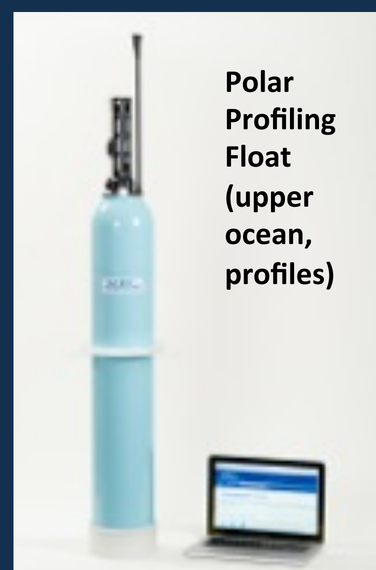

Ice Mass Balance Buoys (snow and ice)


Wavebuoy (waves in ice)


AOFB (upper ocean, mixing)

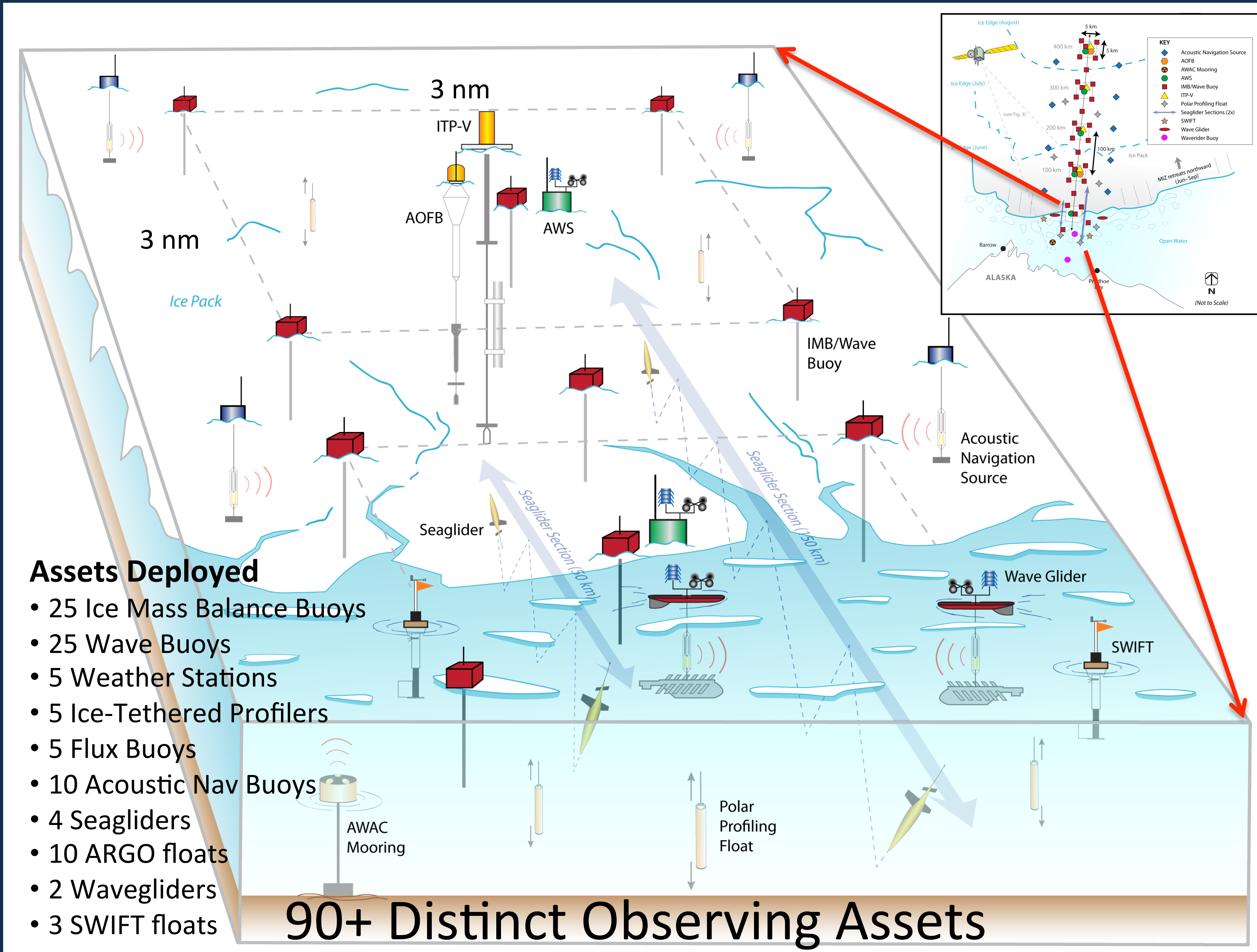

Automatic Weather Station (meteorological)


ITP-V (upper ocean , profiles)


Polar Profiling Float (upper ocean, profiles)


Acoustic Navigation Source (underwater geolocation)

Putting the Pieces Together

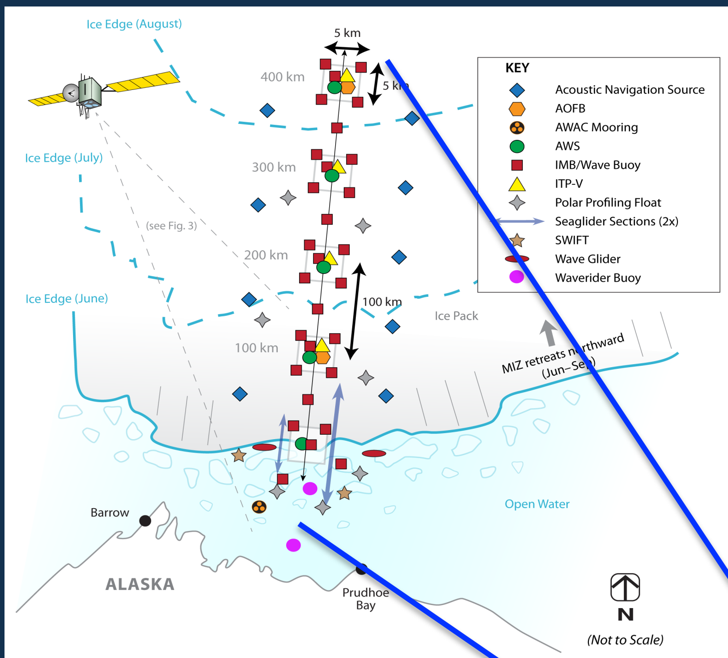


Assets Deployed

- 25 Ice Mass Balance Buoys
- 25 Wave Buoys
- 5 Weather Stations
- 5 Ice-Tethered Profilers
- 5 Flux Buoys
- 10 Acoustic Nav Buoys
- 4 Seagliders
- 10 ARGO floats
- 2 Wavegliders
- 3 SWIFT floats

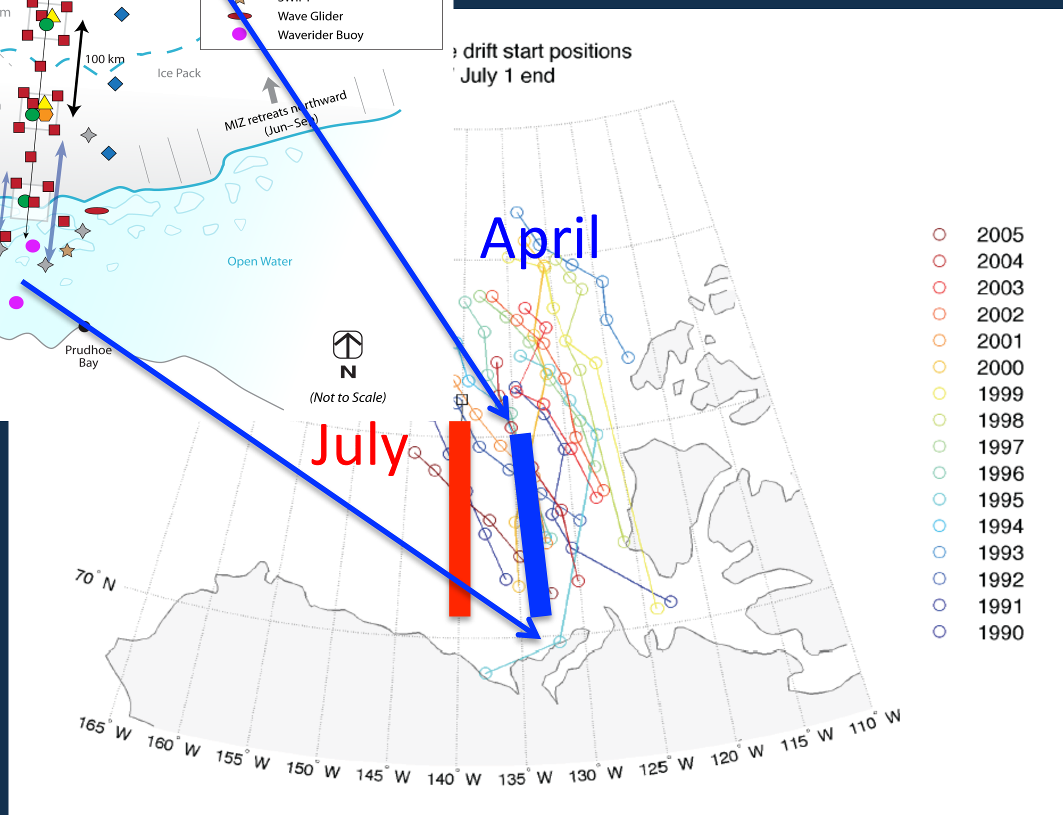
90+ Distinct Observing Assets

Autonomous Approach



Ice-based array deployed by aircraft in April (full ice cover).

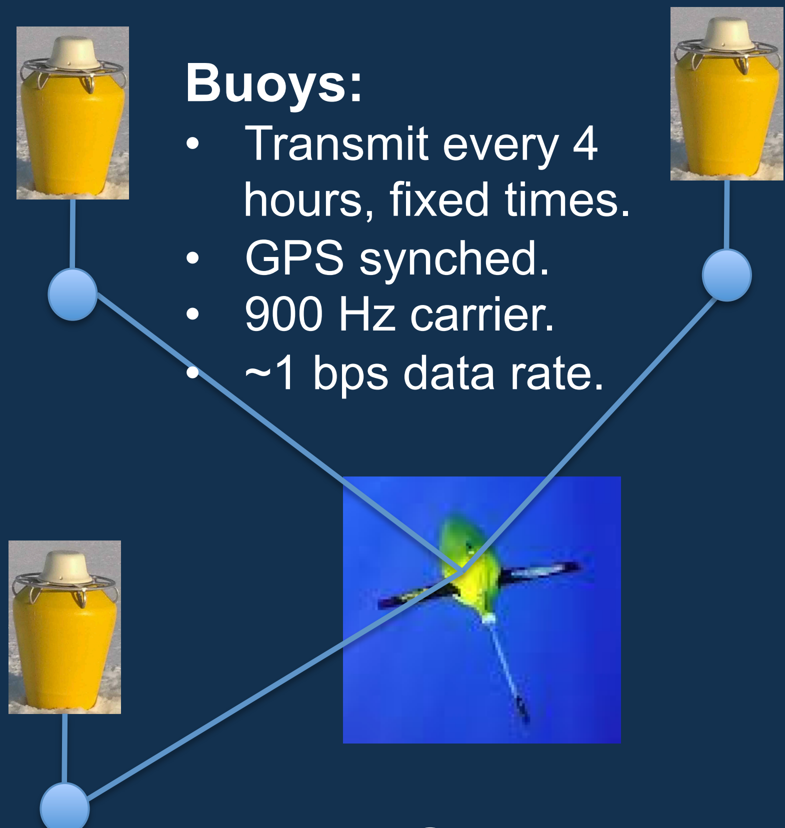
Drifters & gliders deployed in July, immediately after open water forms along the coast.



- Array drifts with ice pack- follow evolution along the line.
- Maintains focus on MIZ by following northward retreat of ice edge.
- Ice-based array samples ice-covered area.
- Drifting platforms in open- and ice-covered water.
- Mobile platforms span ice-free, MIZ and ice-covered regions.
- Follow MIZ retreat northward through September 2014.

Risk Mitigation: 20% of assets held for deployment in August at northernmost site using Korean icebreaker Araon.

Acoustic Navigation System



Buoys:
- Transmit every 4 hours, fixed times.
- GPS synched.
- 900 Hz carrier.
- ~1 bps data rate.

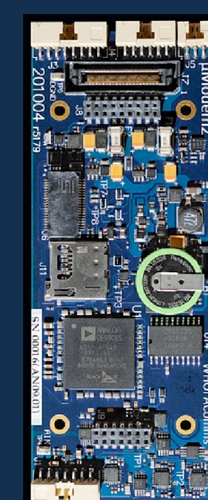
Receiver on Glider:
- Measures time, computes range.
- Decodes location of buoy.
- Ranges and source locations used to compute real-time position.

How Does it Work?

- Ice-based sensor array is <u>mobile</u>.
- Therefore <u>must transmit source positions</u> to allow real-time geo-location by gliders.
- Data transmission capability also means <u>commands can be sent to glider</u>.

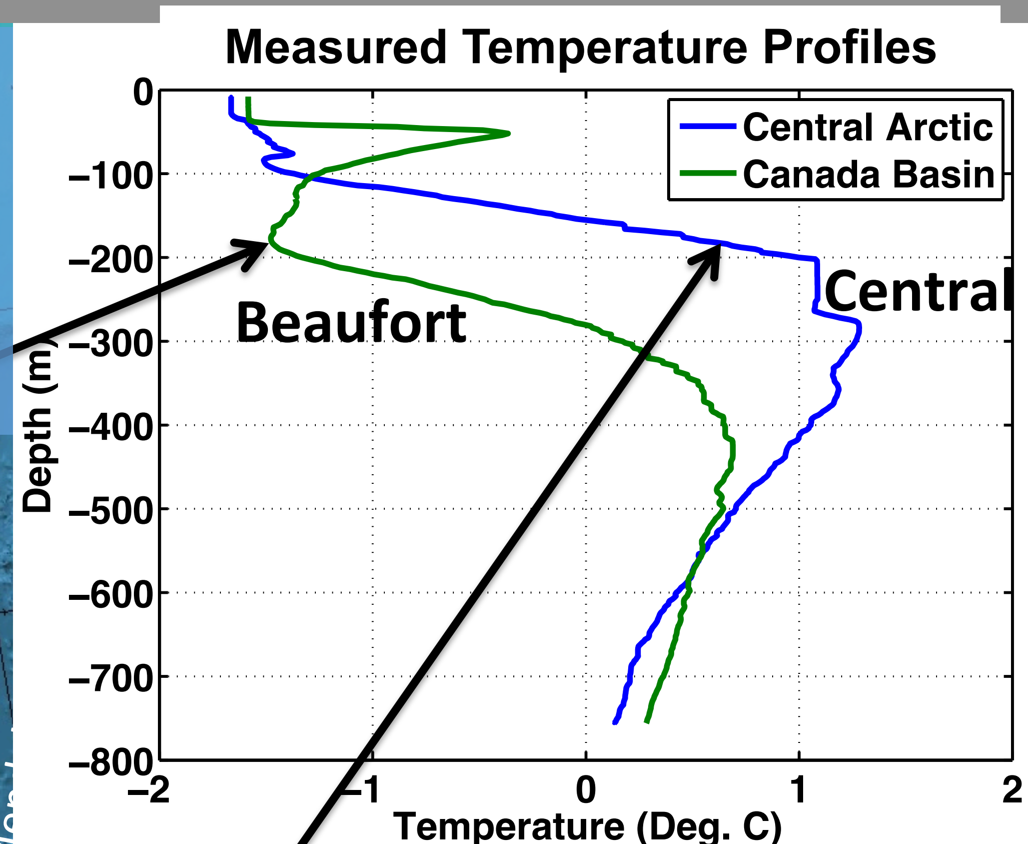
Glider Receiver Hydrophone

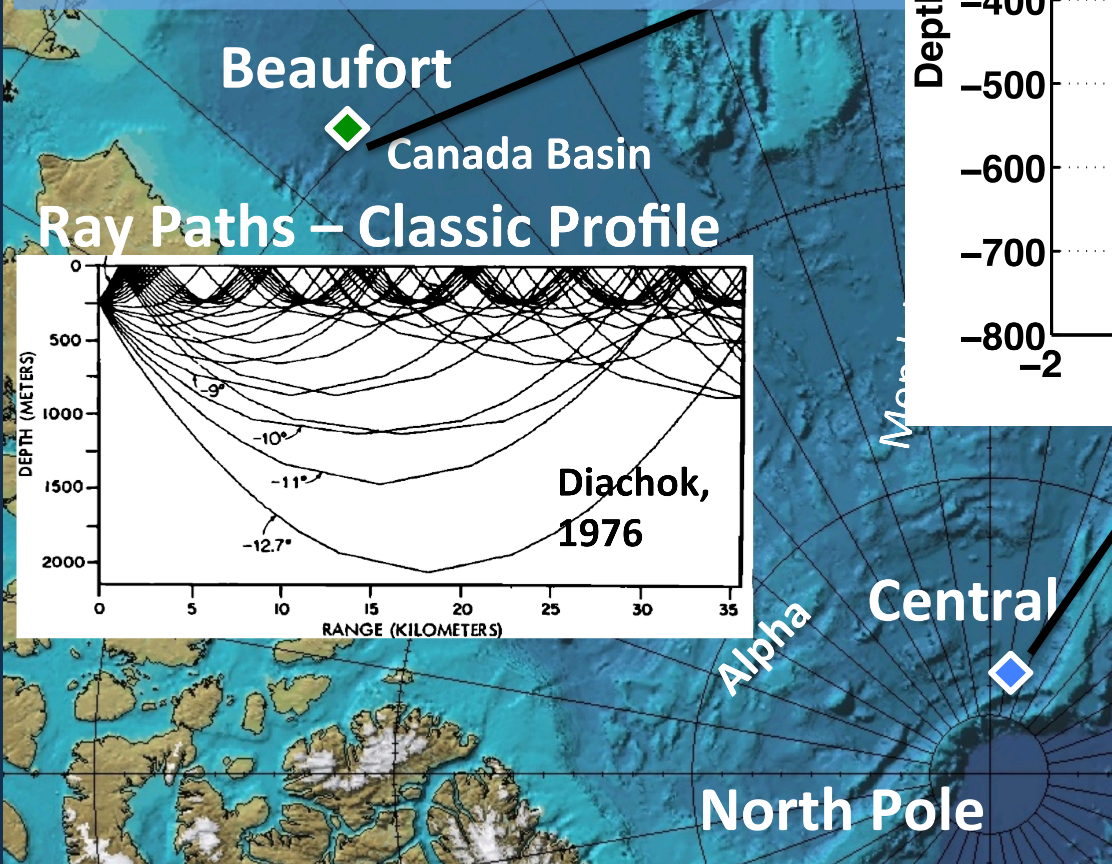
Glider Receiver Board



Arctic Profiles and Propagation

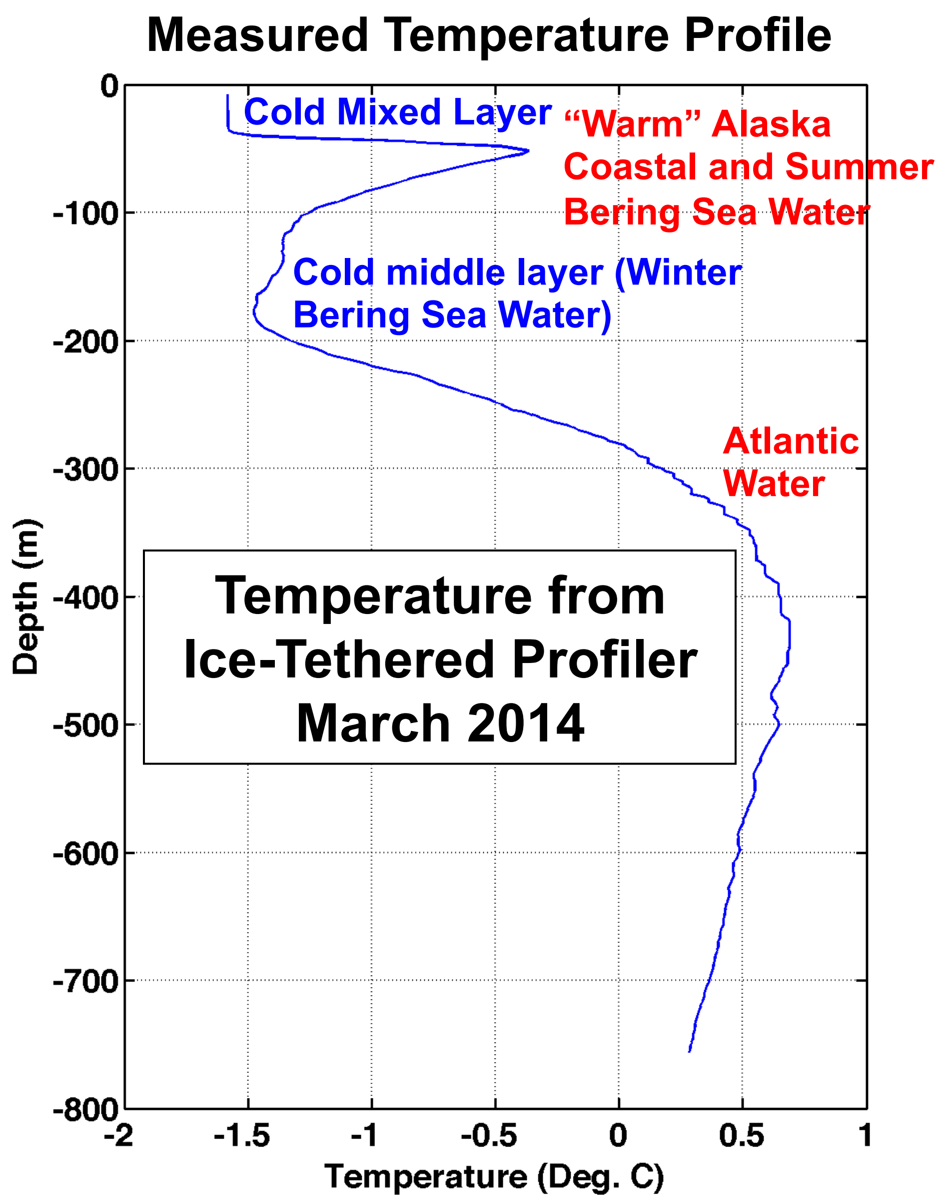
- Central Arctic temperature profile has perpetual cold surface layer.
- Sound reflects from the ice, suffering loss at each bounce.
- Range limited by number of reflections.

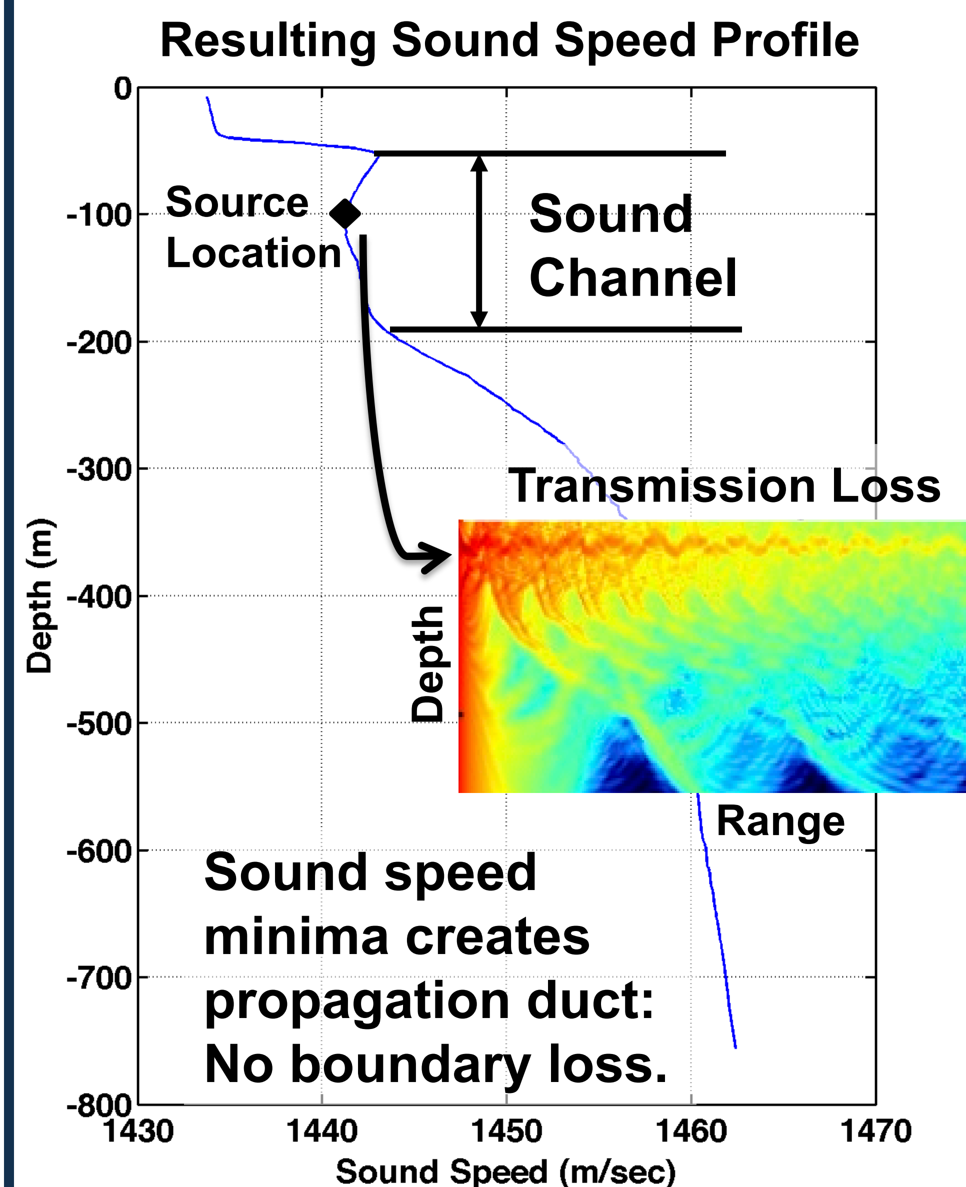




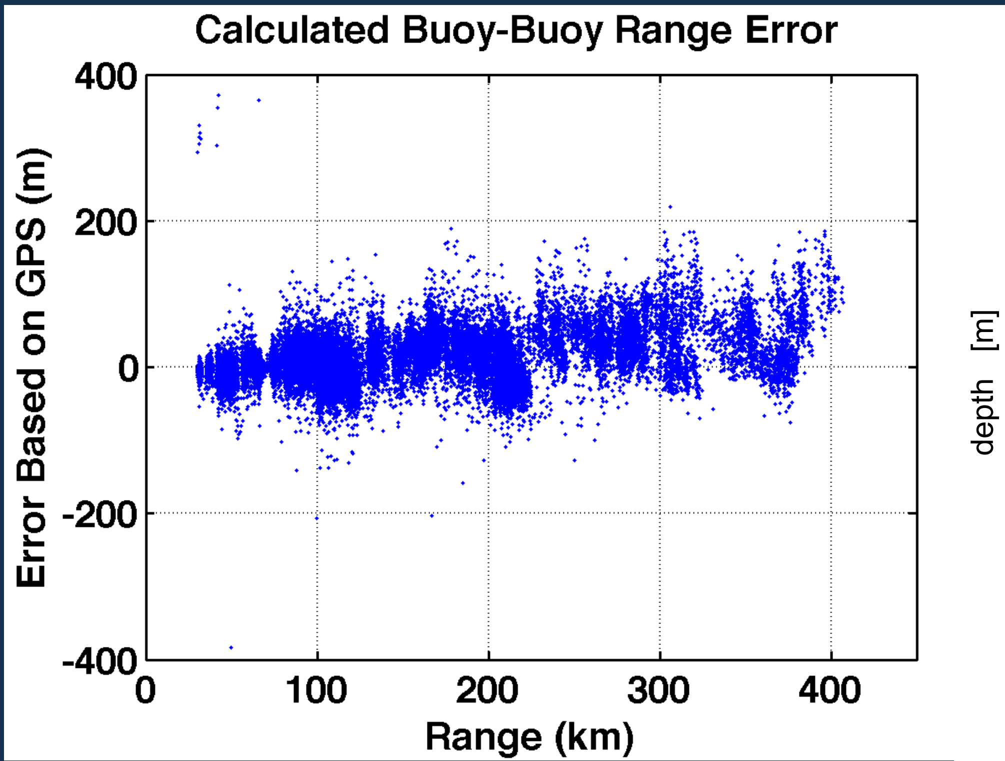
Beaufort and Chukchi have warm layer of coastal and Bering Sea water, offering potential for ducted propagation.

What Creates the Sound Duct?

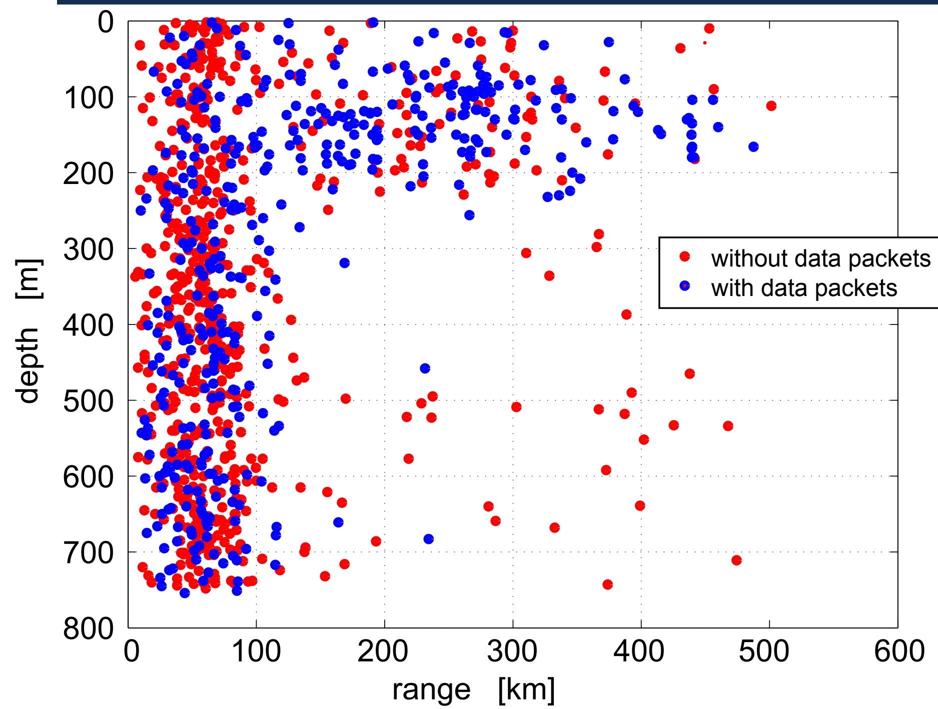




Achieved Ranges of 400 km!



Glider Receptions vs. Depth



Buoy to buoy performance:

Ranges to 400+ km, *due to ducted propagation.*

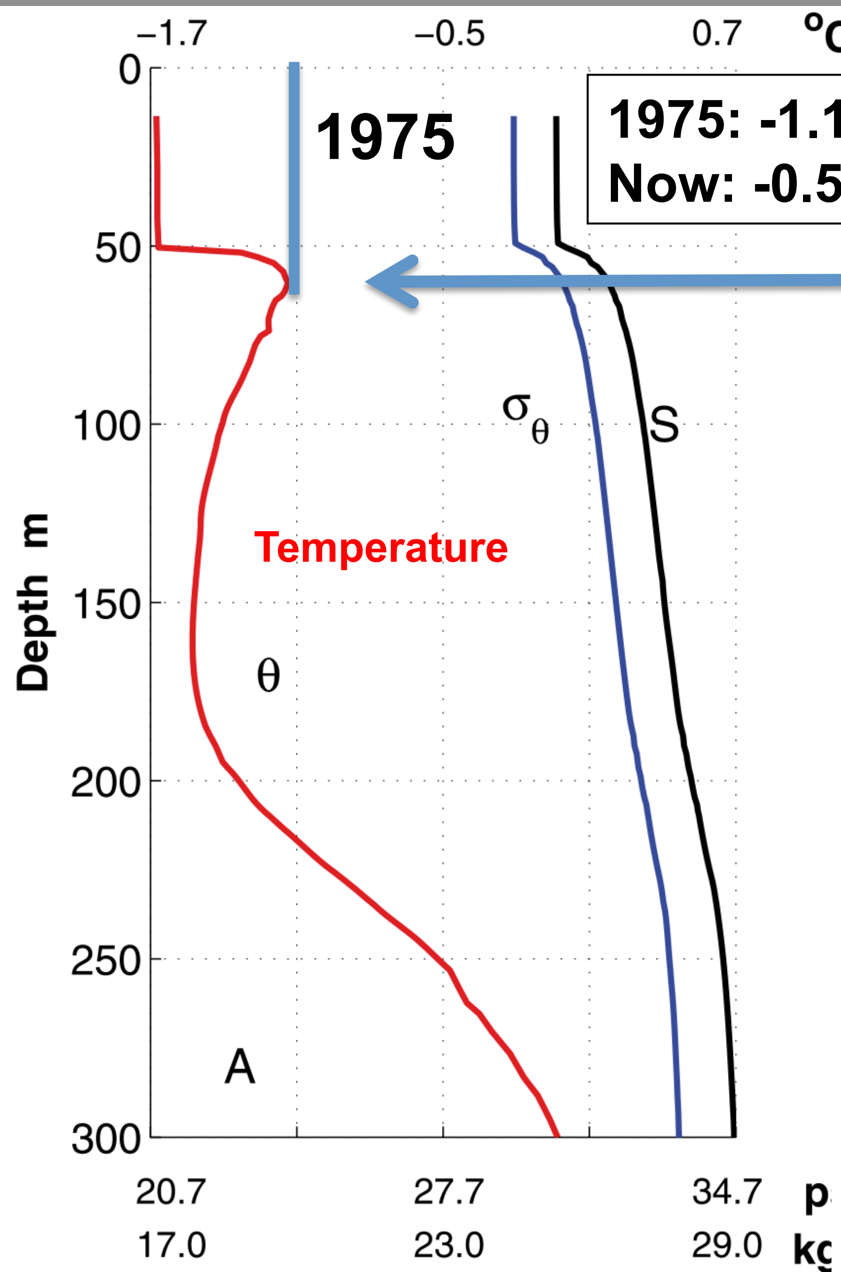
Standard Deviation of 40-60 m.

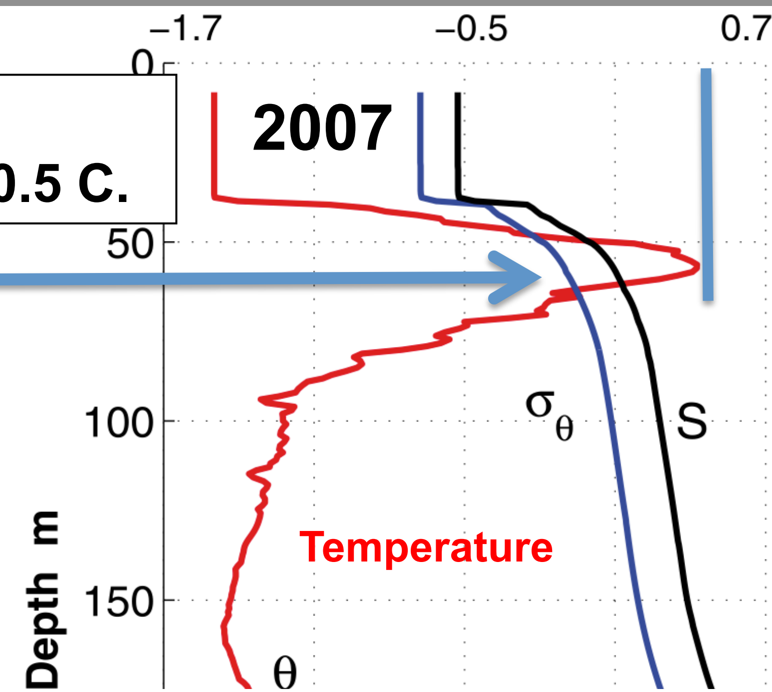
Glider performance:

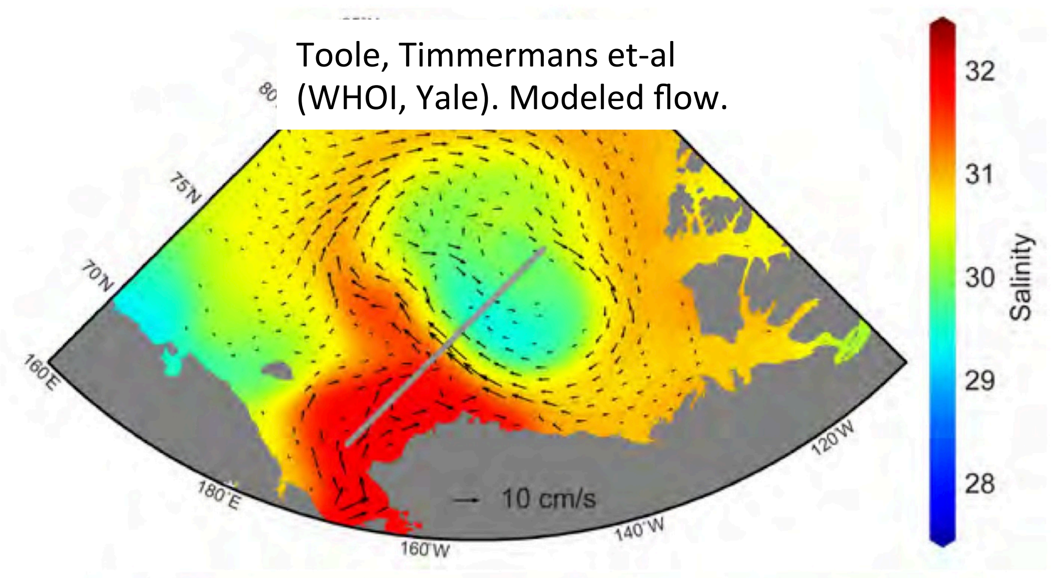
To 100 km at all depths.

To 400 km when in duct.

What's Changed in 30 Years? Warmer Bering Sea Water





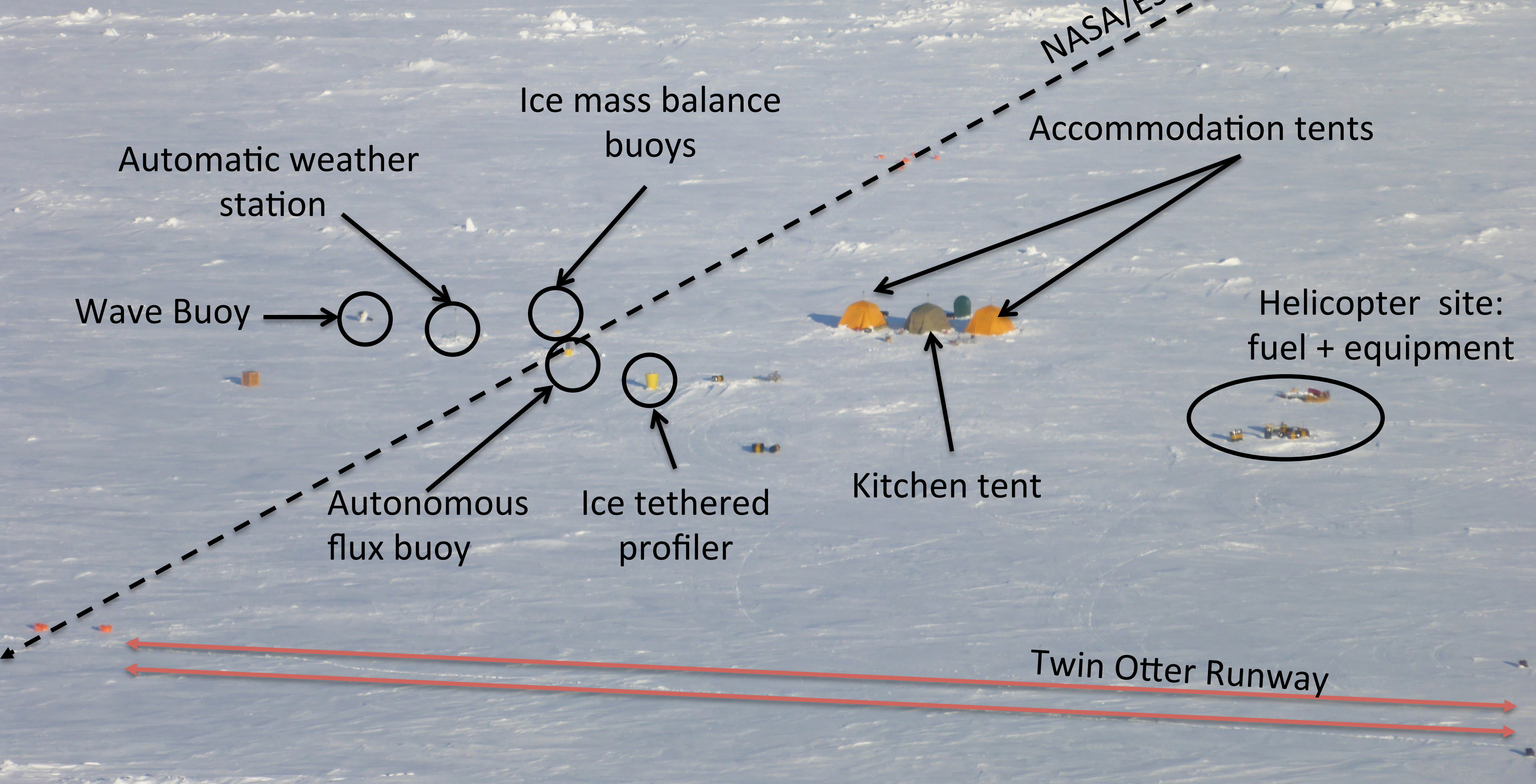


'Fast & Light' Ice Camp Logistics

- 60+ assets deployed over 300 km km range.
- 2 Twin Otters + 1 Bell 412
- 1 week setup, 1 week ops

Personnel = 6 persons + dog

- 3 x scientists/engineers
- 3 x helicopter personnel



'Fast & Light' Vessel Logistics

R/V Ukpik, July 2014

Deploy:
4 seagliders
3 SWIFT buoys
2 wavegliders

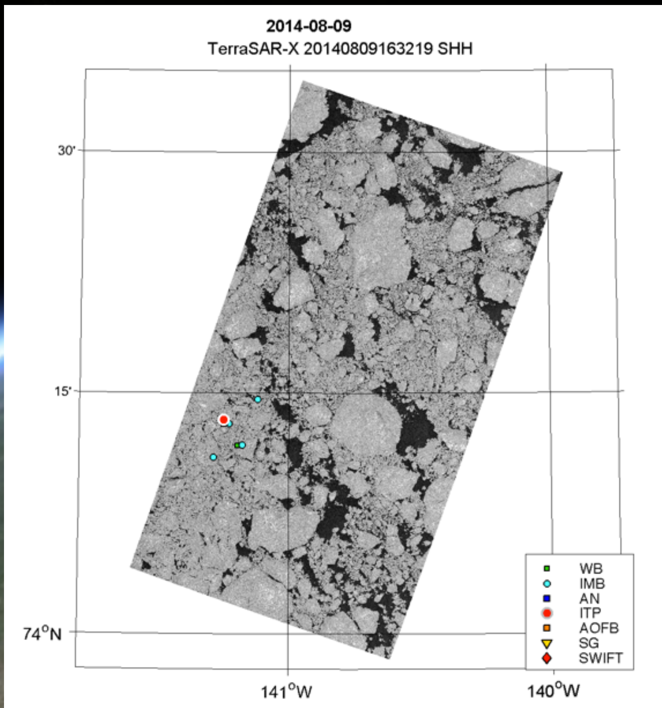
Ice edge measurements
(turbulence wave attenuation)

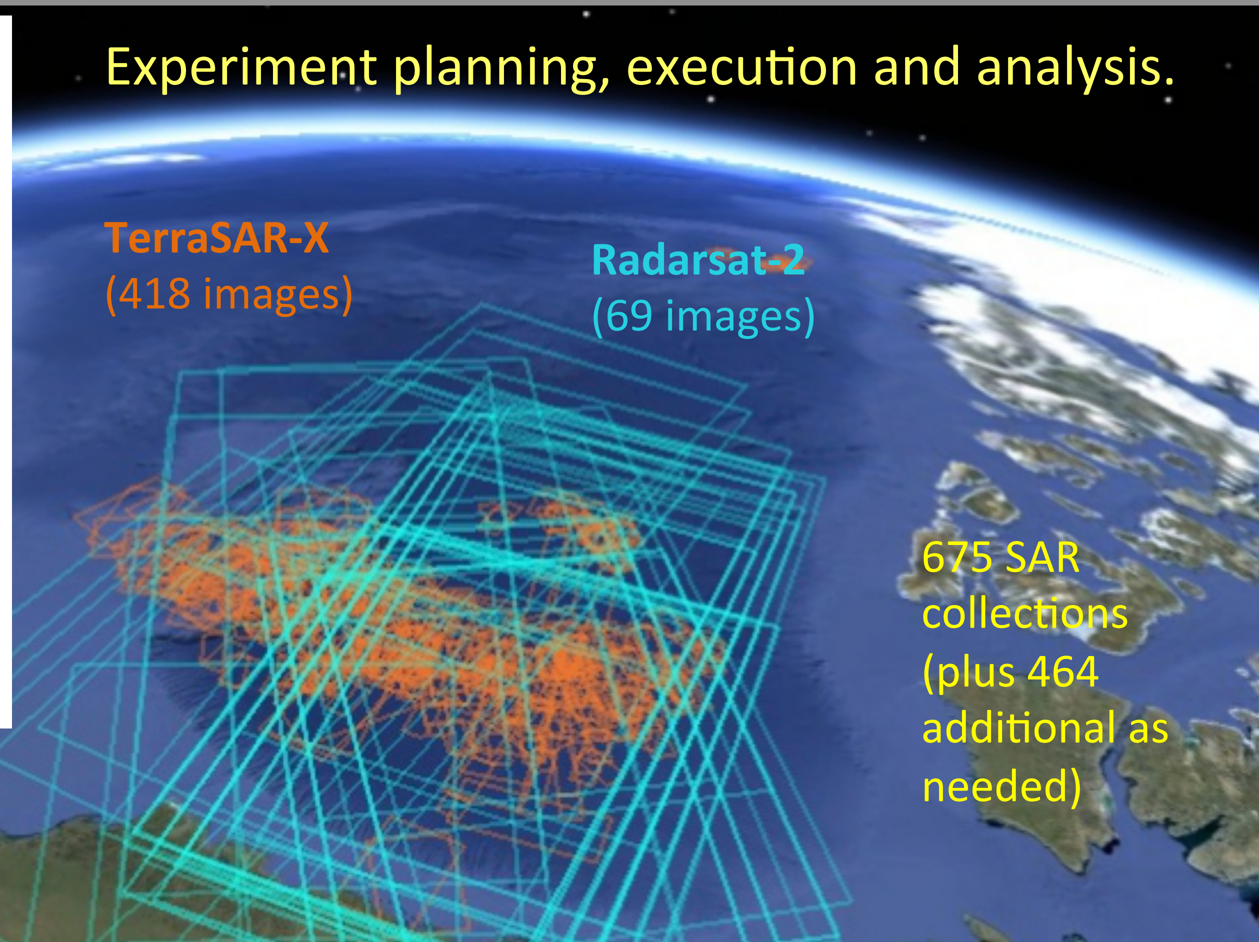
R/V Norseman II, Sept 2014

Recover:
4 seagliders
3 SWIFT buoys
1 wavegliders

Ice edge measurements
(CTD and wave attenuation)

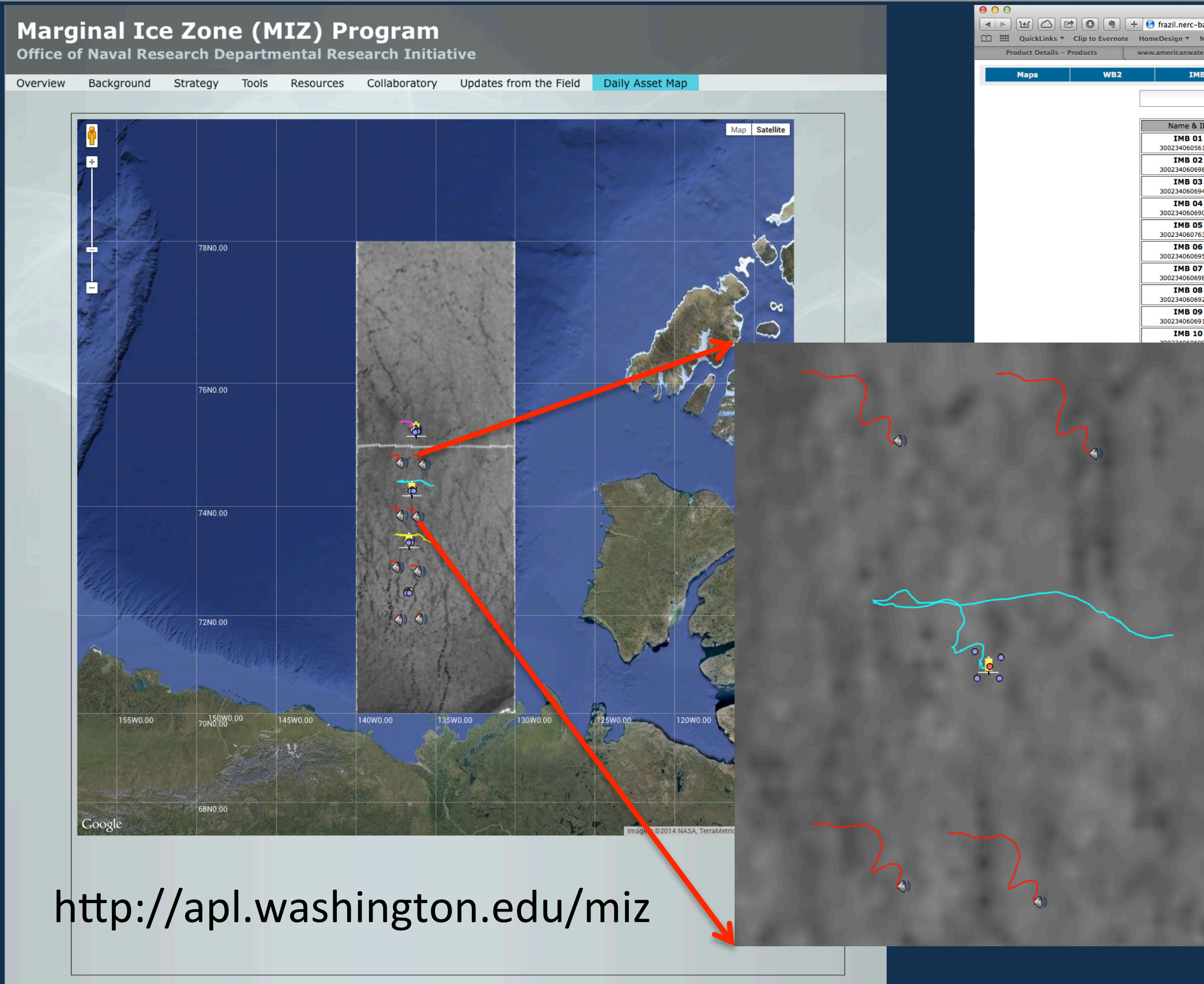
MIZ Remote Sensing



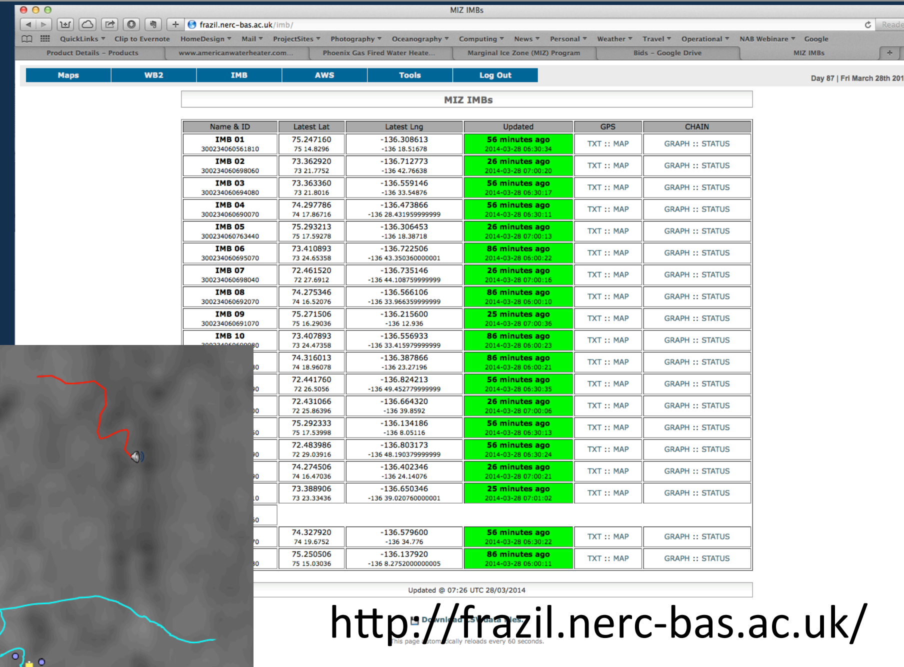


- Dedicated support from National Ice Center, meteorological reports & drift forecasts inform planning & targeting.
- Agile targeting to follow drifting instruments, respond to rapidly-evolving MIZ
- Targeting strategy and protocols developed & tested prior to main program.
- Small targeting team (remote sensing, models, observations) led by Bill Shaw

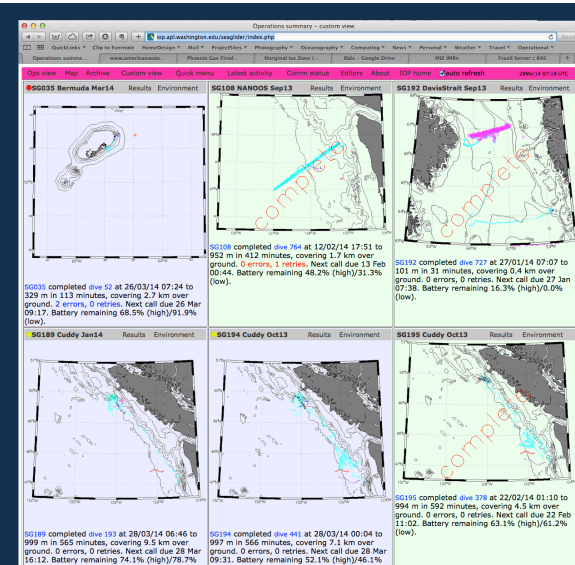
Real Time Data Display and Asset Maps



http://apl.washington.edu/miz



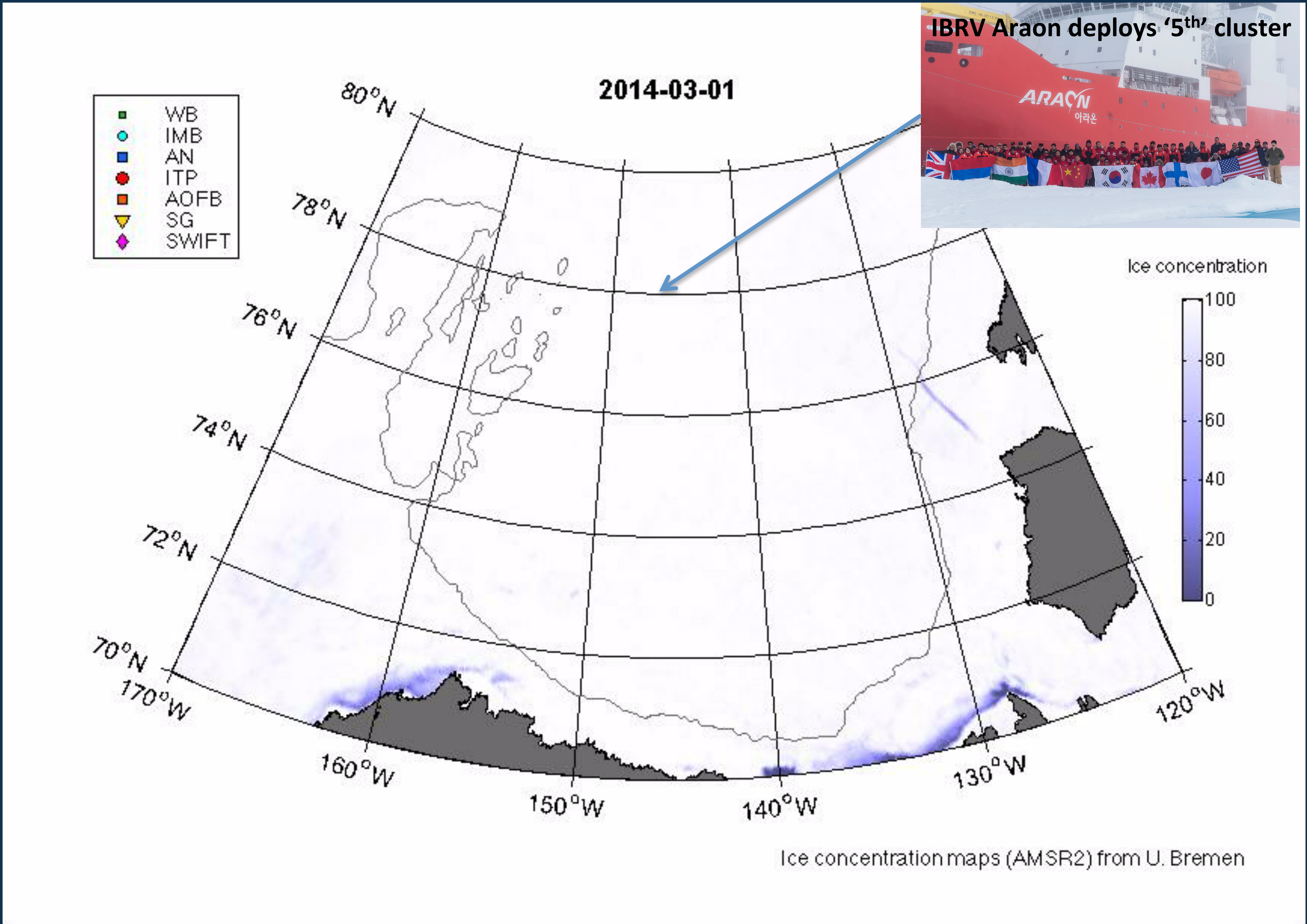
http://frazil.nerc-bas.ac.uk/



http://iop.apl.washington.edu/seaglider

http://www.whoi.edu/itp/data/

MIZ Autonomous Sampling
(1 Mar – 20 Oct 2014, 8 months)



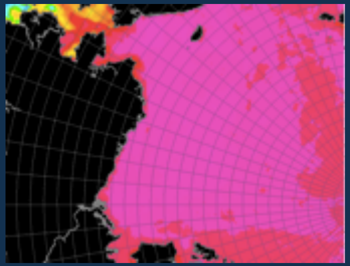
Sea Ice Evolution through the Spring Melt

To understand the processes that govern sea ice melt:

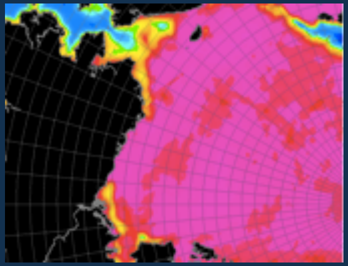
- Ice mass balance.
- Sea ice dynamics (locally and regionally).
- Open water fraction/floe size distribution.
- Surface wave penetration and dissipation.
- Meteorological forcing.
- Upper ocean variability.

Ice extent 2014

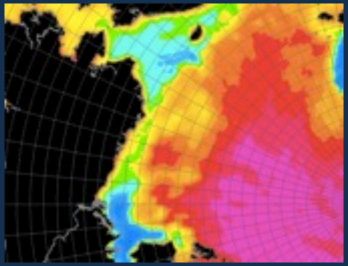
April



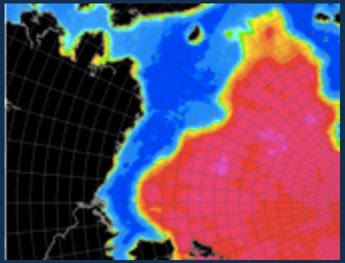
June



August



October

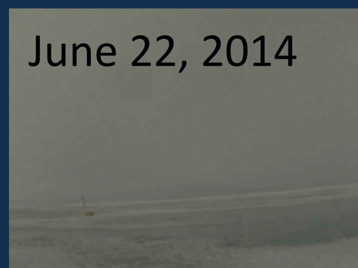


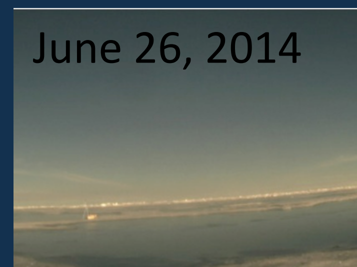
Courtesy: www.seaice.dk

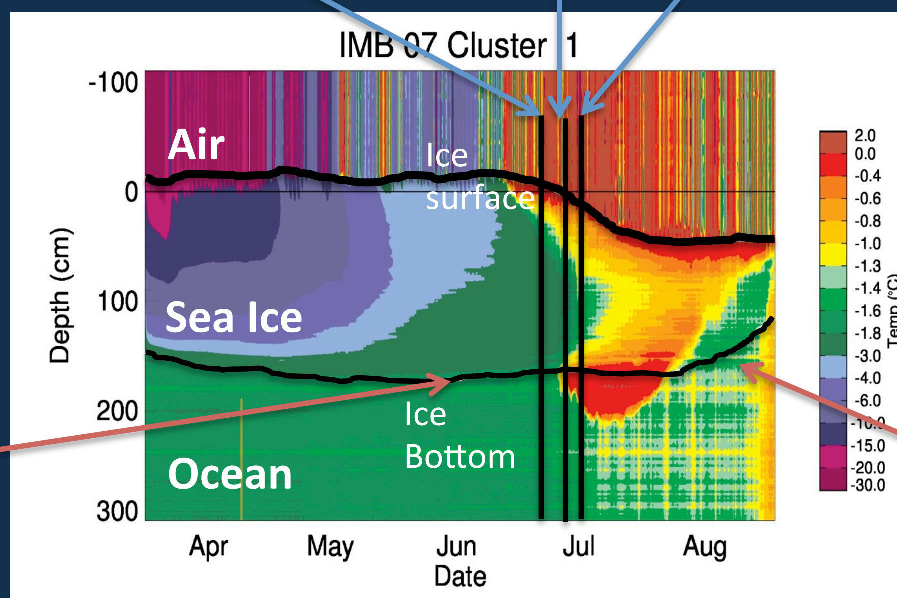
Sea ice mass balance

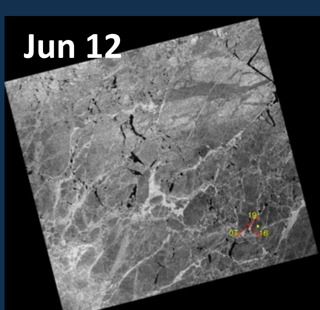
Cannot directly measure ice thickness from space
Need autonomous platforms

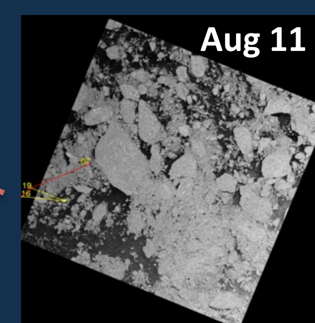
20 x ICE MASS BALANCE BUOYS









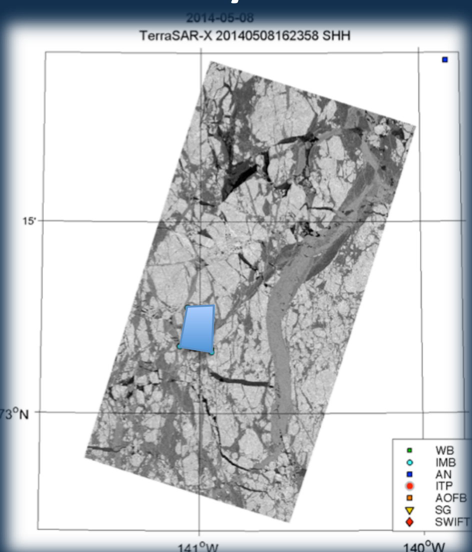


Sea ice dynamics

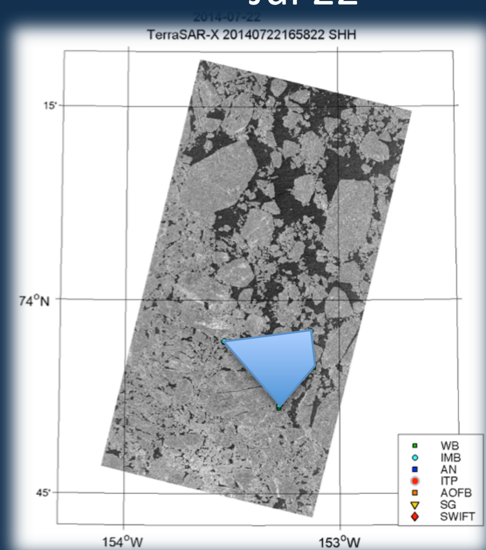
Local: GPS is the key

Regional: Satellites are the key

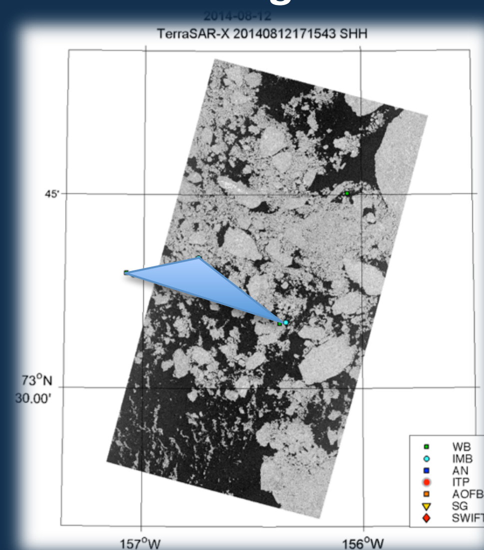
May 8



Jul 22

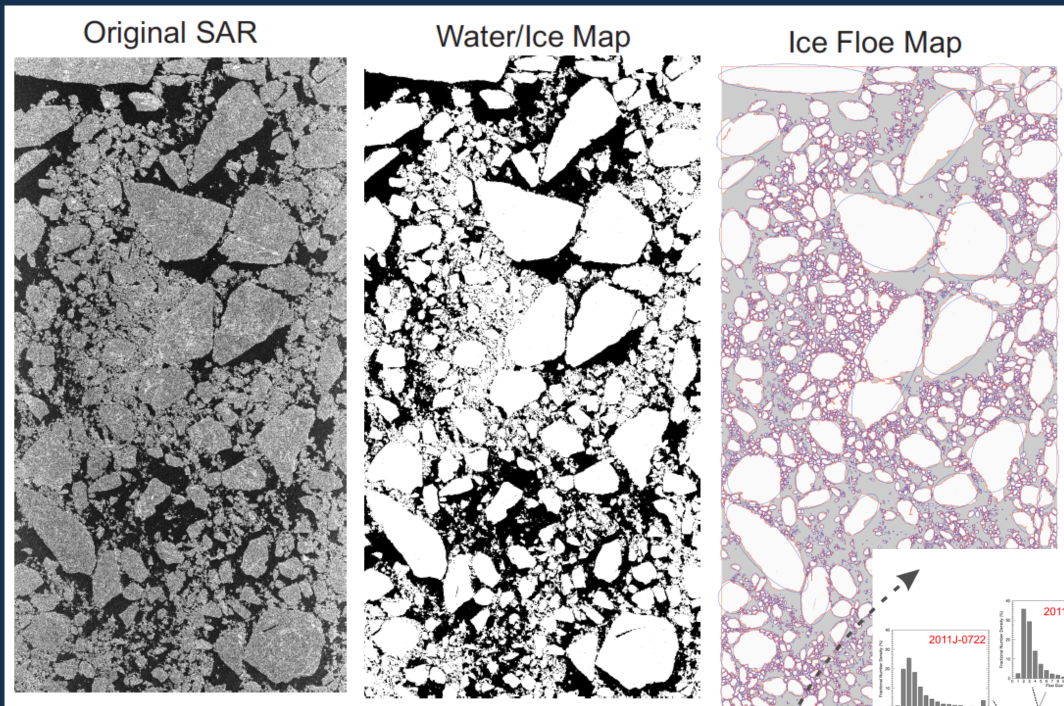


Aug 12



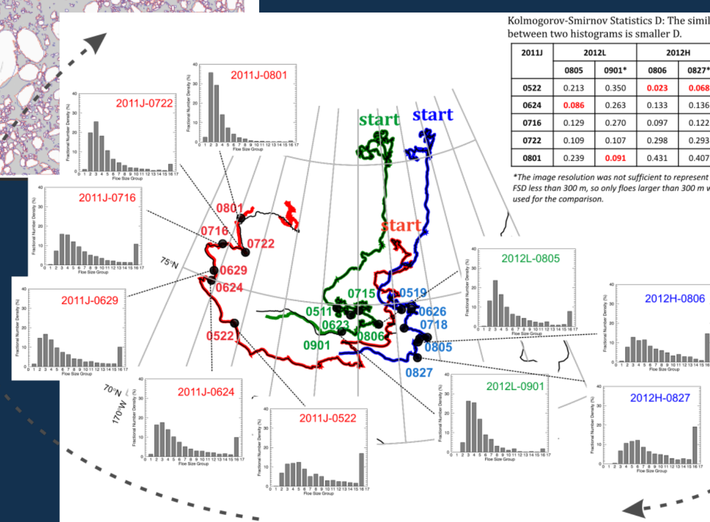
- **Understanding ice dynamics leads to a better knowledge of ice deformation processes.**
- **Need information on local and regional level**

Open water fraction



- Complex algorithms needed to separate floes.
- Not fully automated
- Floe size distribution
- Fraction of open water

Can be applied to both high resolution radar and visible satellite imagery.

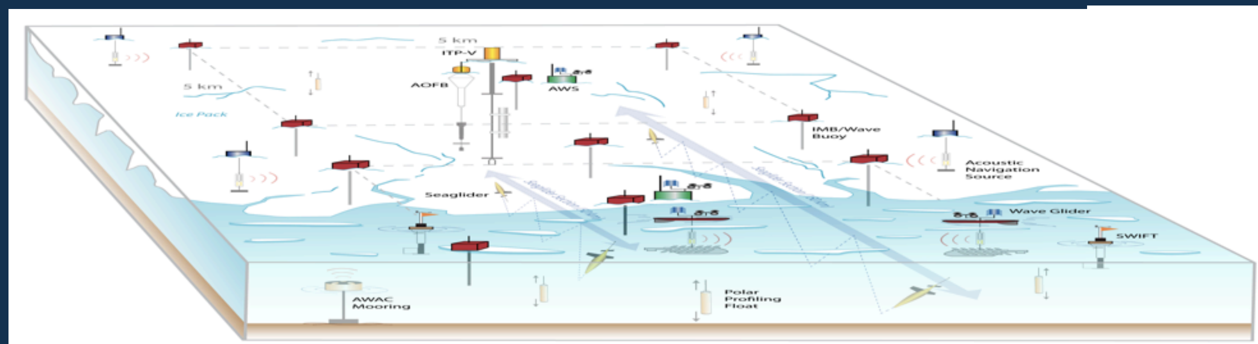


Kolmogorov-Smirnov Statistics D: The similar between two histograms is smaller D.

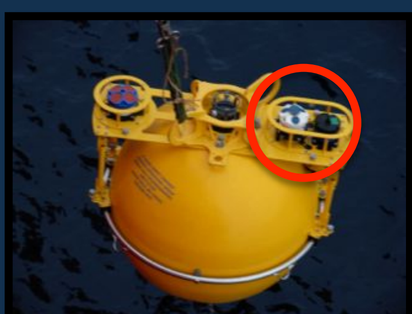
2011J	2012L		2012H	
	0805	0901*	0806	0827*
0522	0.213	0.350	0.023	0.068
0624	0.086	0.263	0.133	0.136
0716	0.129	0.270	0.097	0.122
0722	0.109	0.107	0.298	0.293
0801	0.239	0.091	0.431	0.407

**The image resolution was not sufficient to represent FSD less than 300 m, so only floes larger than 300 m was used for the comparison.*

Wave measurements



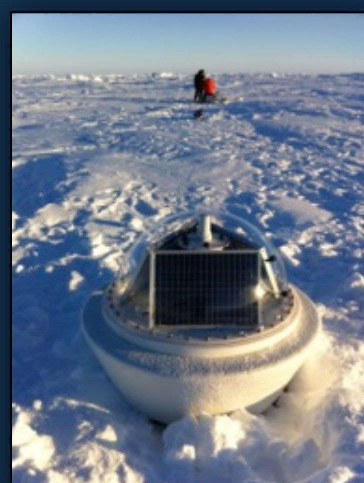
Under the ice



Nortek AWAC at 50 m sub-surface

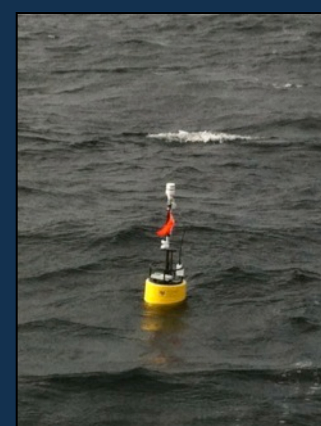
WHOI BGEP mooring “A”
75 N, 150 W

On the ice



Wave buoys (drifting)

In open water (and ice)



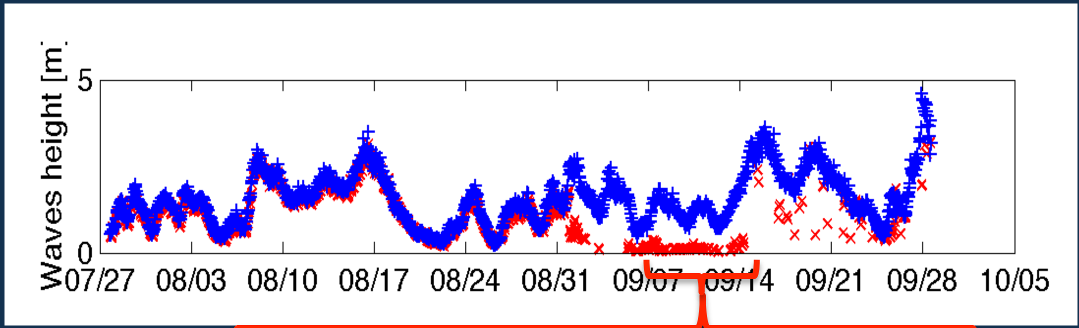
SWIFT buoys (drifting)

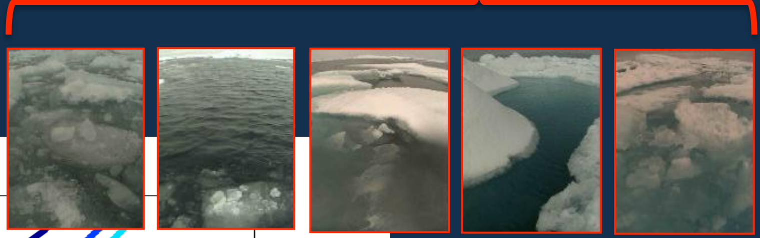
waveglider (piloted)

Surface Wave Attenuation in Sea Ice

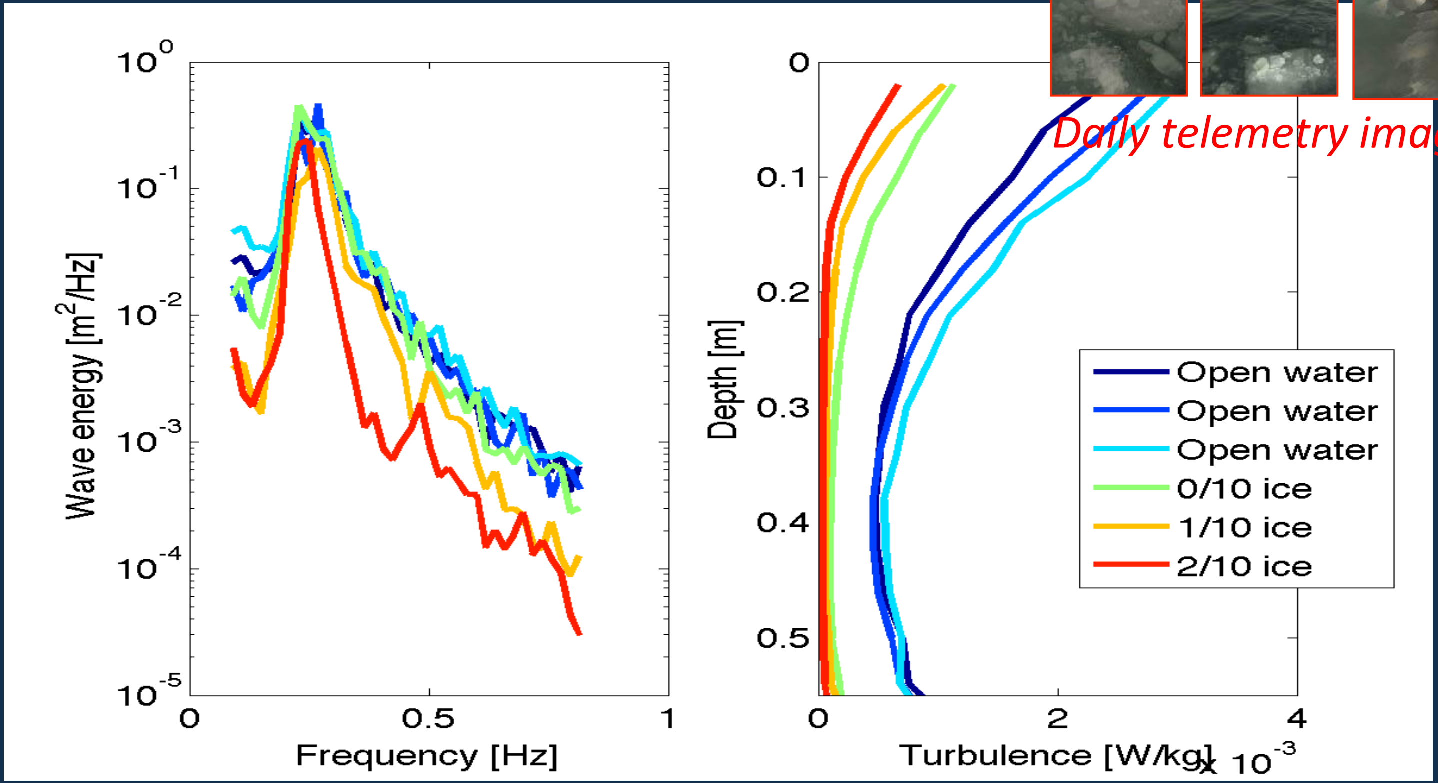
Thomson (APL-UW)

- Fetch-limited waves in the Beaufort sea are rapidly attenuated at ice edge, because wavelengths are short
- Ice effectively protects itself from the waves, like a beach protects the coast… and thus interior of ice pack is likely controlled by thermodynamics





Daily telemetry images from SWIFT 10



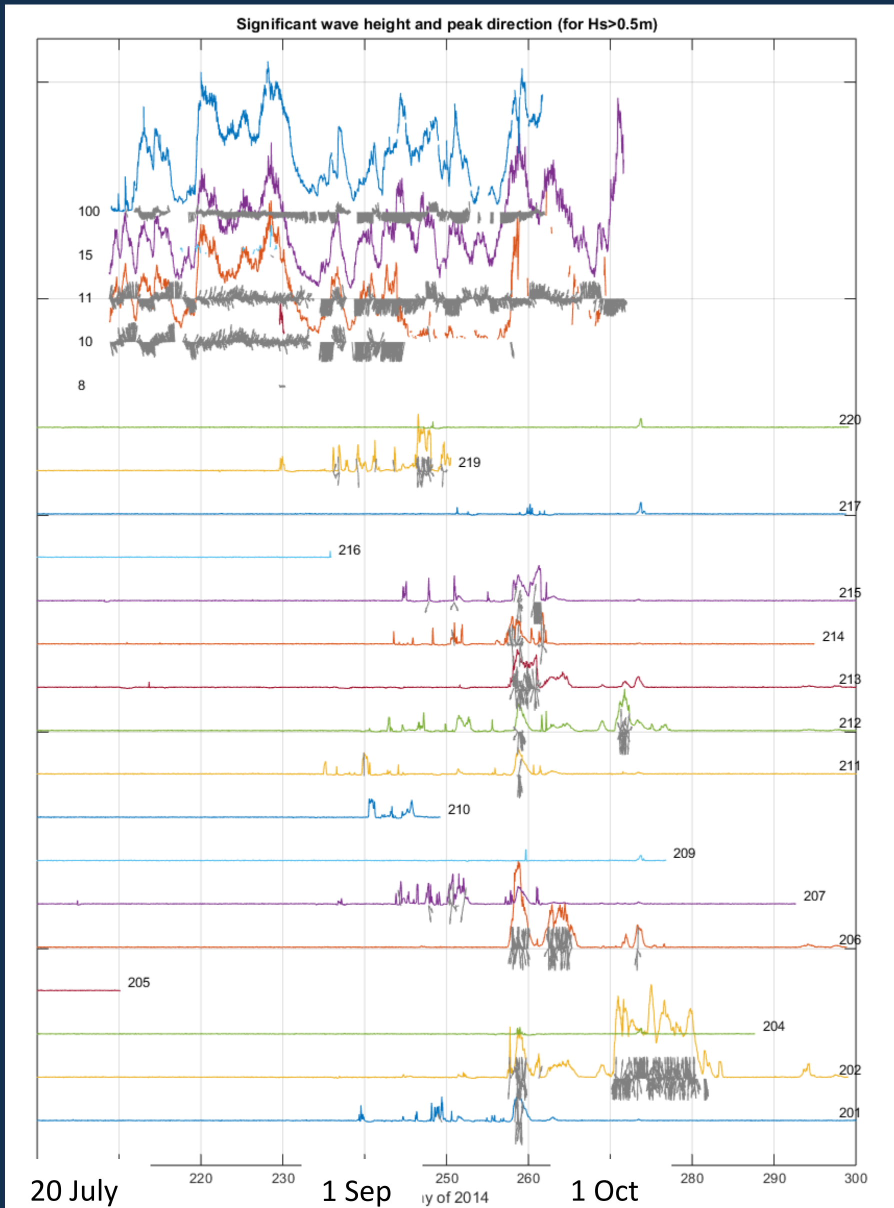
Surface Wave Attenuation in Sea Ice

Doble (LOV), Thomson (APL-UW)

SWIFT
open water
Low ice conc.

increasing ice

Wave
Buoy
high ice conc.

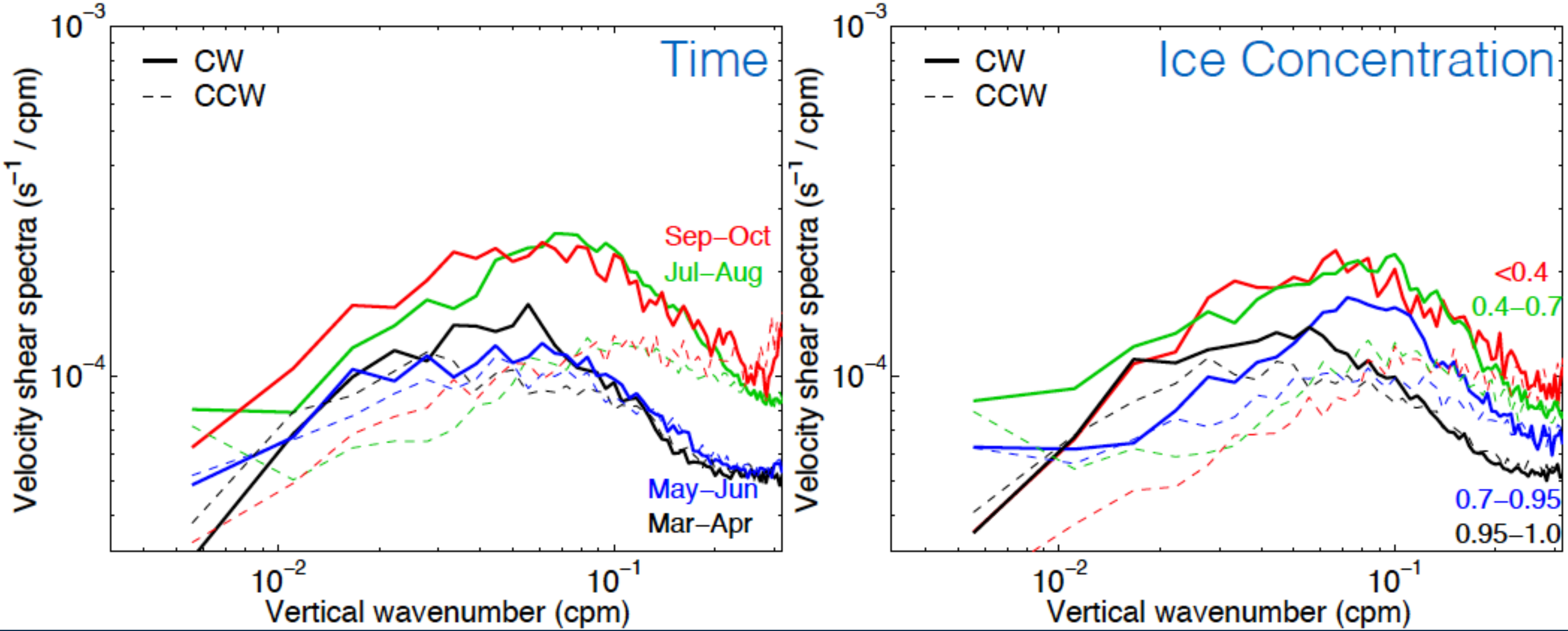


- Waves strongly modulated by even small concentrations of sea ice.

- Waves in sea ice only after early September, when there is significant open water south.
- Episodic wave events, but seen at multiple sites.

Internal Wave Energy Changes with Ice Cover

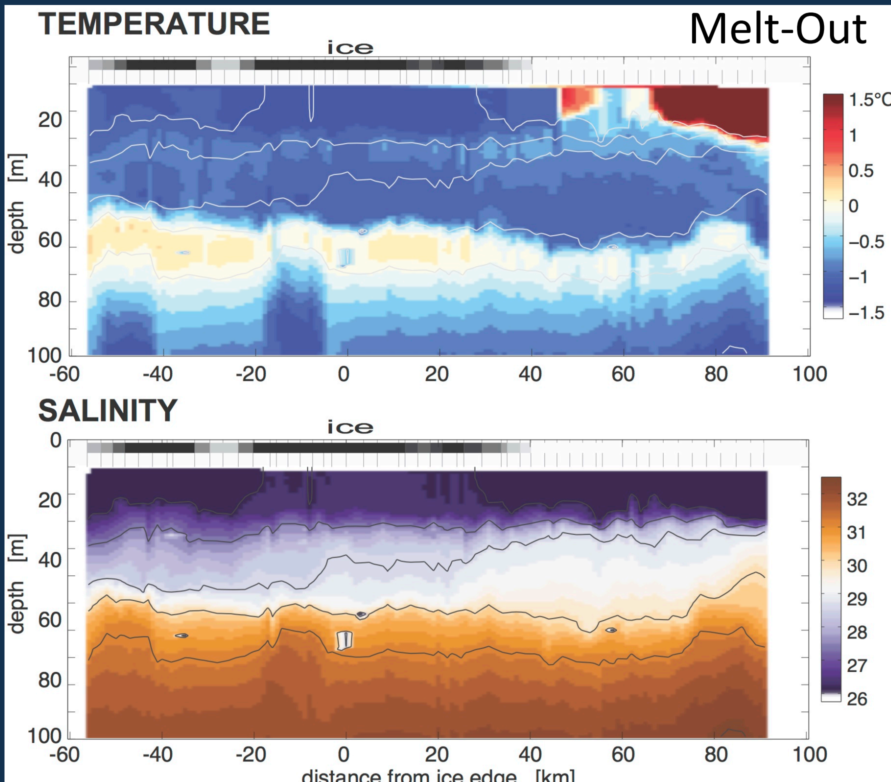
Cole, Toole, Timmermans, Krishfield

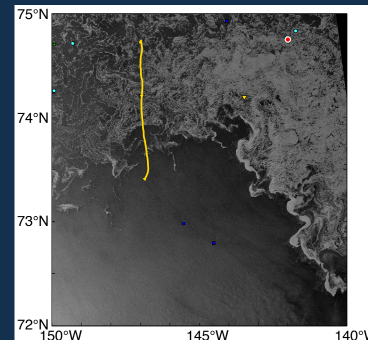


- Ice-Tethered Profilers at C2 and C4
- 70-250 m depth
- IW energy increases from spring into summer
- IW energy appears to increase with increasing open water fraction.

Glider sections across the MIZ

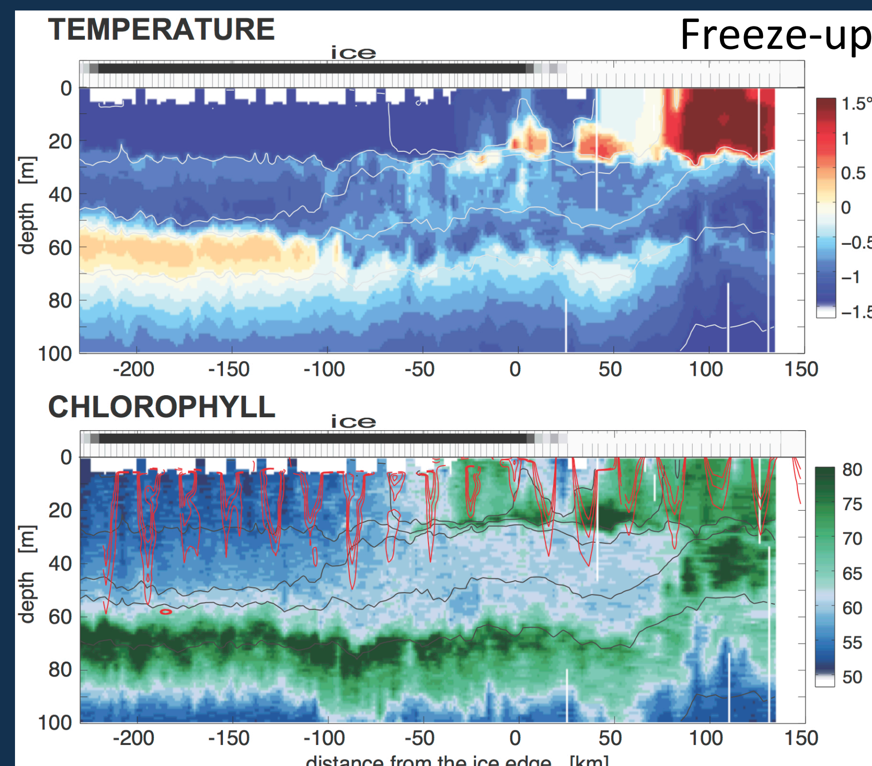
Lee, Rainville, Gobat, Webster (APL-UW), Freitag (WHOI)





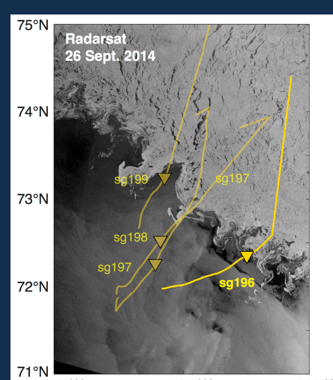
Melt-Out (5 Sep 2014)

- Warmer, fresher out of the ice.
- Thickening isopycnal layer at ice edge.
- Ice-edge upwelling?
- Ice-edge mixing?

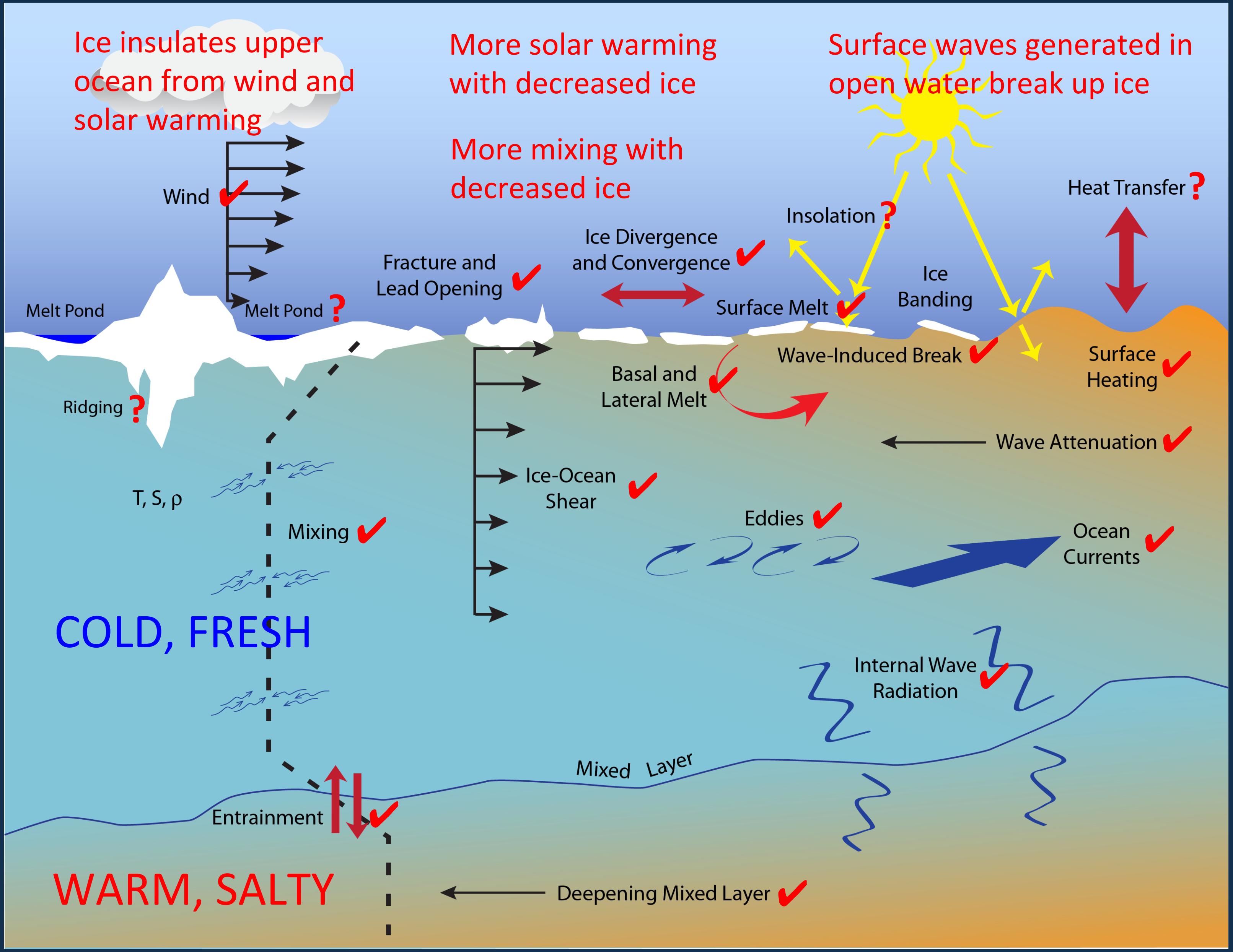


Freeze-up (26 Sep 2014)

- Near-surface temperature maxima formation?
- Sharp contrast in chlorophyll across MIZ.



Atmosphere-Ice-Ocean Interaction



Early Results

Science

1. In this year, waves do not appear to have played a large role in breakup of the pack- thermodynamics dominate.
2. Surface waves attenuate rapidly upon encountering ice, even in fractional cover.
3. Signatures of lateral mixing and vertical exchange driven by small-scale front and eddies near the ice 'edge'.
4. Clear contrasts in chlorophyll distribution associated with ice 'edge'.

Technical

1. Autonomous observing from pack ice, though the MIZ and into open water spanning an entire melt season (March – October 2014).
2. Under-ice glider operations using new, drifting broadband sources.
3. Acoustic receptions at 400+ km due to shallow sound channel associated with Beaufort Sea near-surface temperature maximum.

Conceptual MIZ (Fram Strait)

Pack Ice

Open Water

Marginal Ice Zone

The 2014 Beaufort MIZ

Beaufort Sea MIZ, August 2014

Beaufort Sea MIZ, August 2014

Fram Strait MIZ

Outline

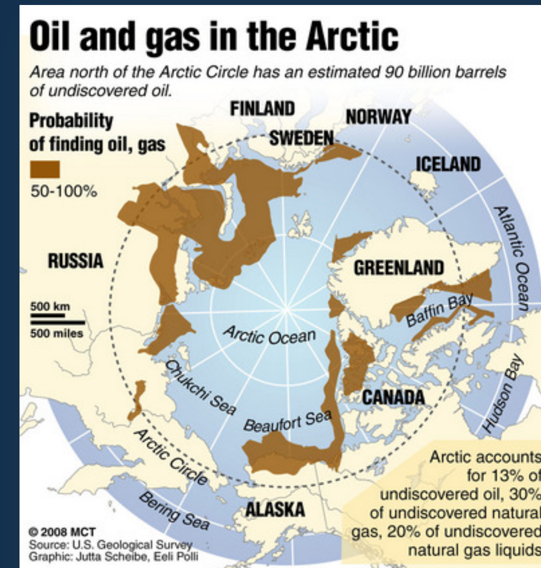
1. Background – The changing Arctic
2. Objectives – Science and technology development
3. Emerging Physics of the Marginal Ice Zone
4. A New Approach – Light-weight logistics and sustained, autonomous observing
5. The MIZ measurement program
    1. Acoustic navigation
    2. The changing wave climate
    3. Sea ice dynamics
    4. Upper ocean physics and biology
6. Summary

Multi-faceted Impacts

Climate
- Global links… changes in atmospheric circulation linked to heat and drought in US and cold stormy weather in Europe

Industry
- Shipping, oil/gas, minerals, fisheries, tourism…

Economics
- UK Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change (2006). £3.68 trillion
- The cost of Arctic change?

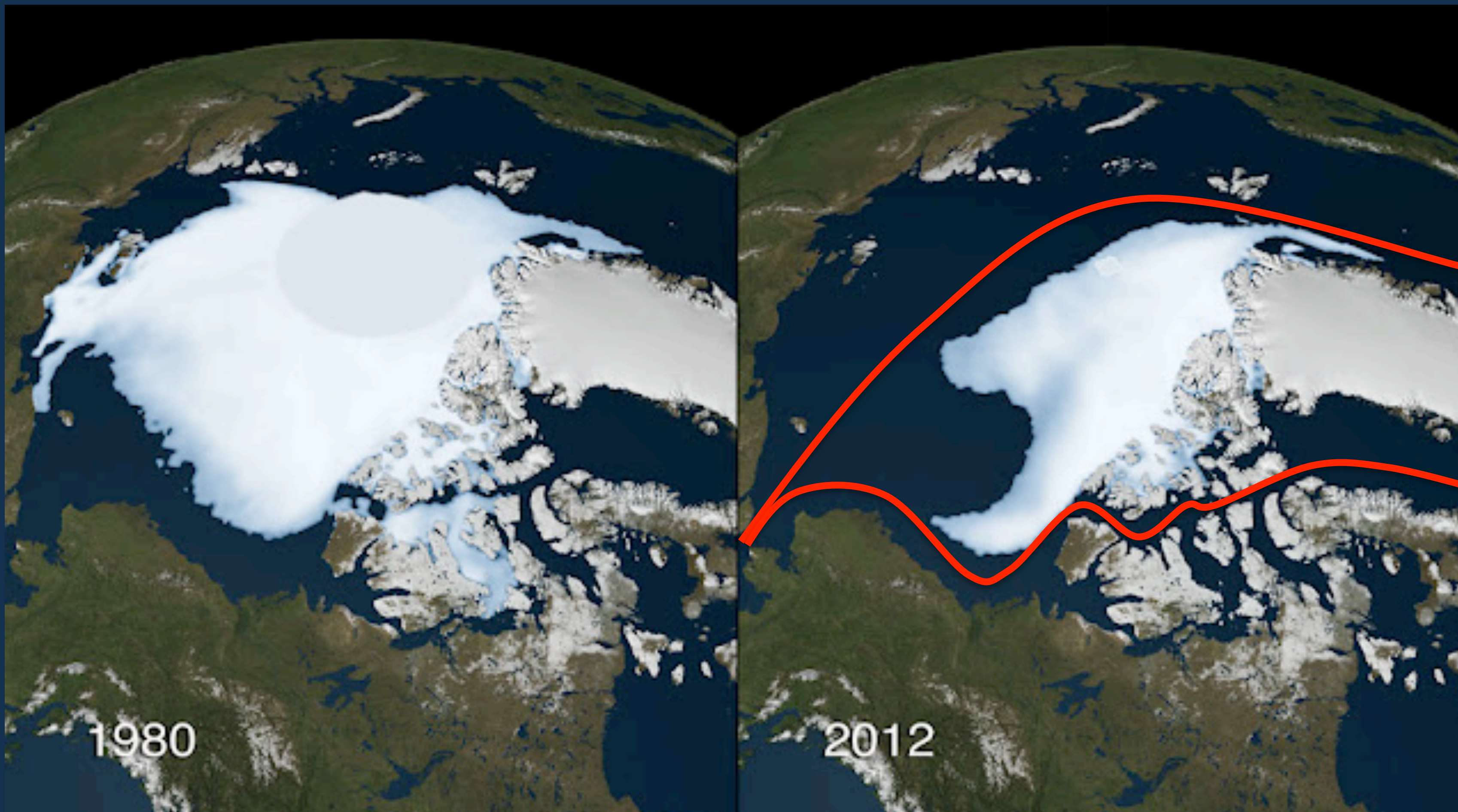


Indigenous communities
- Loss of traditional way of life

Coastal changes
- Coastal erosion due to enhanced wave energy

Environmental pressures
- Loss of habitat/species
- Increase in ocean acidification
- Change in ocean properties

A New, Emerging Physical Regime

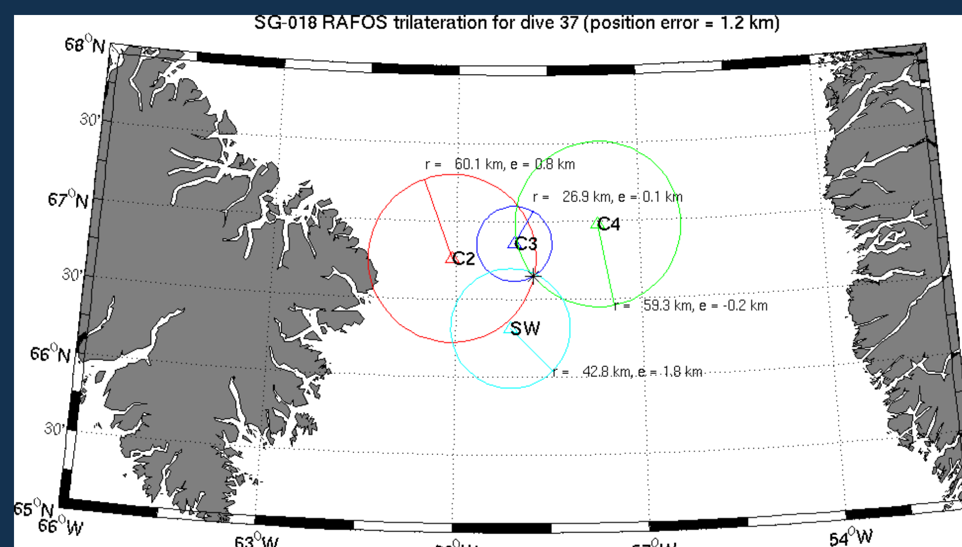


A lot more open water in summer months

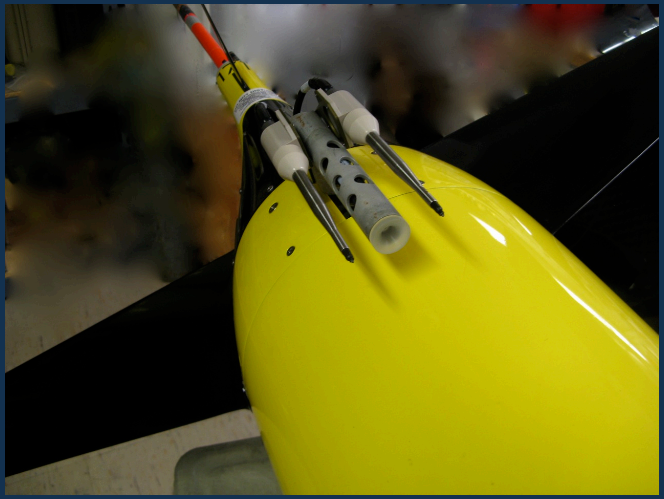
Autonomous Seagliders for Ice-Covered Oceans

- Enhanced endurance, reliability
- Compass calibration/check procedures for high-latitudes ops
- Real-time acoustic navigation
- Ice detection- ice climatology, temperature, altimeter
- Enhanced autonomy with ‘ice ‘behaviors’
- Routine operations in full ice cover and marginal ice zone
- Acoustic communication for data transfer

- Broad Access
  - Remote regions, full ice cover
  - Ice-ocean interface, marginal ice zone.
  - Persistent sampling- long endurance
- Risk Mitigation
  - Limited exposure to ice-ocean interface.
  - Data return when open water available.
- Highly Adaptable
  - Simple logistics.
  - Real time reprogramming.
  - Flexible sampling.
  - Scalable.



Micro-temperature Seaglider



Luc Rainville and Craig Lee
Applied Physics Laboratory, U. of Washington

Extended (many months) dissipation measurements from autonomous platforms.

Fully integrated system.

Does not affect flight and endurance.

Real-time data processing and transmission of turbulence profile after each dive.

Data quality comparable to free-falling systems.

Successful 1-month deployment, 6-month deployments in-progress (SPURS- 3 gliders).

Navy Needs and Key Questions

Task Force Climate Change "Arctic Roadmap":

- Must have Arctic environmental information and predictions to support investment and policy decisions, and future operations.

NORTHCOM:

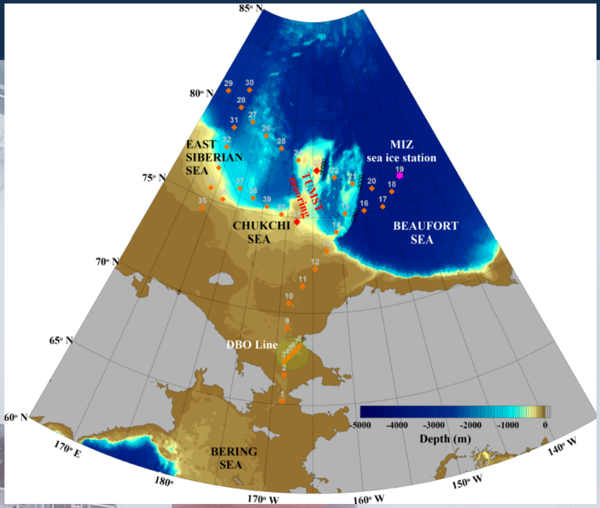
- Must improve ability to observe and predict the Arctic environment.

N2N6E CBA: Better Environmental Information

- Insufficient ability to provide oceanographic information, ice reports, accurate navigation charts, meteorological analysis and forecasts

- ❑ How little sea ice will there be, and when will the key changes occur?
  - Need better prediction capability underpinned by basic research.
- ❑ How is the Arctic region as a whole going to be different?
  - Need research into how the entire Arctic environmental system functions.
- ❑ What does the Navy need to know to operate in the Arctic?
  - Need sustained observations and improved predictions of the state of the Arctic.
- ❑ How will the changing Arctic affect the rest of the earth, and vice-versa?
  - Need an Arctic environmental system model integrated within global prediction models

IBRV Araon 31 July – 25 August 2014



- Collaboration with the Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)
- Deploy Cluster 5
- Deploy 2 navigation sources
- Calibration data
- Support KOPRI science operations

With thanks to Dr. Sung-Ho Kang and Eun Jin Yang, Captain and crew of IBRV Araon, Maritime Helicopters team: Eric Richard, Dave Guy and Howard Reed and the USCG

MIZ Autonomous Sampling
(1 Mar – 20 Oct 2014, 8 months)