

**Christian Haas**  
**2008 Sea Ice Minimum Summary Report**

On an anecdotal side note, I am sorry that I (and Canada...) was not able to provide any more ice thickness data this summer to nail down some of the issues discussed by so many of you. However, it is not that we hadn't at least tried hard to obtain some data. So a team of two from Norway and Canada, supported by another person on land from Israel, set out with a small hovercraft to survey the ice thickness at least in the MIZ at 81°N north of Svalbard in early September. In fact, we obtained some 100 km or so of thickness data, but its interpretation is pending because ice thickness in the MIZ is subject to variable ice concentration, deformation, and ocean forcing, leading to different degrees of lateral and bottom melt, and thin ice might melt preferentially. However, we found many floes with modal ice thicknesses between 0.9 and 2.0 m, which is similar to or thicker than what was observed last summer even further north. Attached is a photo of the hovercraft with the thickness sensor in the front which shows some of the endeavor. At least it was all good fun!

