

September 2009 Sea Ice Outlook: July Report

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Outlook: 5.2 million square kilometers

Considering the past years' extents, the extent observed so far this year, and current in situ data (primarily from the NPEO web cam and weather station) we submit an outlook of 5.2 million square kilometers. Being optimistic and slightly contrarian, we see several positive signs for extent compared to the last couple of years:

- 1) The melt at the NPEO seems very late; there is still plenty of snow and zero melt ponds;
- 2) Temperatures were cold during the spring deployment and there wasn't too much snow, implying good growth persisted longer than usual;
- 3) The extent in the spring was pretty good;
- 4) There was more second year ice this last year than in the previous year; and
- 5) Polyakov has reported cooler ocean conditions.

Our estimate is based on the same improvement from 2008 to 2009 as occurred going from 2007 to 2008 plus 200,000 sq km based on gut feeling. Note: We purposely didn't look at last month's estimates to avoid biasing our estimate.