

Sea Ice Outlook
2021 August Report
Individual Outlook

Name of contributor or name of contributing organization:

NSIDC (Horvath et al.)

Is this contribution from a person or group not affiliated with a research organization?

Name and organization for all contributors. Indicate primary contact and total number of people who may have contributed to your Outlook, even if not included on the author list.

Horvath et al.

Do you want your June contribution to automatically be included in subsequent reports? (If yes, you may still update your contribution via the submission form.)

Include this submission in this month's report ONLY

What is the type of your Outlook projection?

Statistical

Starting in 2017 we are accepting both pan-Arctic and pan-Antarctic sea ice extent (either one or both) of the September monthly mean. As in 2016, we are also collecting Alaskan regional sea ice extent. To be consistent with the validating sea ice extent index from NSIDC, if possible, please first compute the average sea ice concentration for the month and then compute the extent as the sum of cell areas > 15%.

a) Pan-Arctic September extent prediction in million square kilometers.

4.91

b) same as in (a) but for pan-Antarctic. If your method differs substantially from that for the Arctic, please enter it as a separate submission.

c) same as in (b) but for the Alaskan region. Please also tell us maximum possible extent if every ocean cell in your region were ice covered.

"Executive summary" of your Outlook contribution (using 300 words or less) describe how and why your contribution was formulated. To the extent possible, use non-technical language.

Yearly data from 1980 through the present are used in a Bayesian logistic regression to predict the probability that sea ice concentration will be above 15%. To estimate total sea ice extent, grid cells with a percentage above a certain threshold (chosen from a drop-one cross-validation test) are multiplied by the pixel area grid dataset provided by NSIDC's polar stereographic toolset and then summed. Sea ice concentration data was obtained from NSIDC's Sea Ice Index V3 (Data Set ID:G02135), all other variables are from NASA's MERRA2 dataset.

<https://doi.org/10.1029/2020EA001176>

Brief explanation of Outlook method (using 300 words or less).

This statistical model computes the probability that sea ice will be present (concentration above 15%) for each grid cell in NSIDC's polar stereographic projection. Yearly data from 1980 through the present are used in a Bayesian logistic regression. Predictors include local surface air temperature, downwelling longwave radiation, and sea ice concentration, as well as the first principal component of geopotential height at 500mbars, and Pacific and Atlantic sea surface temperatures. Sea ice concentration data was obtained from NSIDC's Sea Ice Index V3 (Data Set ID:G02135), all other variables are from NASA's MERRA2 dataset.

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Tell us the dataset used for your initial Sea Ice Concentration (SIC).

NA

Tell us the dataset used for your initial Sea Ice Thickness (SIT) used. Include name and date.

NA

If you use a dynamic model, please specify the name of the model as a whole and each component including version numbers and how the component is initialized:

If available from your method.

a) Uncertainty/probability estimates:

Median

Lower error bound

Lower error bound

Standard Deviation

b) Brief explanation/assessment of basis for the uncertainty estimate (1-2 sentences).

c) Brief description of any post-processing you have done (1-2 sentences).