



Arctic System Science:  
The Arctic and Climate Change

# SENIORS' ALUMNI

LEARNING FOR LIFE PROGRAM



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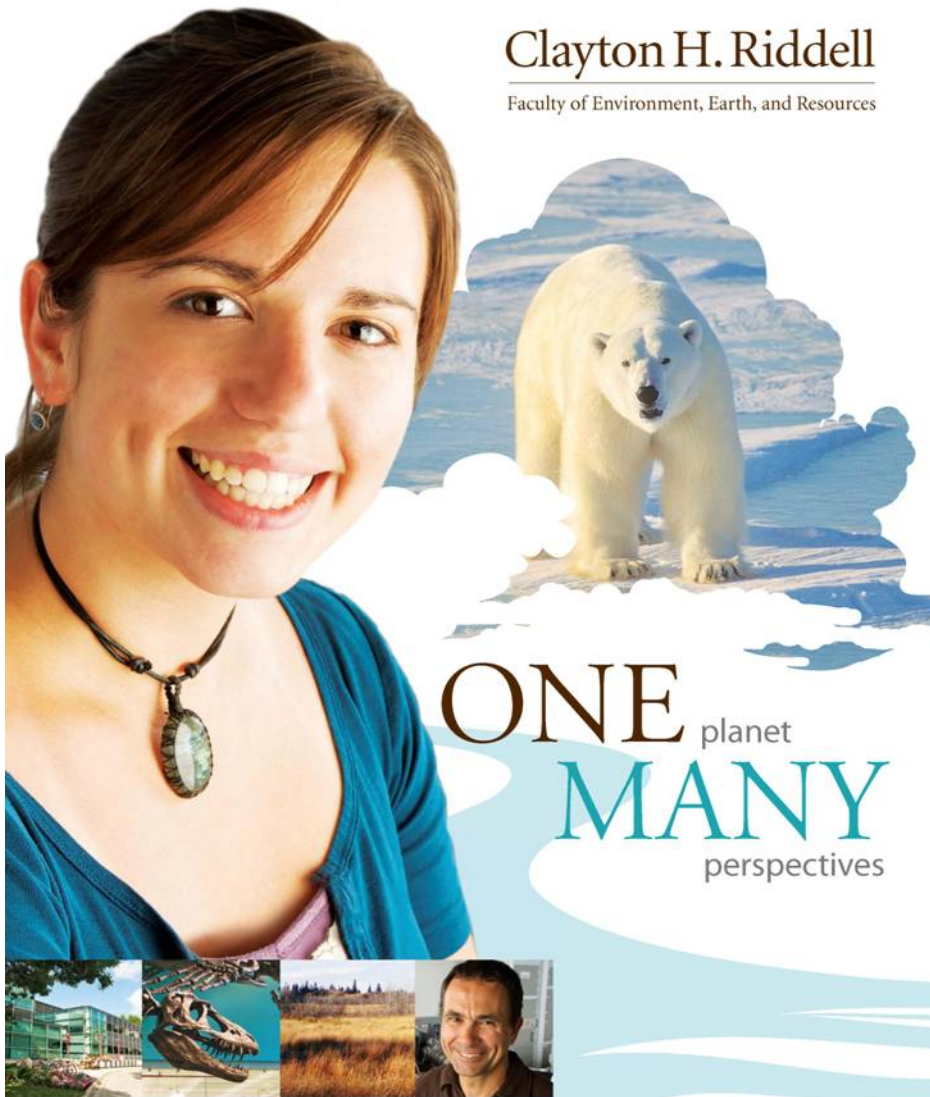
Professor David G. Barber  
Canada Research Chair in Arctic System Science  
Associate Dean, Research, Faculty of Environment  
University of Manitoba.





Clayton H. Riddell

Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources



ONE planet  
MANY  
perspectives

# Outline

- Some context.
- What can history tell us?
- What can the Arctic tell us?
- How we do our work.
- There are surprises.
- Why should you care?

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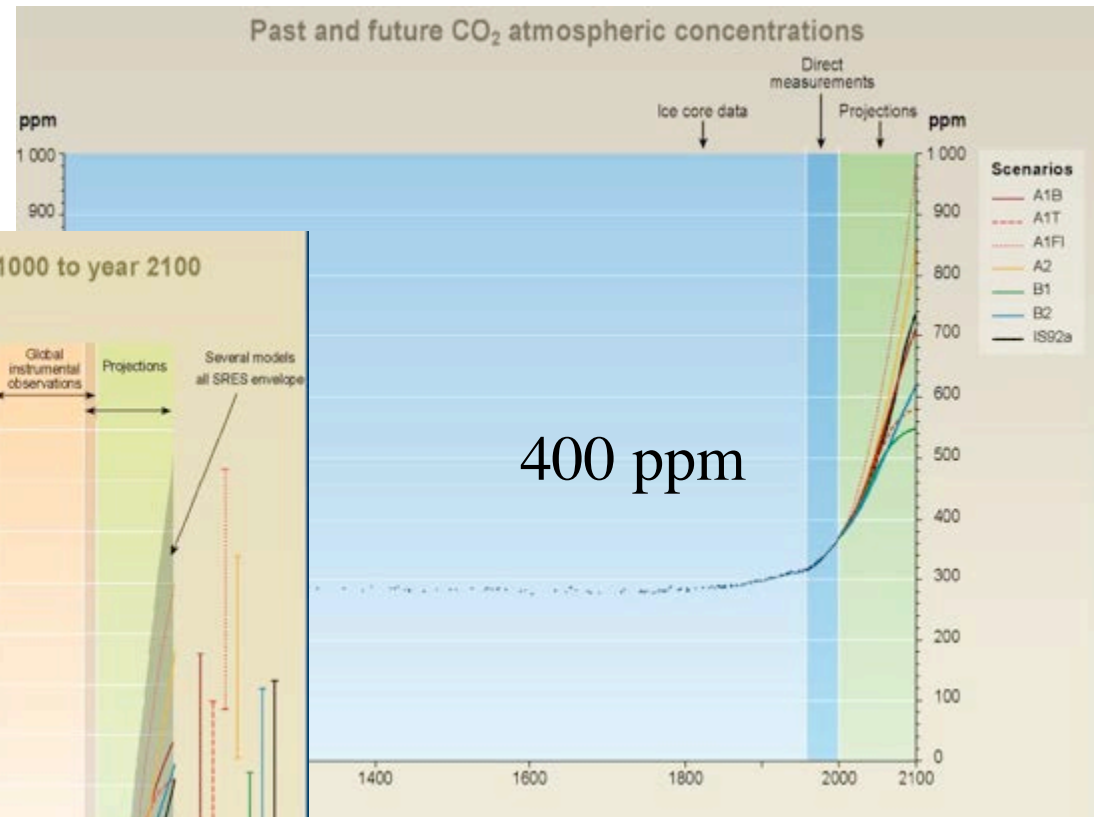
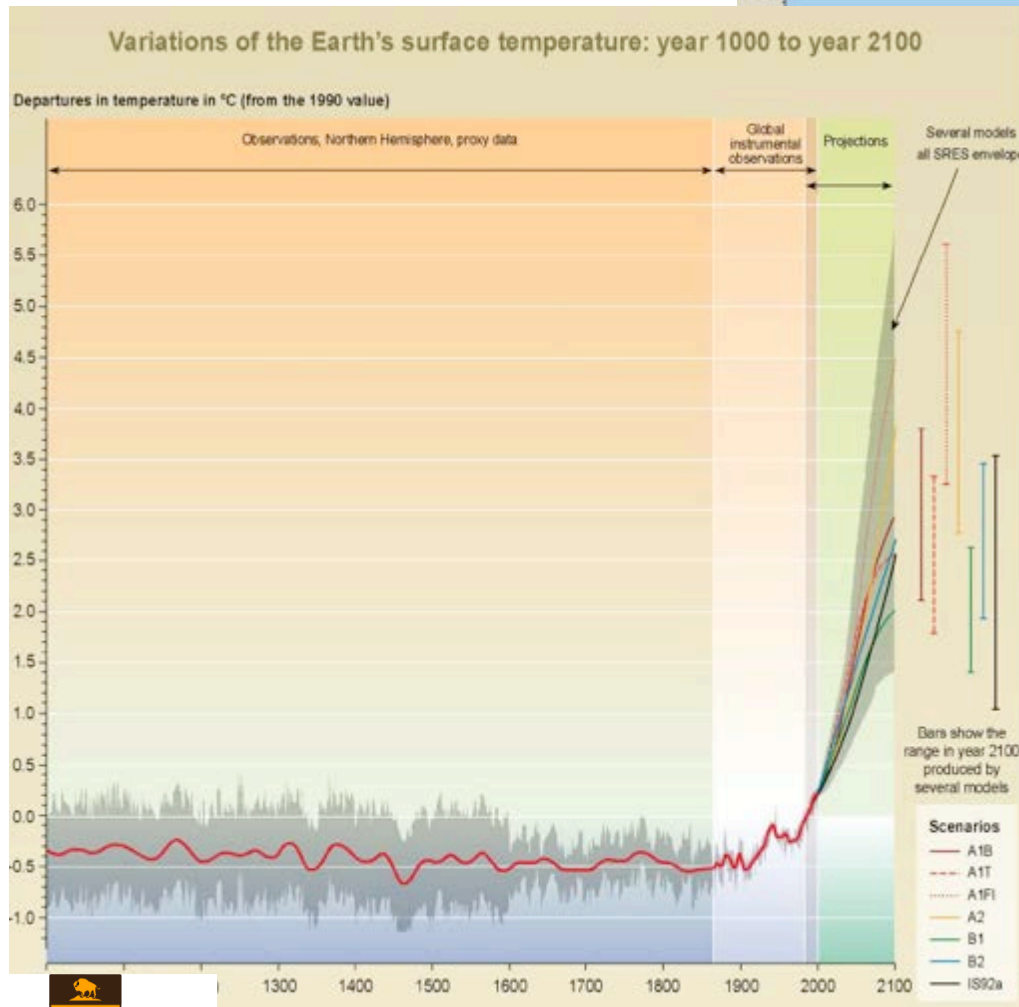


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# Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



400 ppm

CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations

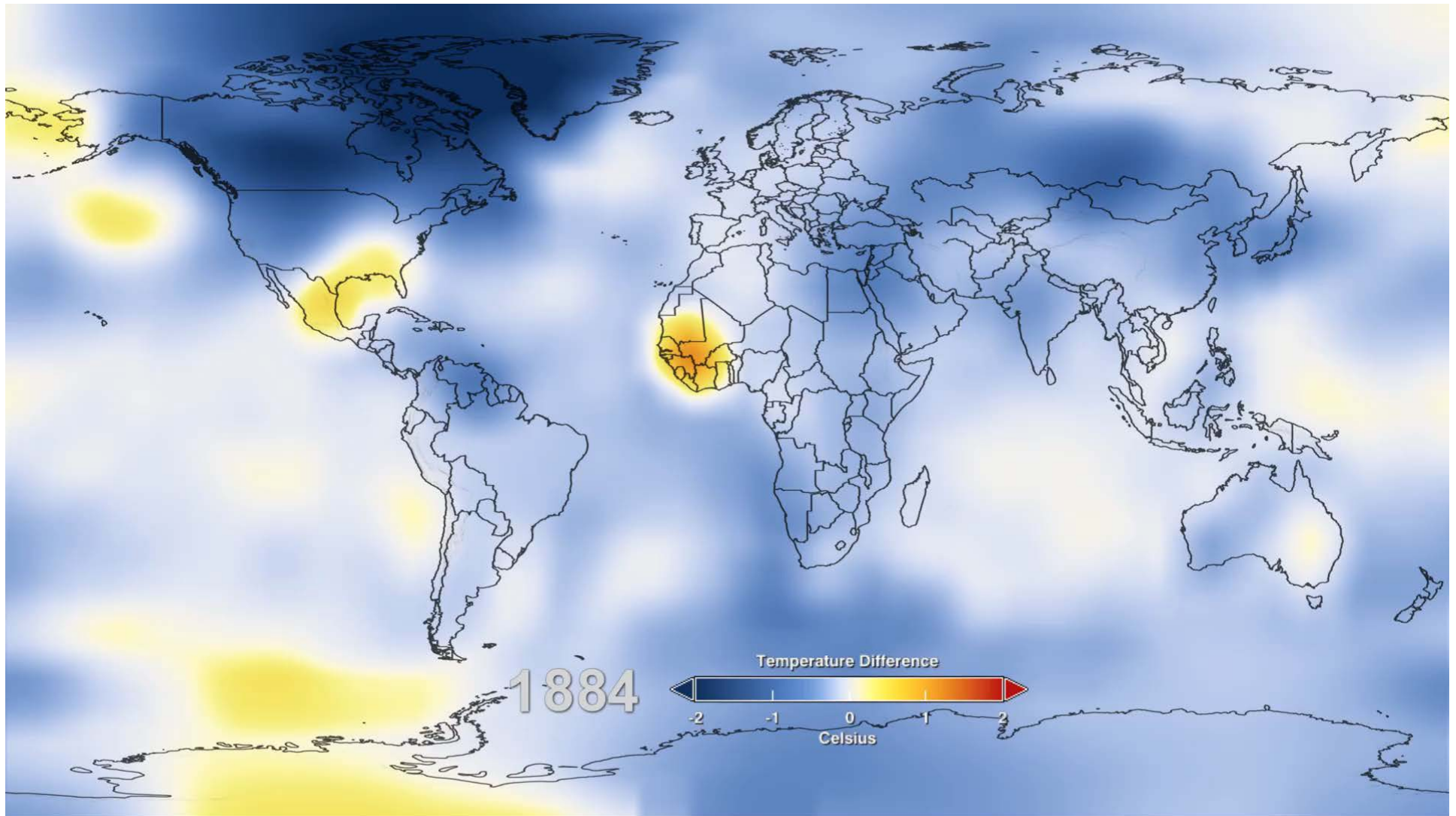


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Temperature







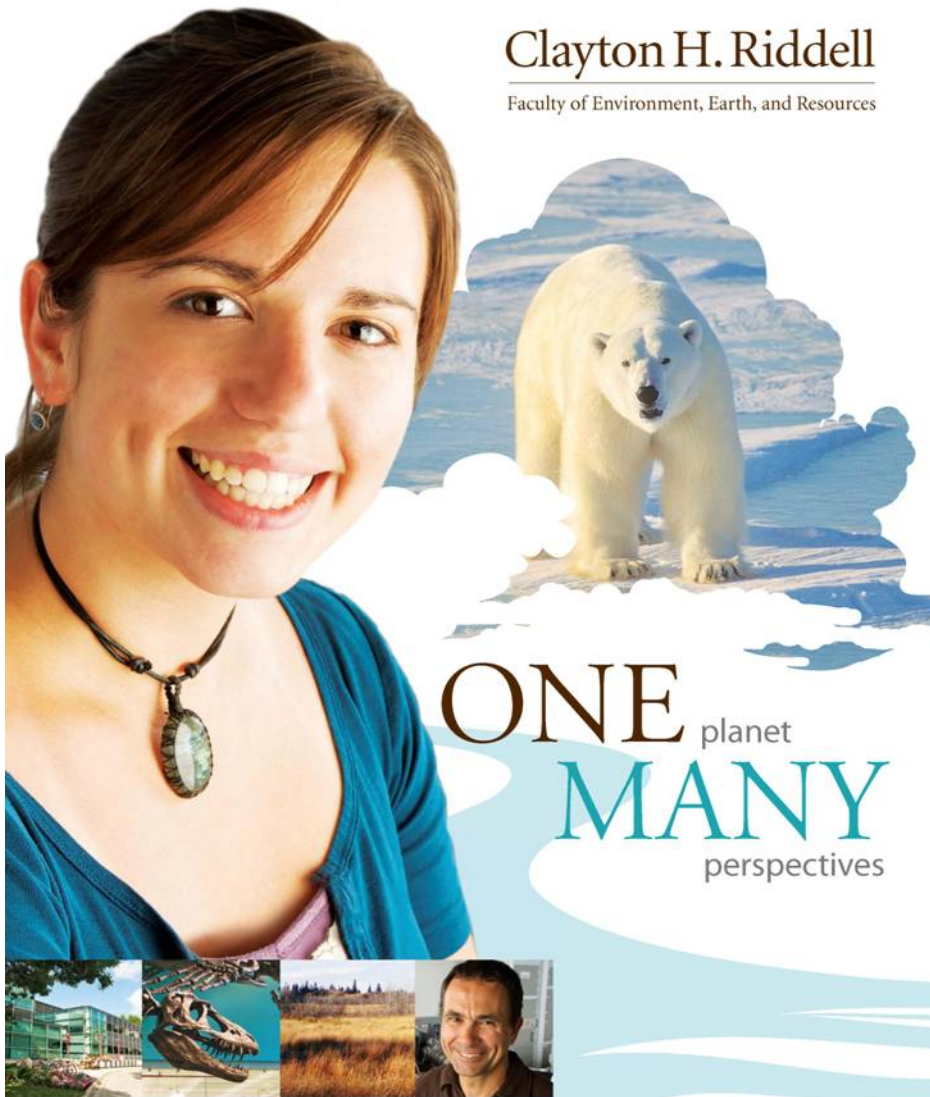
Observations - Five year running average (corrected)

NASA, 2012



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**What can history tell us?**



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# Calendar of Earth History

In the beginning:



Earliest known life (3.5 bya)

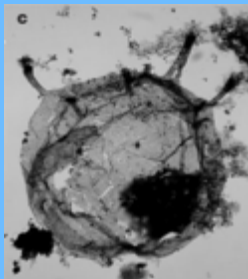


Schopf et al., 2002, Nature

Oxygen revolution (2.2 bya)

O<sub>2</sub>

Earliest known eukaryotes (1.5 bya)



Javaux et al., 2001, Nature

Dinosaurs stopped by and roared hello (230 - 65 mya)



January							February							March							April							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5							1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
30	31																											

May							June							July							August							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4							1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				
														31														

September							October							November							December							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2							1			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
							30	31																				

20:45

*Homo erectus*  
(1.8 mya)

23:42

*Homo sapiens*  
(0.2 mya)

23:52

Out of Africa  
(70 ka)

23:56:34

Reaching N.A.  
(30 ka)

23:58:51

Agriculture  
(10 ka)

23:59:46

Julius Caesar

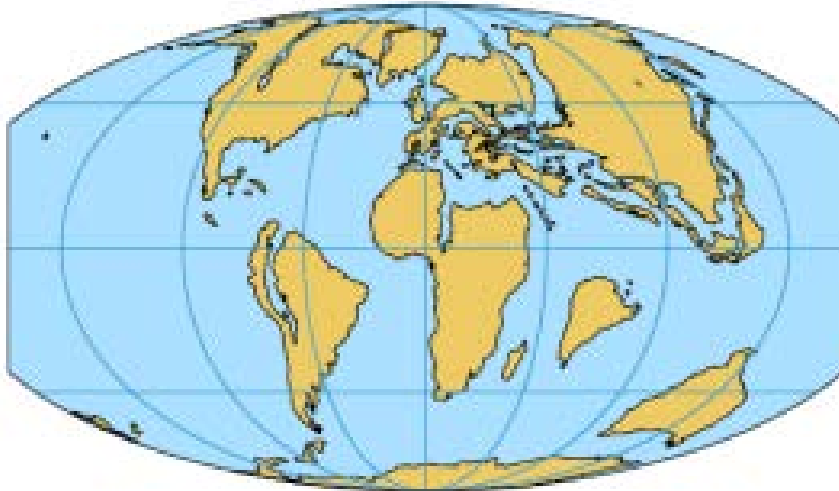
23:59:58

Industrial  
revolution

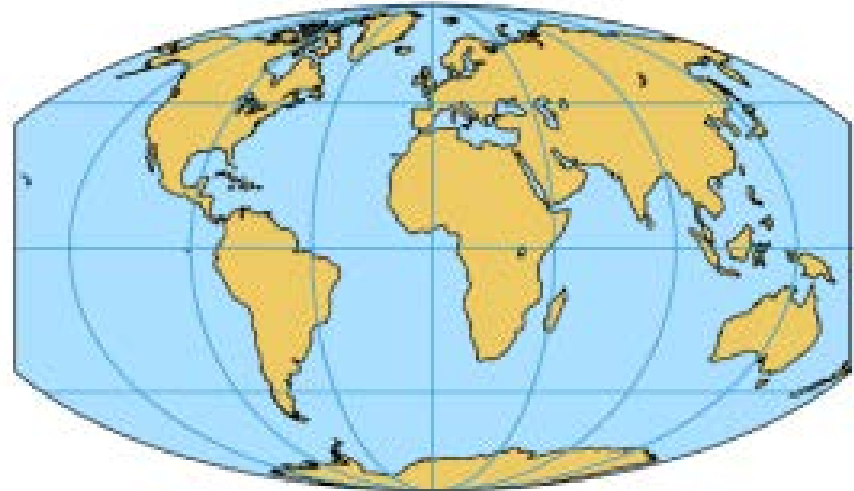


# Finding a historical analog

## The Cenozoic Era



End of Cretaceous (65 My BP)



Present Day

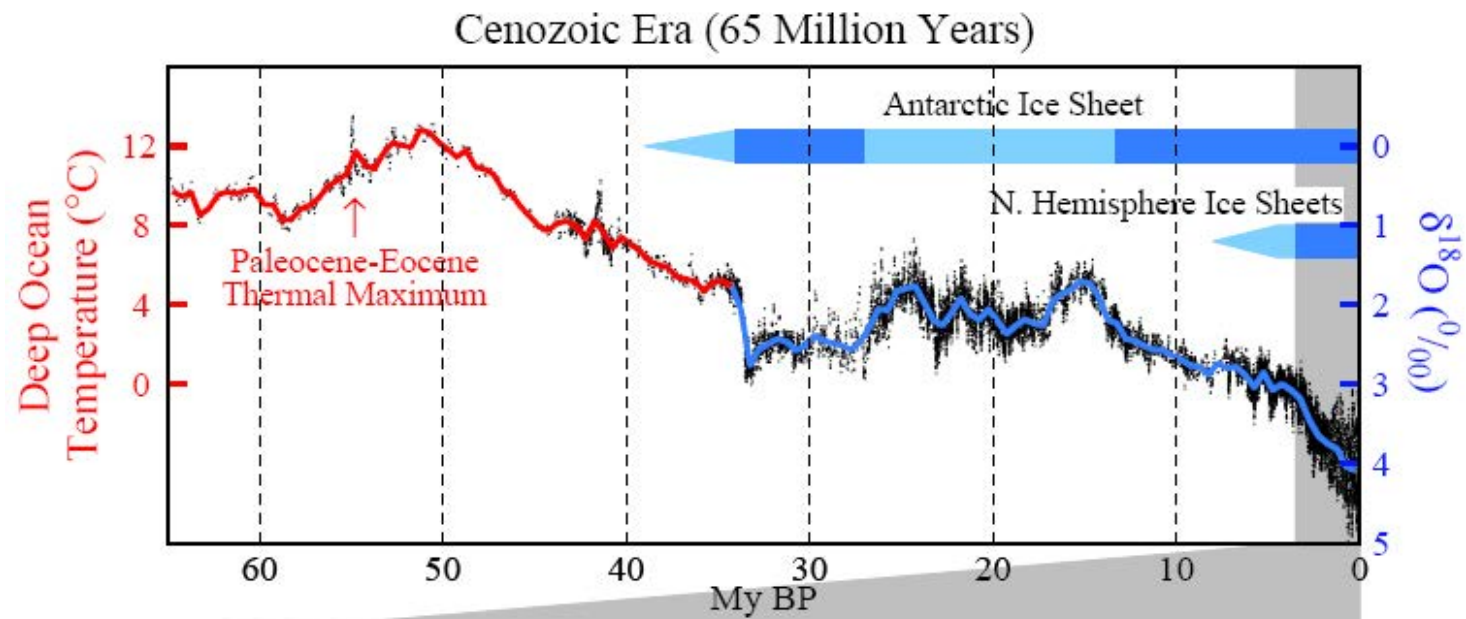
### Global Climate Forcings

External (solar irradiance):  $+1 \text{ W/m}^2$

Surface (continent locations):  $\sim 1 \text{ W/m}^2$

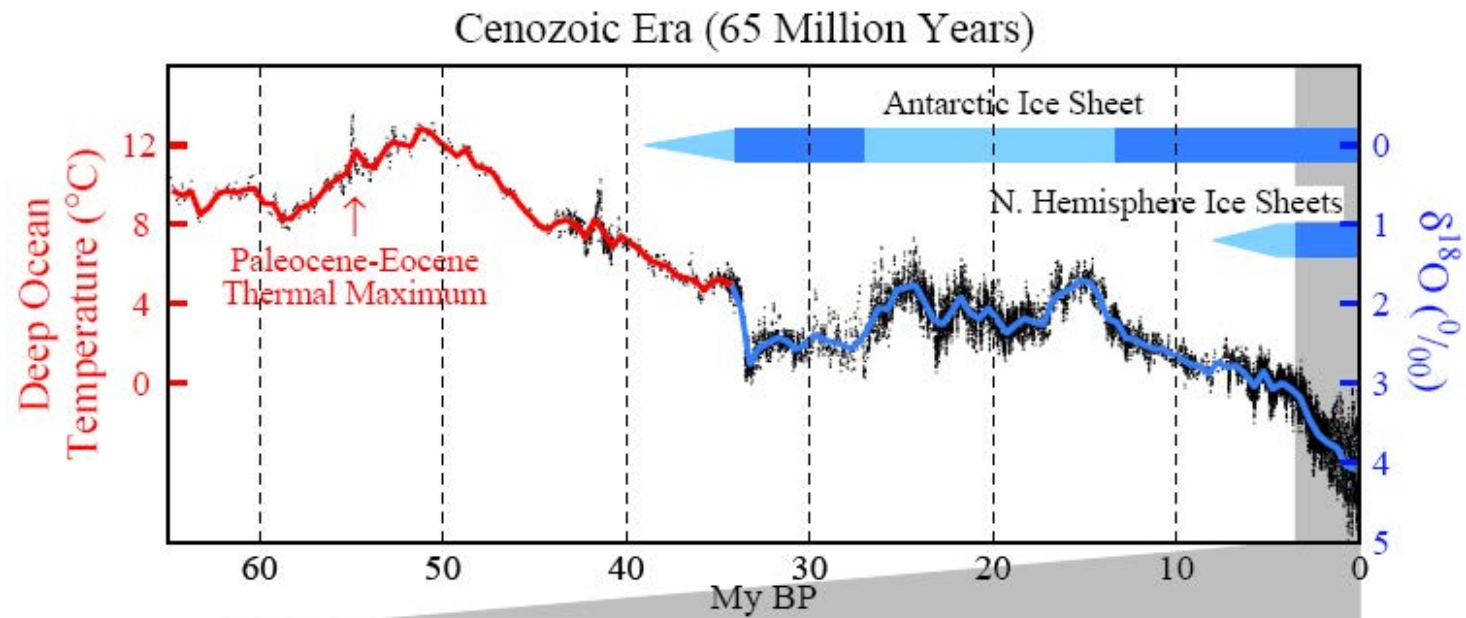
Atmosphere ( $\text{CO}_2$  changes):  $> 10 \text{ W/m}^2$







Canadian Museum of Nature (Marianne Douglas et al)

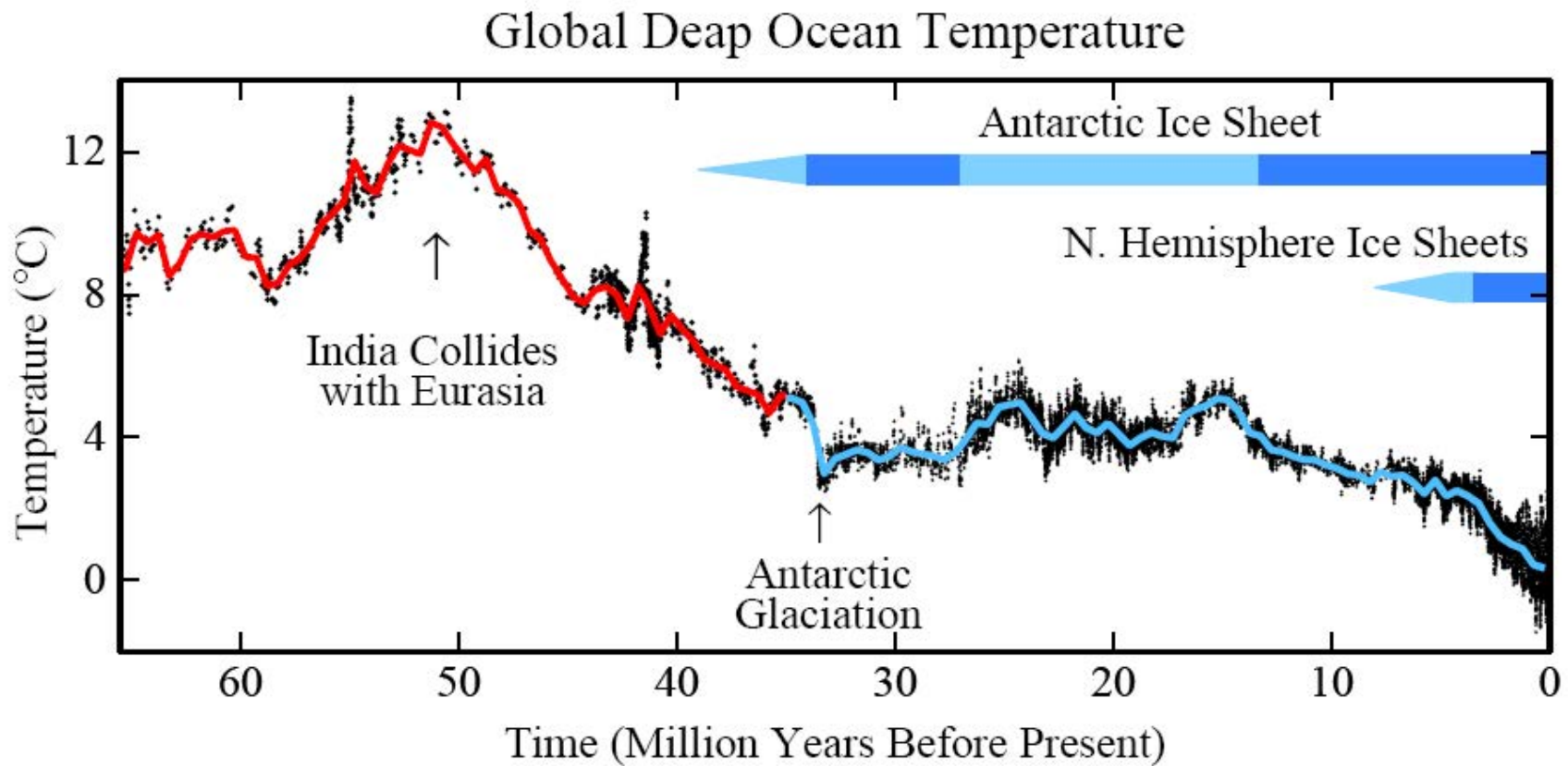


PETM – Ellesmere Island



Today– Ellesmere Island





- Continents stabilize close to present position
- CO<sub>2</sub> rapidly drops
- < 450ppm Antarctic icesheet forms



# **Summary: Cenozoic Era**

## **1. Dominant Forcing: Natural $\Delta\text{CO}_2$**

- Rate  $\sim 100$  ppm/My ( $0.0001$  ppm/year)**
- Human-made rate today:  $\sim 2$  ppm/year**

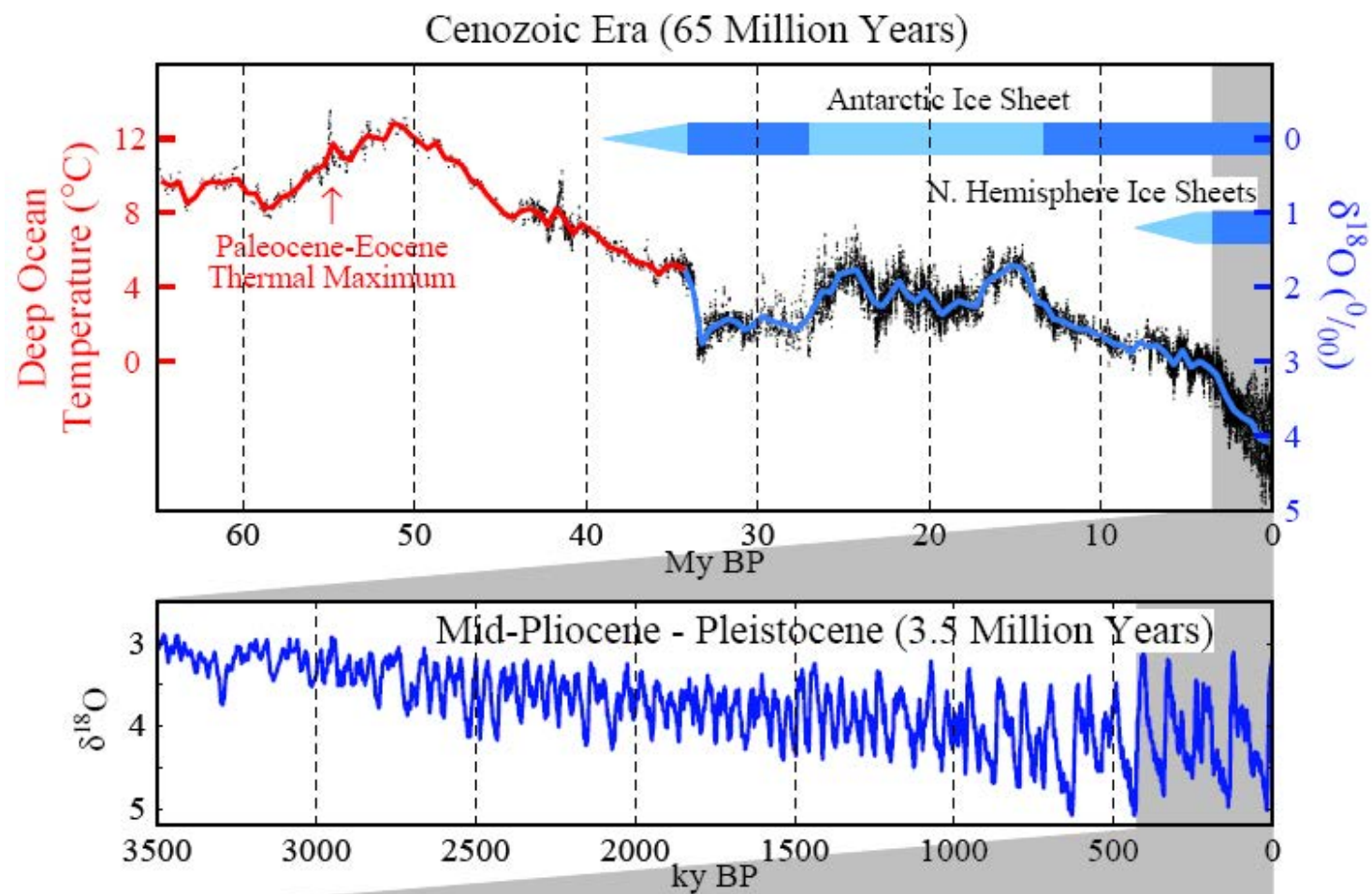
**Humans Overwhelm Slow Geologic Changes**

## **2. Climate Sensitivity High**

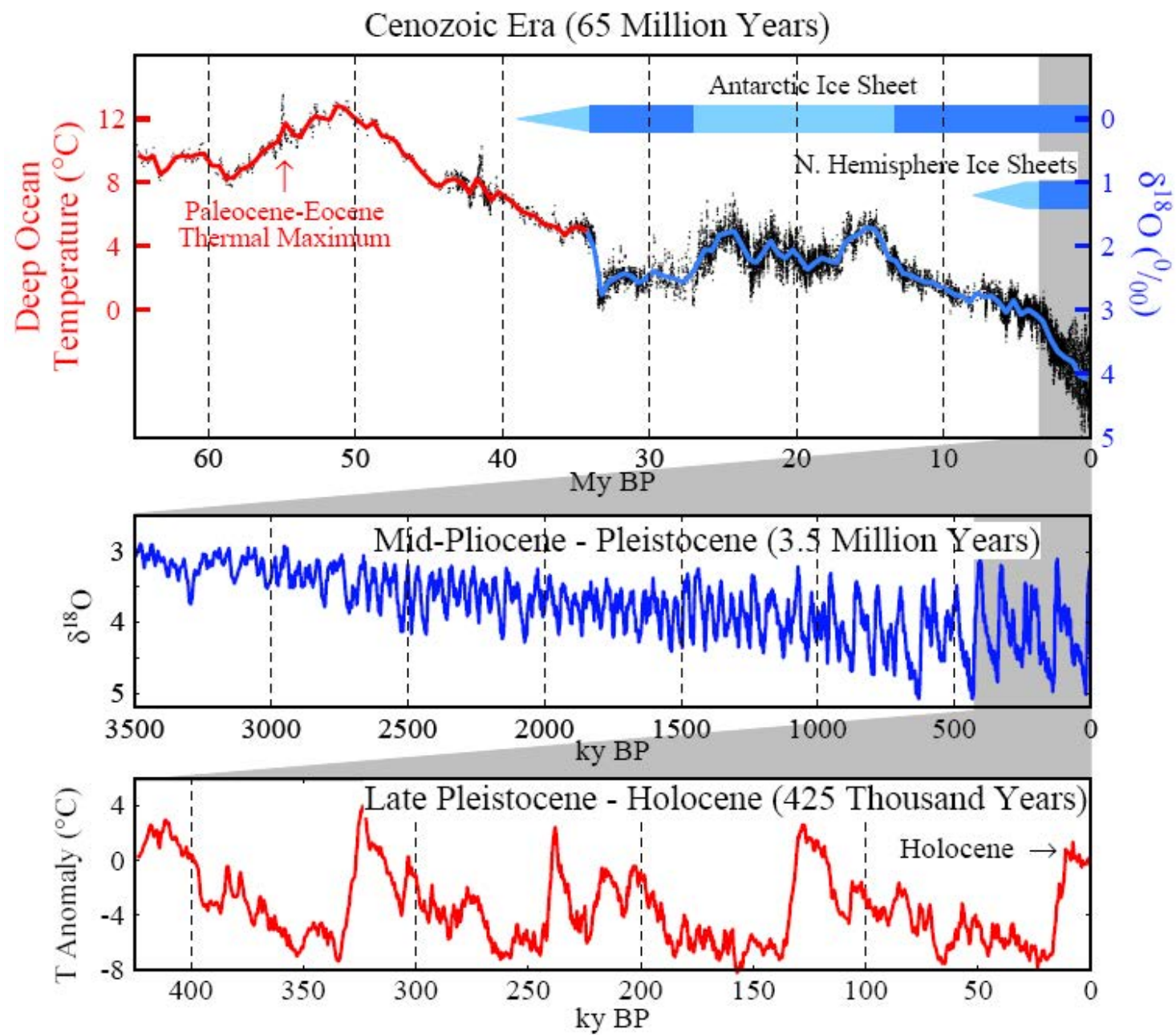
- Antarctic ice forms if  $\text{CO}_2 < \sim 450$  ppm**
- Ice sheet formation reversible**

**Humans Could Produce “A Different Planet”**



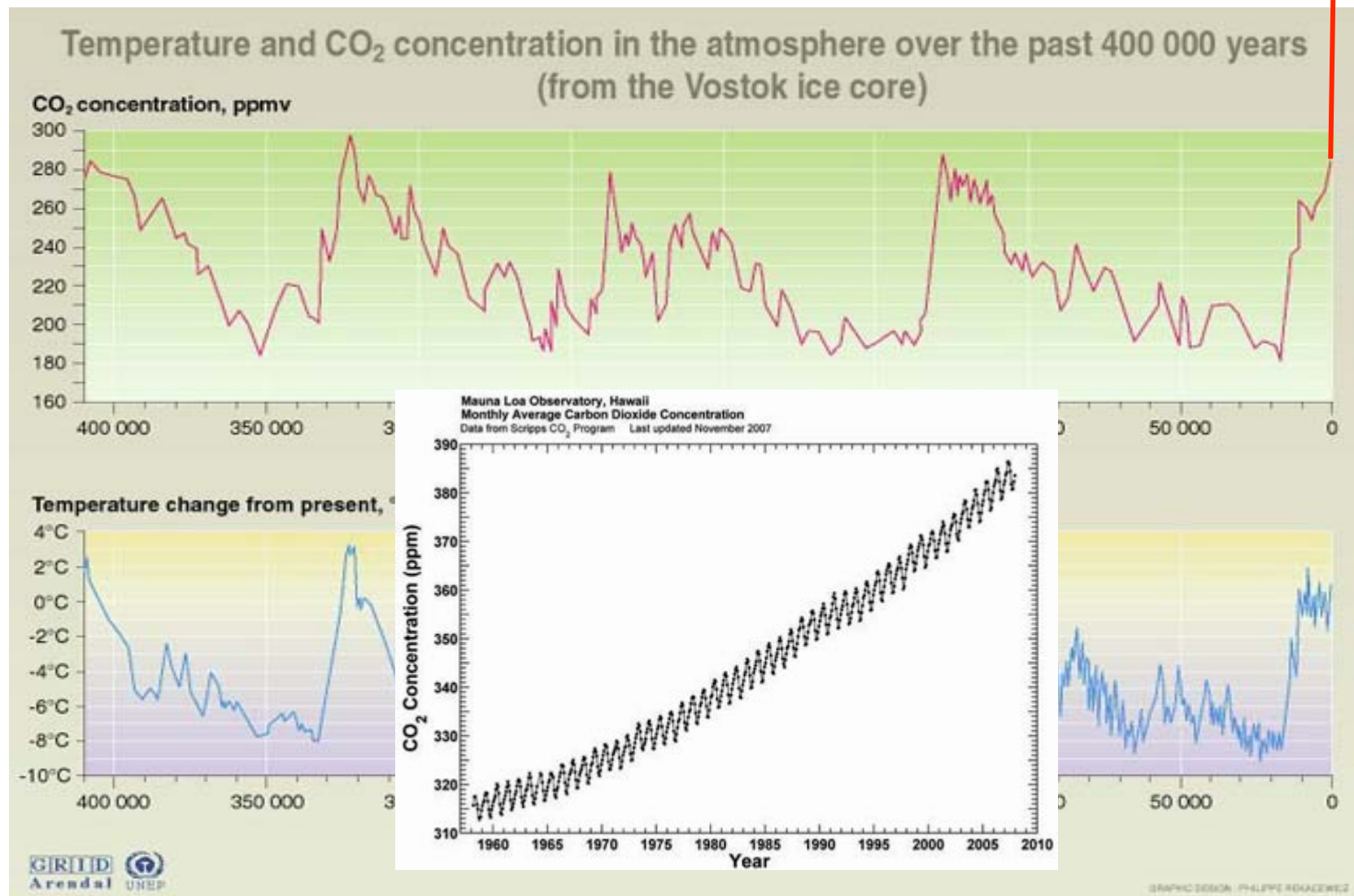








400ppm



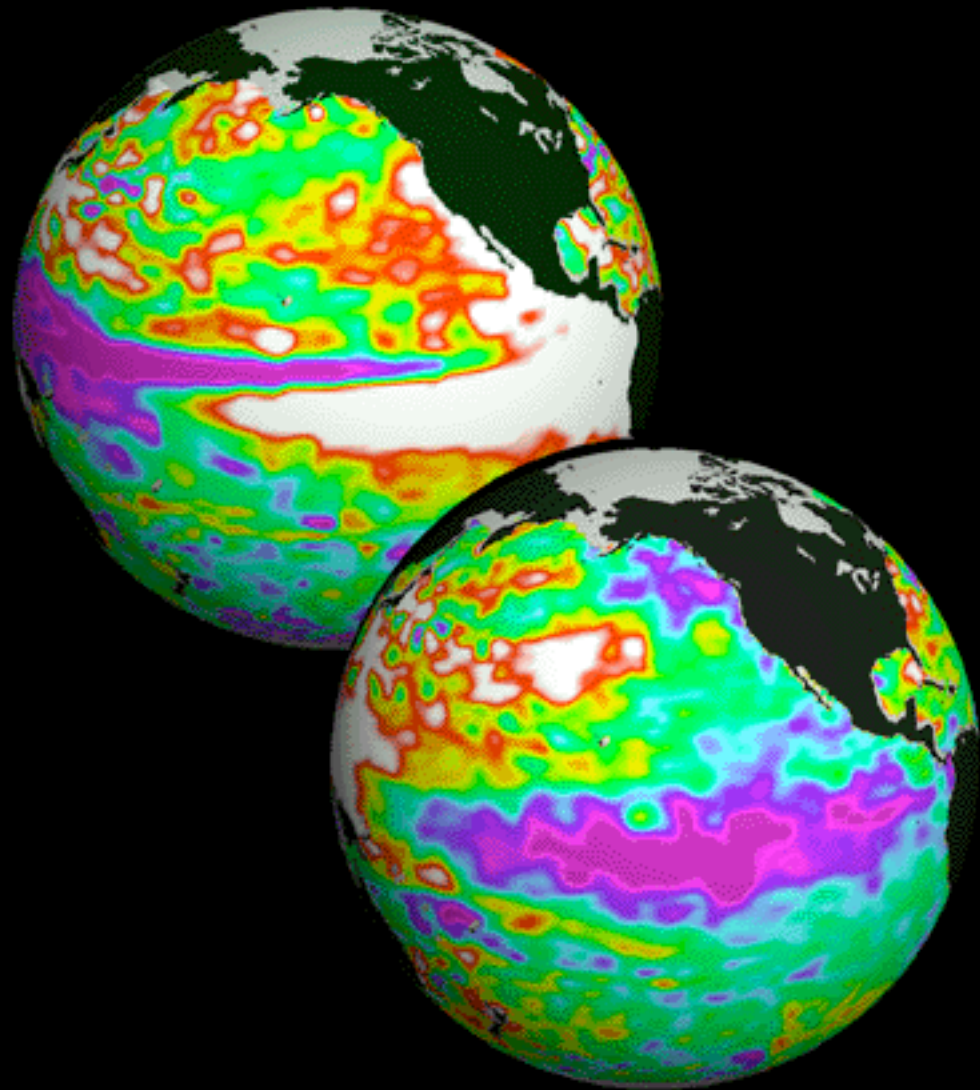
Source: J.R. Petit, J. Jouzel, et al. Climate and atmospheric history of the past 420 000 years from the Vostok ice core in Antarctica, Nature 399 (3/June), pp 429-436, 1999.



# General Circulation Models

## Validation

- Paleoclimates
- contemporary
- hindcasting
- ensemble runs
- intercomparisons



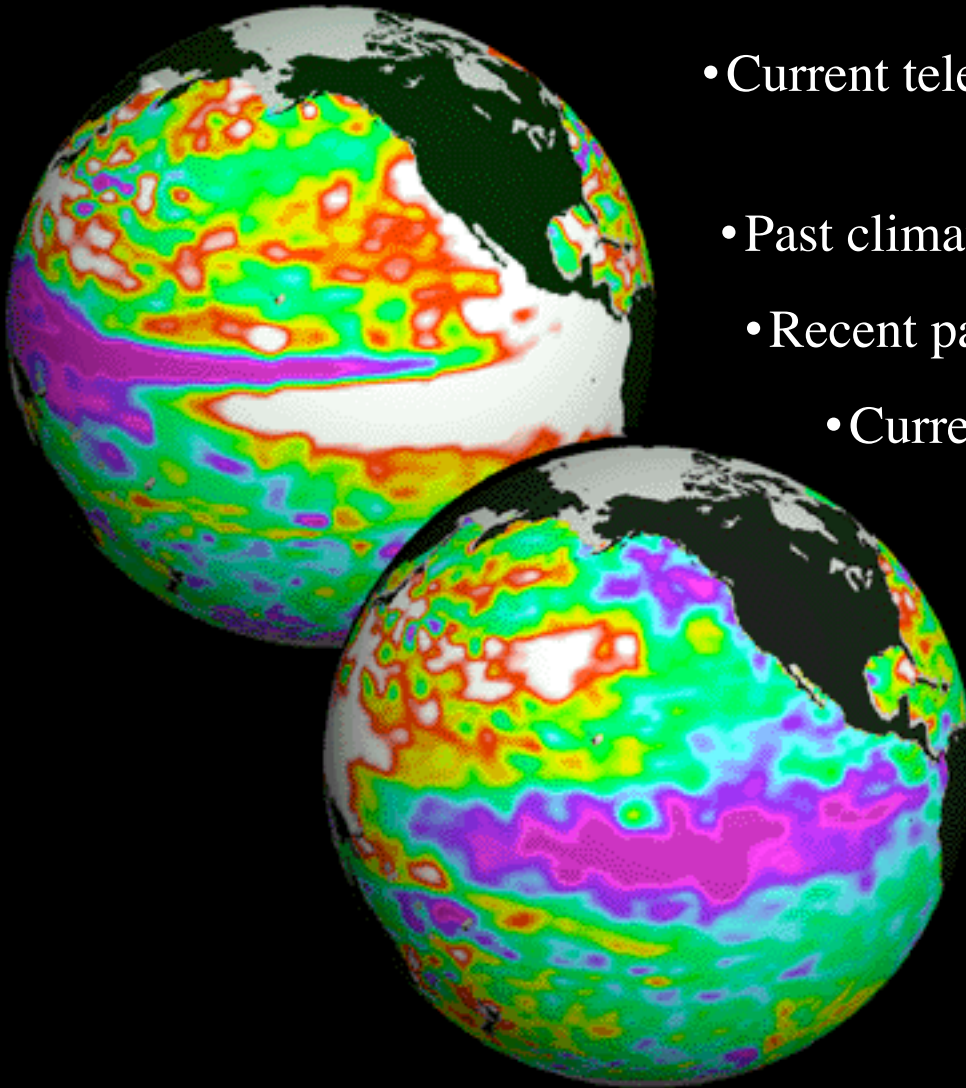
*Hah – they can't even predict the weather tomorrow*



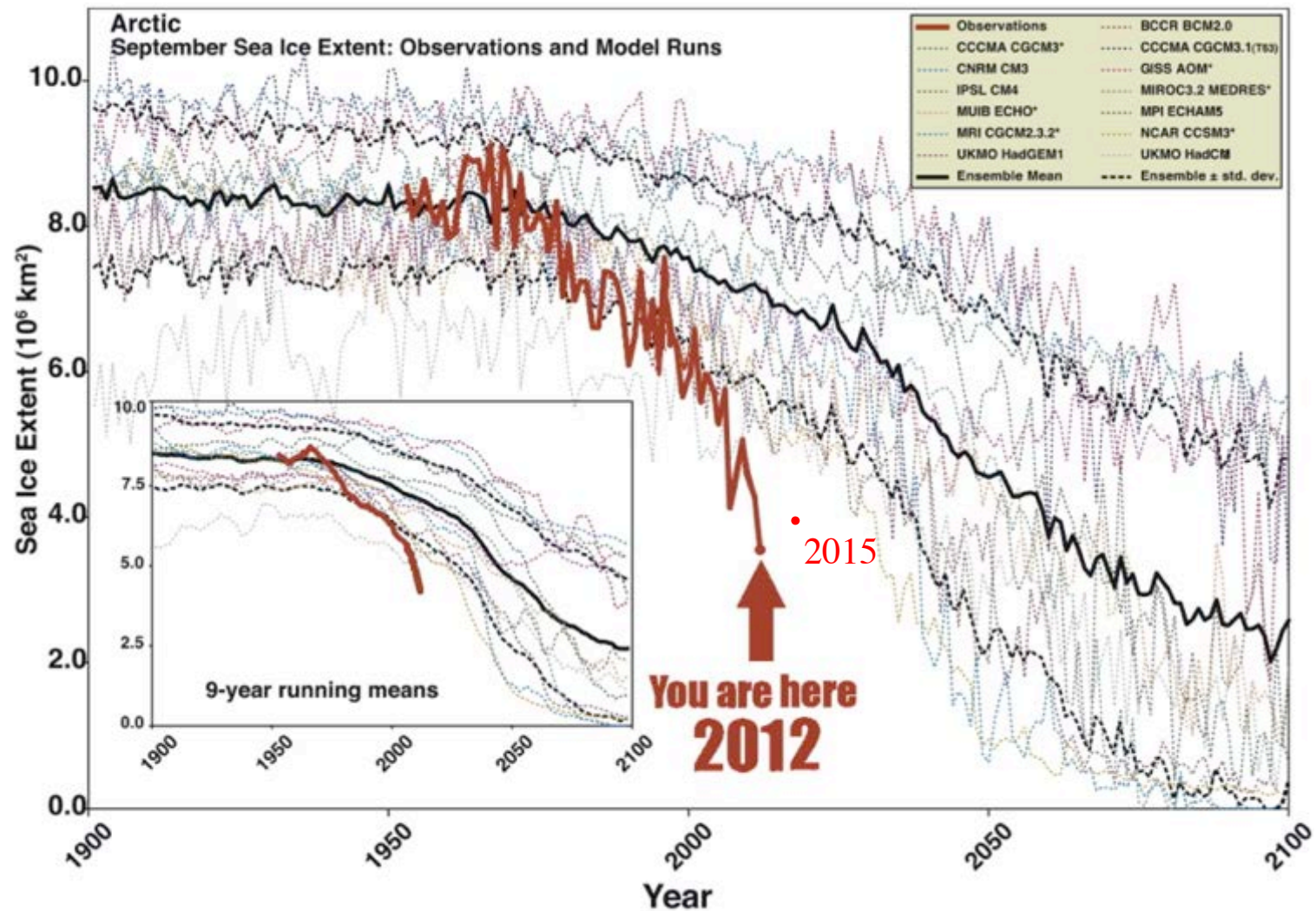
But they can predict:

- Current teleconnection patterns (e.g., ENSO)
- Past climates (back 65My BP years)
- Recent past climates (1000's y BP)
- Current Global warming trends
- Current Arctic trends

*Model are actually conservative on most predictions relative to observations*





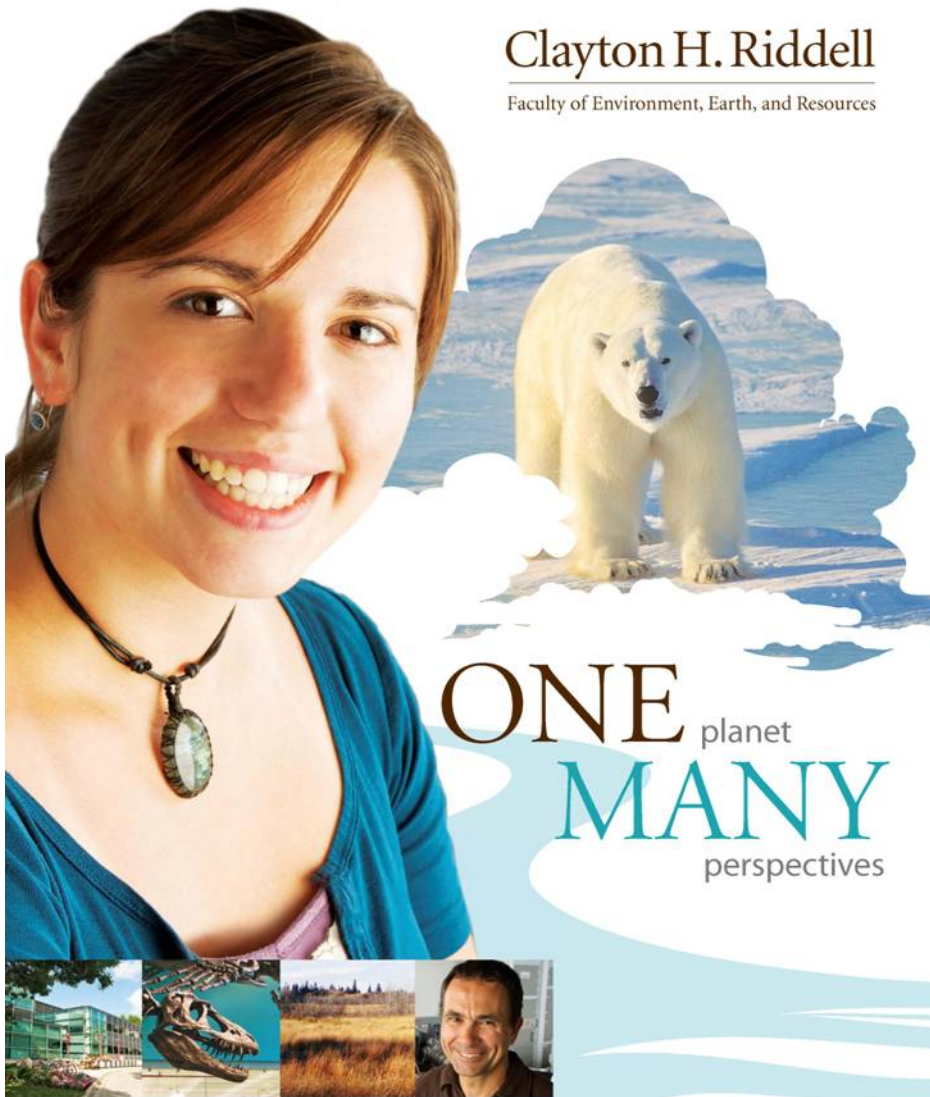


Sea ice minimum (Observed) relative to IPCC model estimates (CMIP3)



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**What can the Arctic tell us?**



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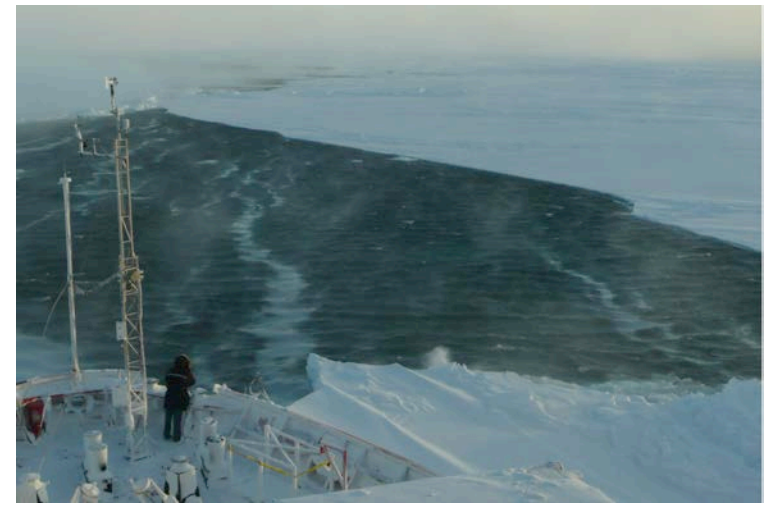
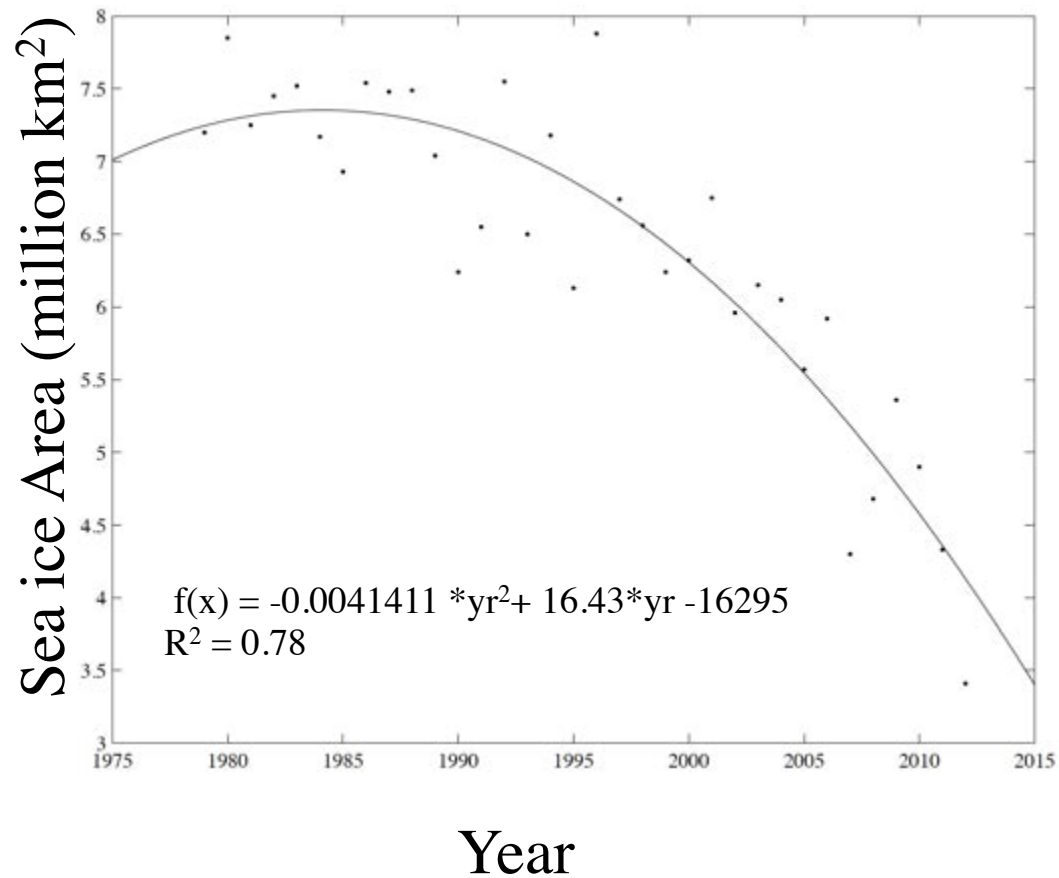


## Sea Ice and Climate Change





## Reduction in the Sea Ice summer minimum - winter?



January, 2008



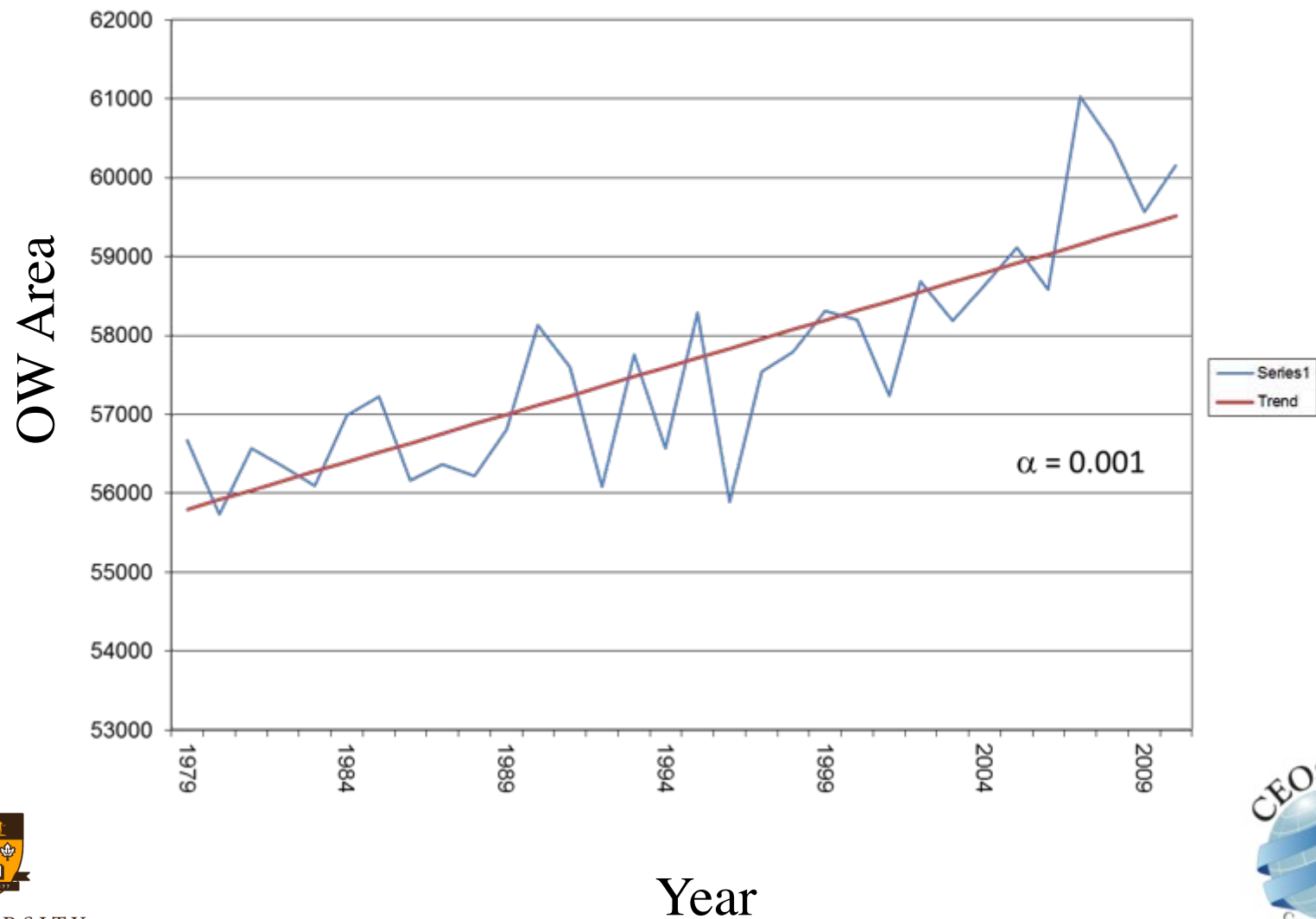
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# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)

September

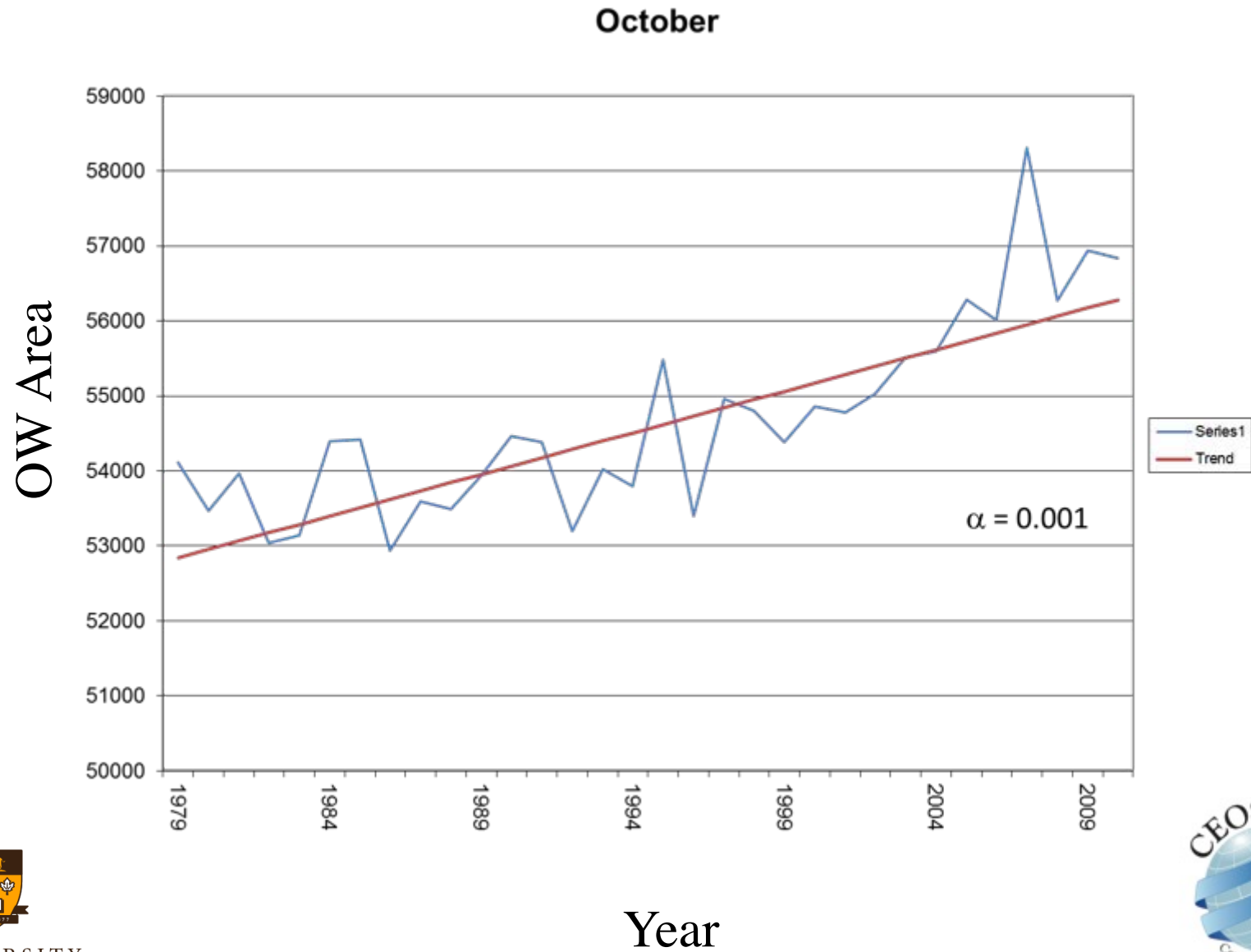


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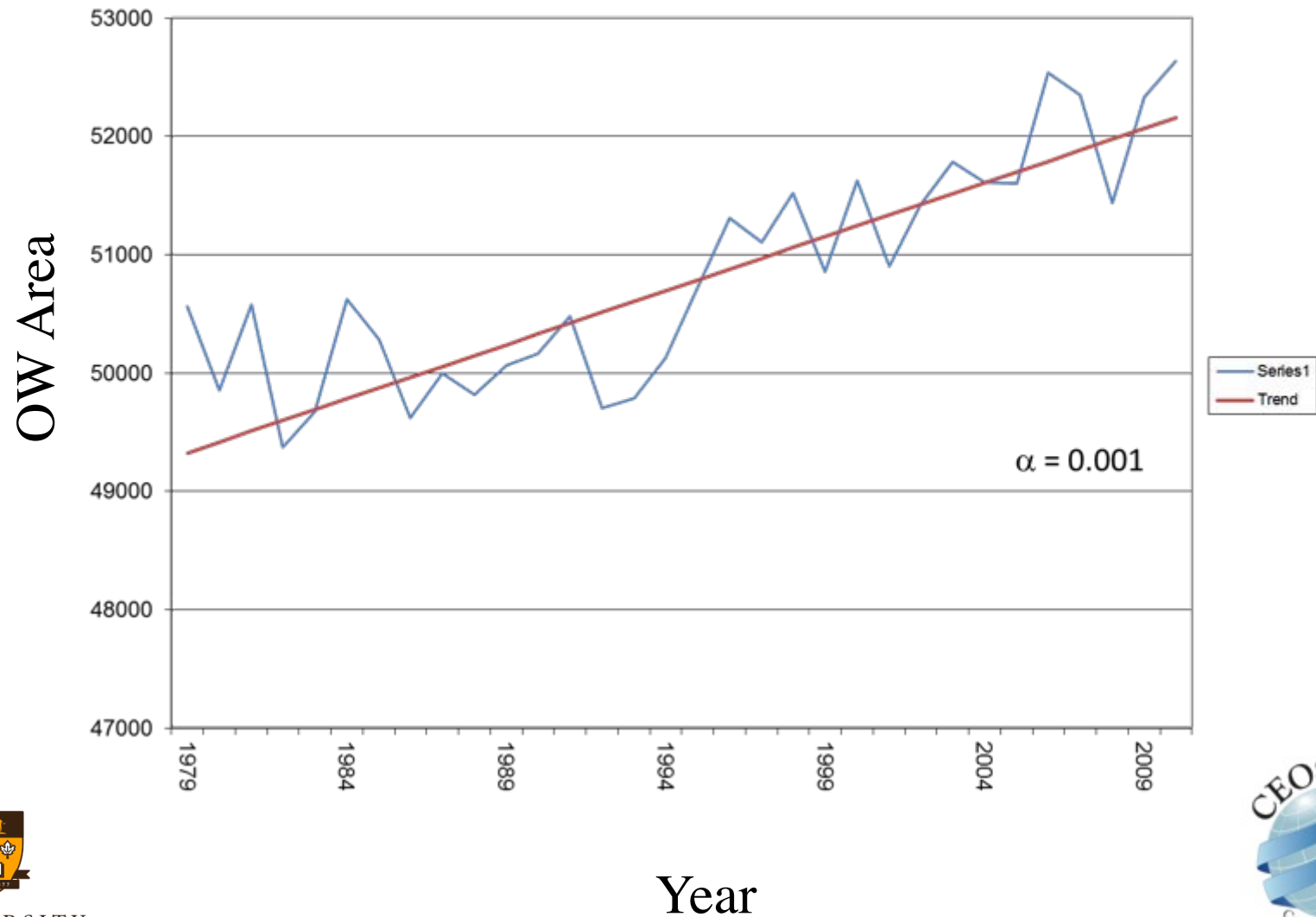
# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)





# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)

November

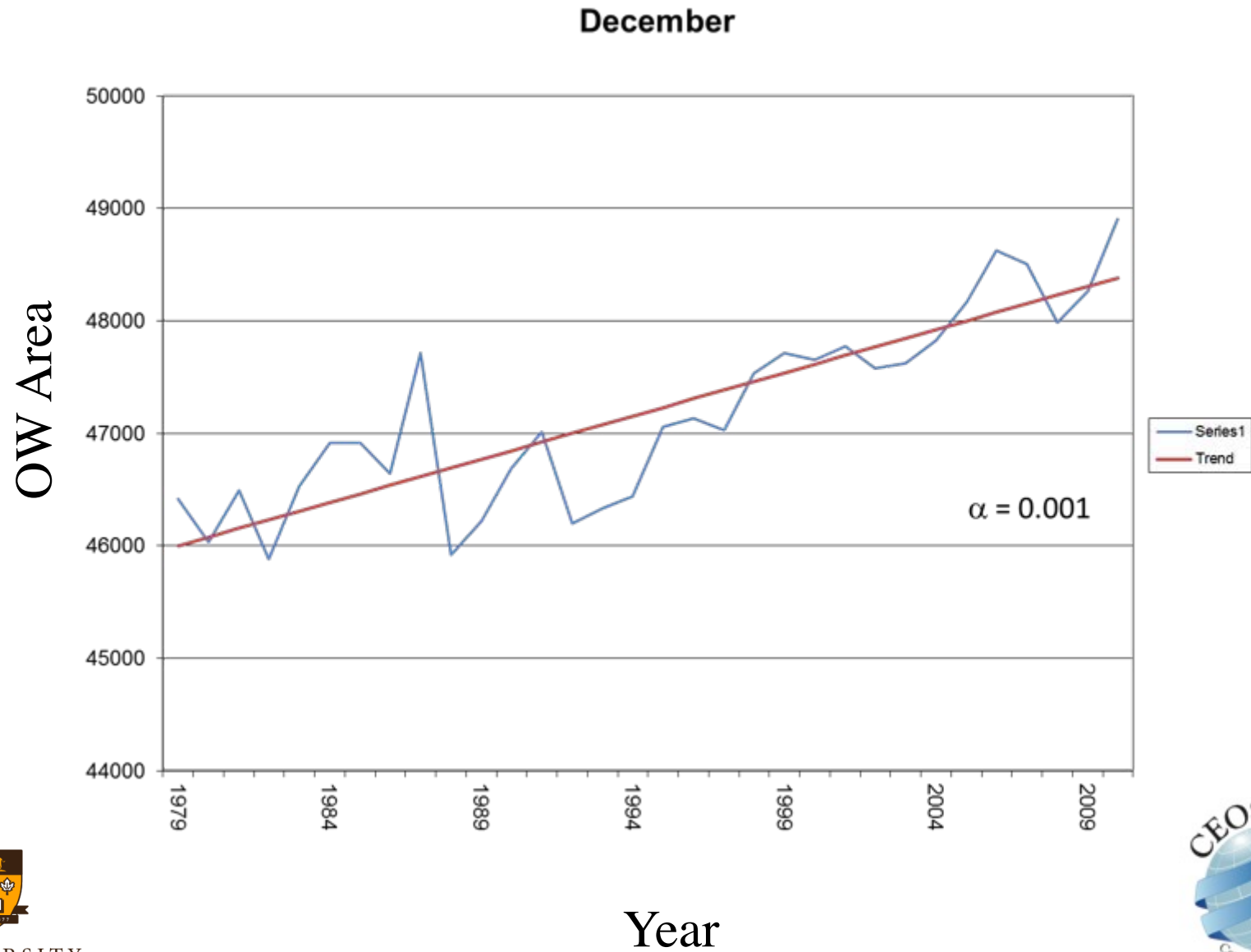


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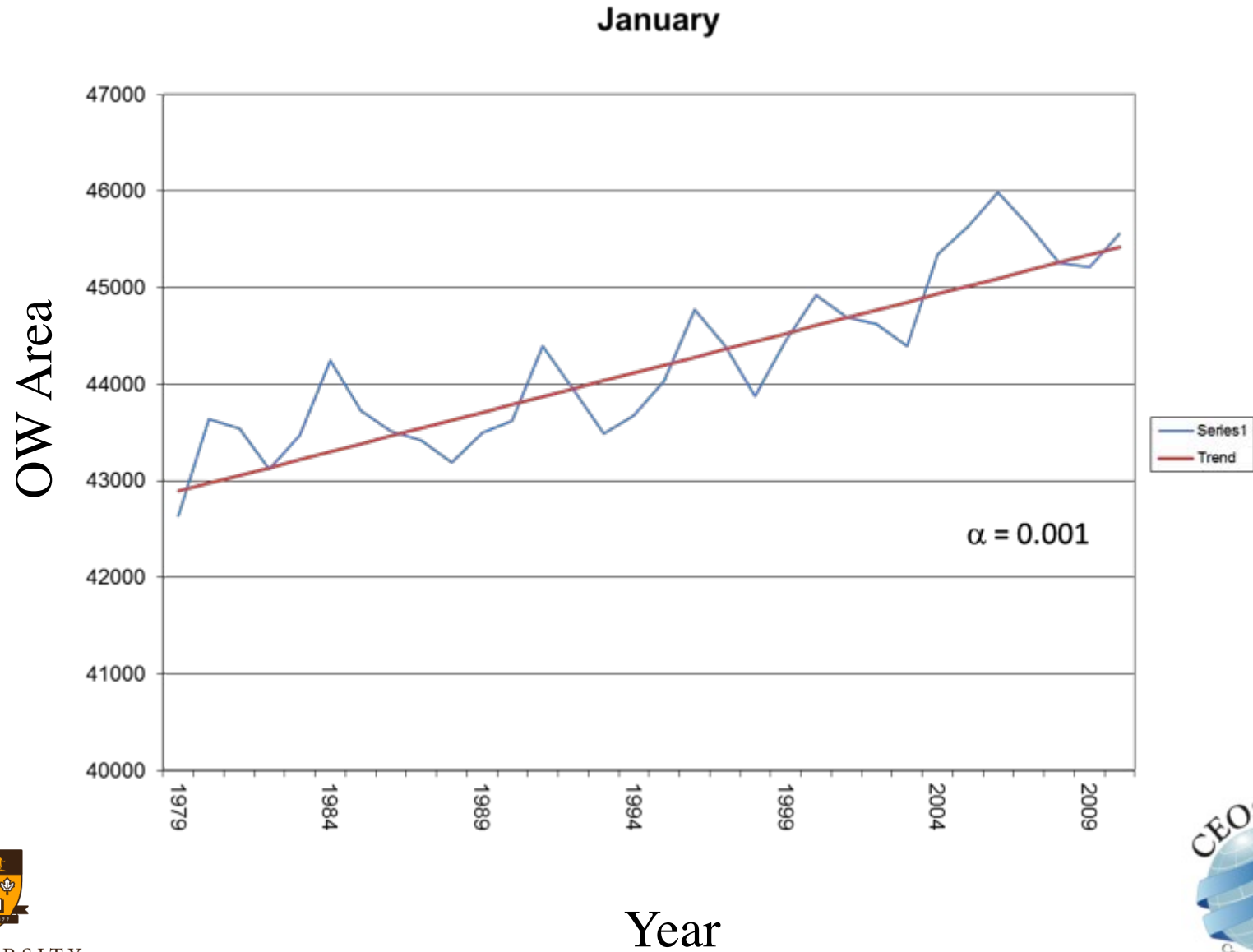


# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)



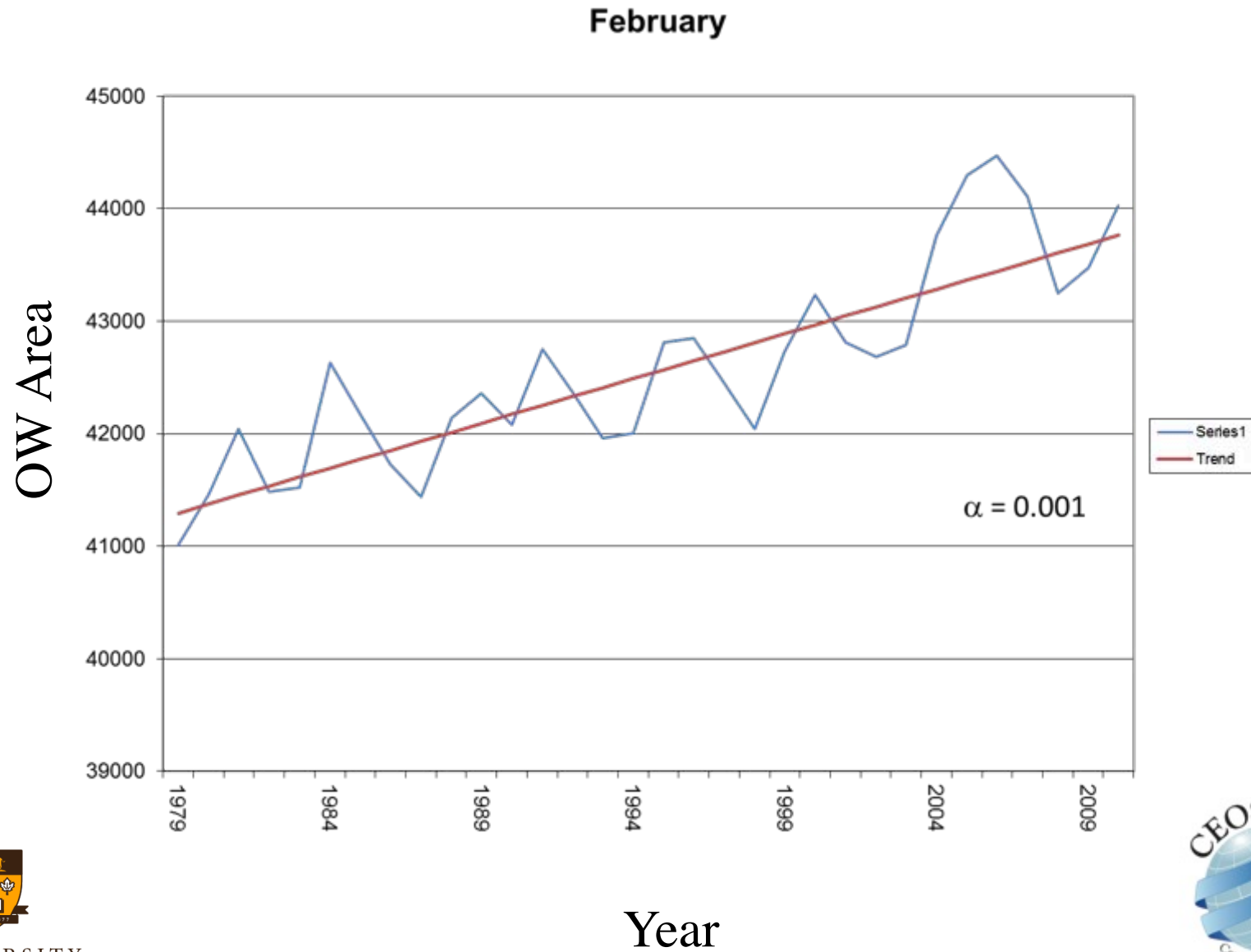


# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)



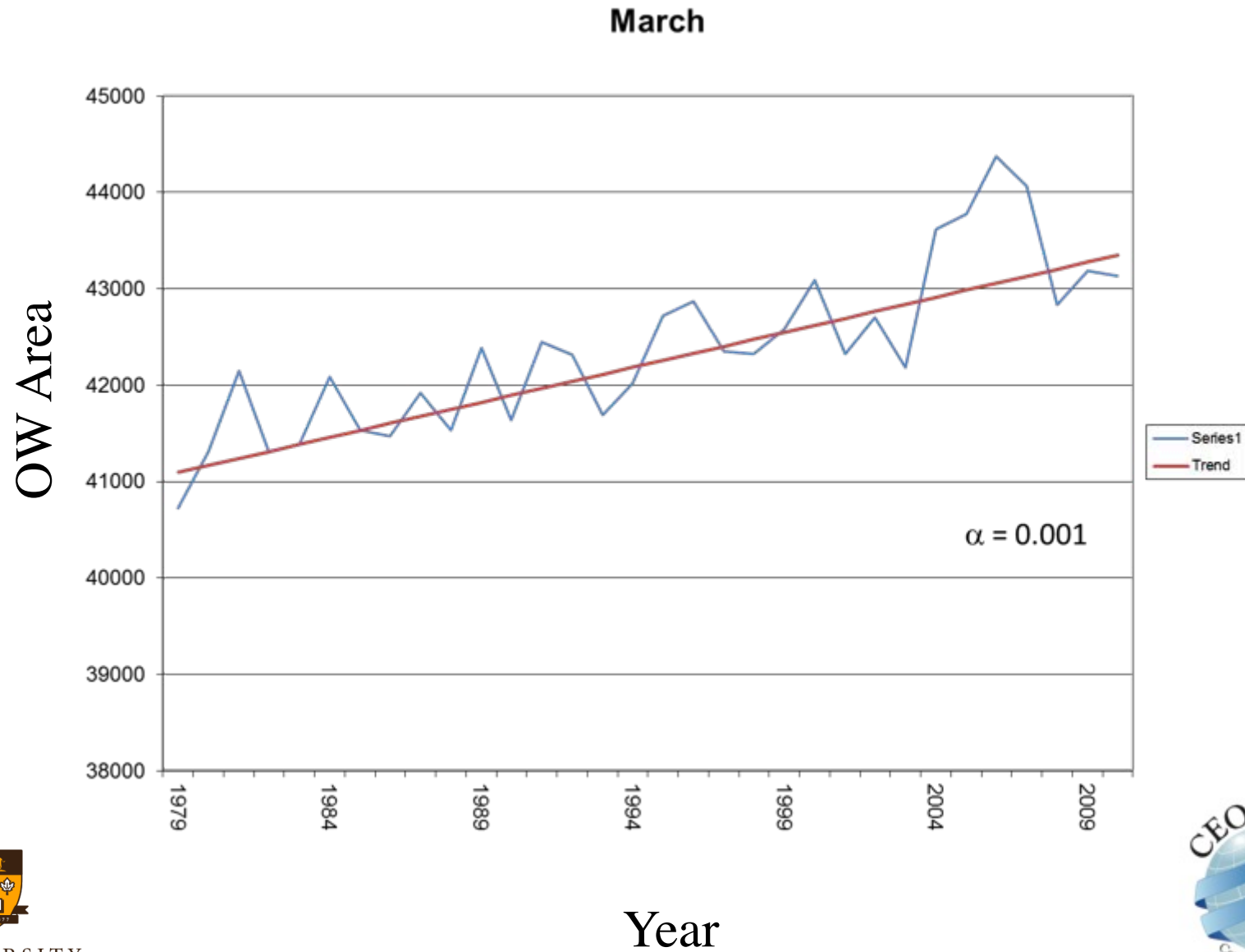


# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)





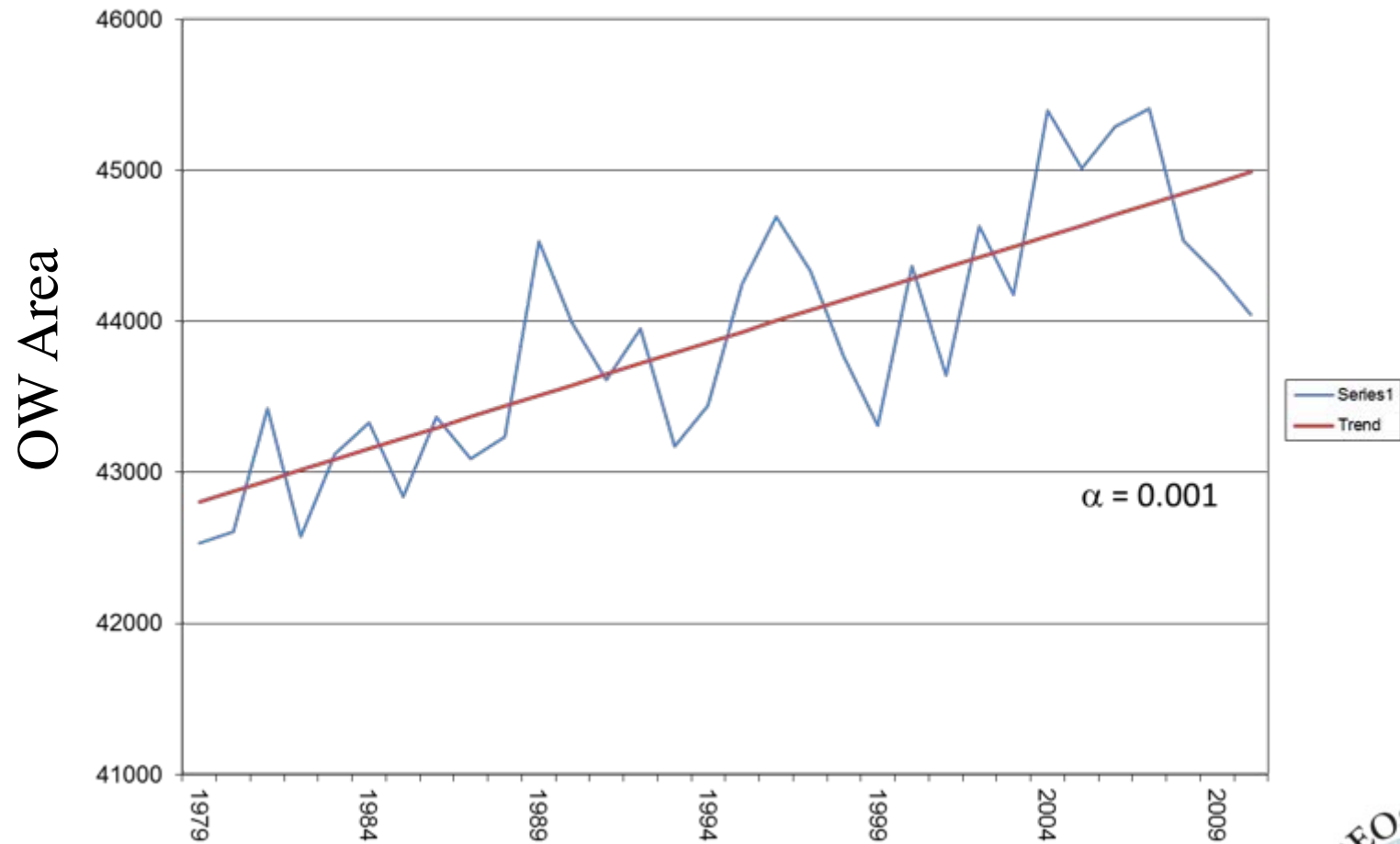
# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)





# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)

April



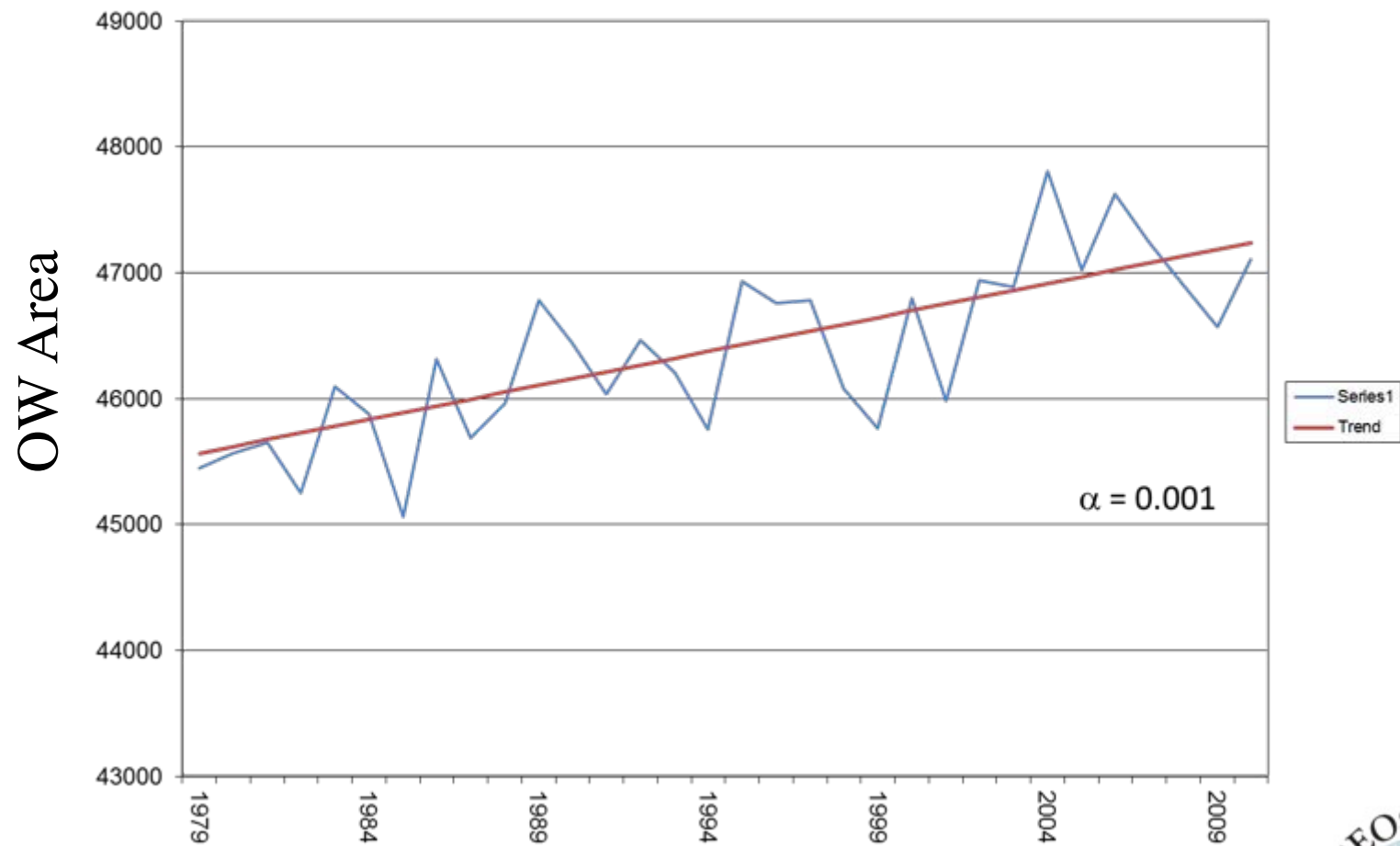
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# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)

May



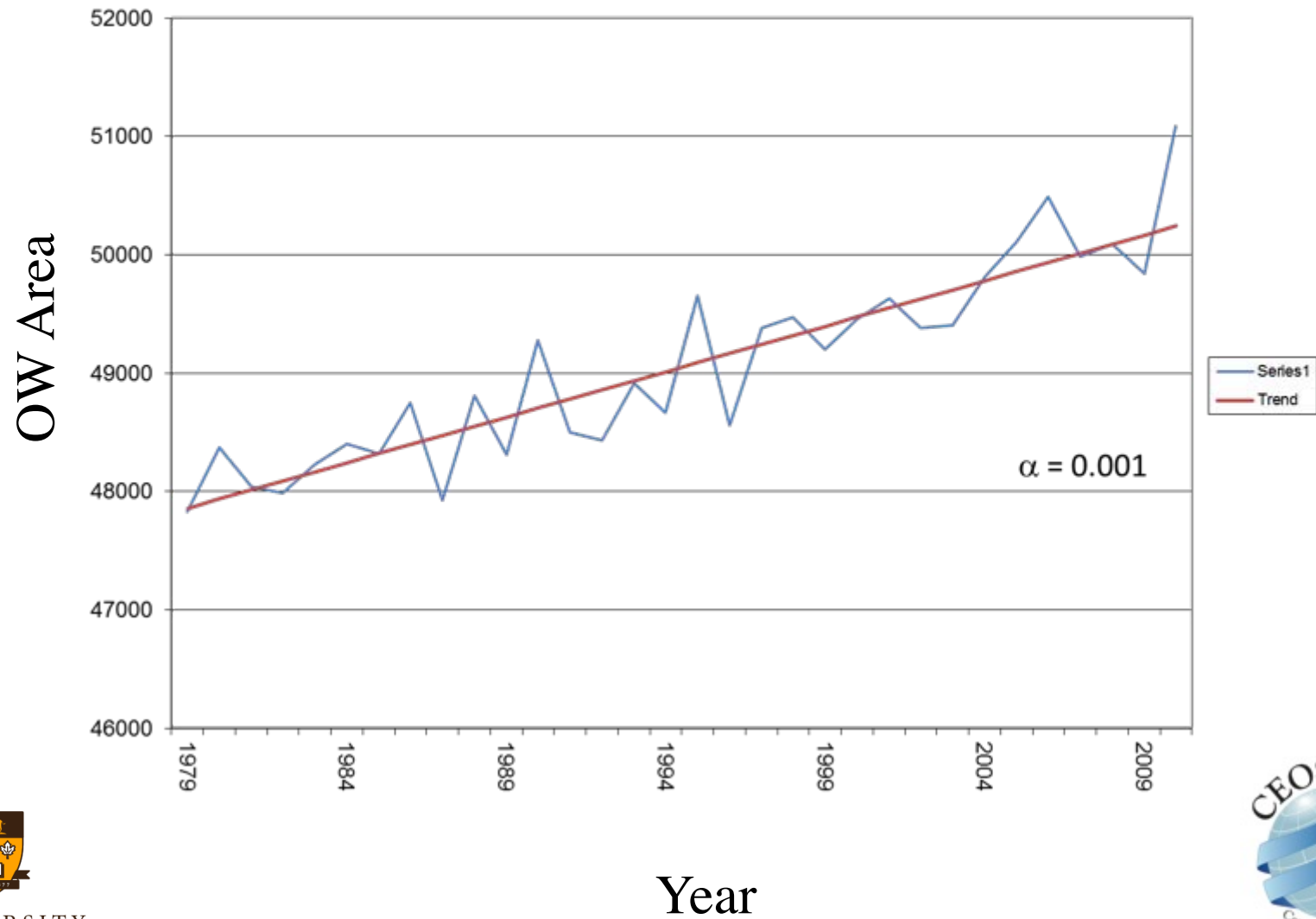
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# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)

June



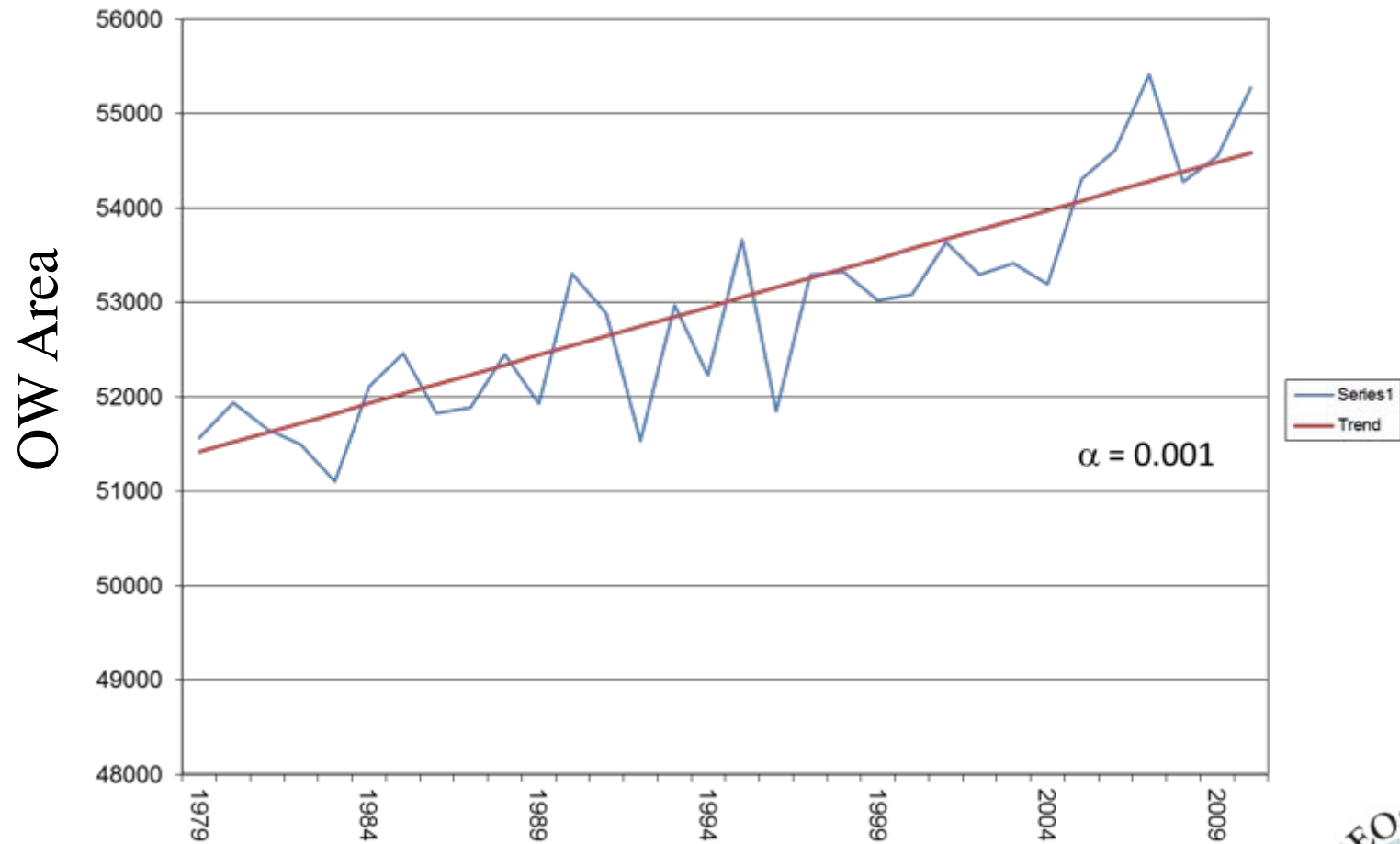
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# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)

July



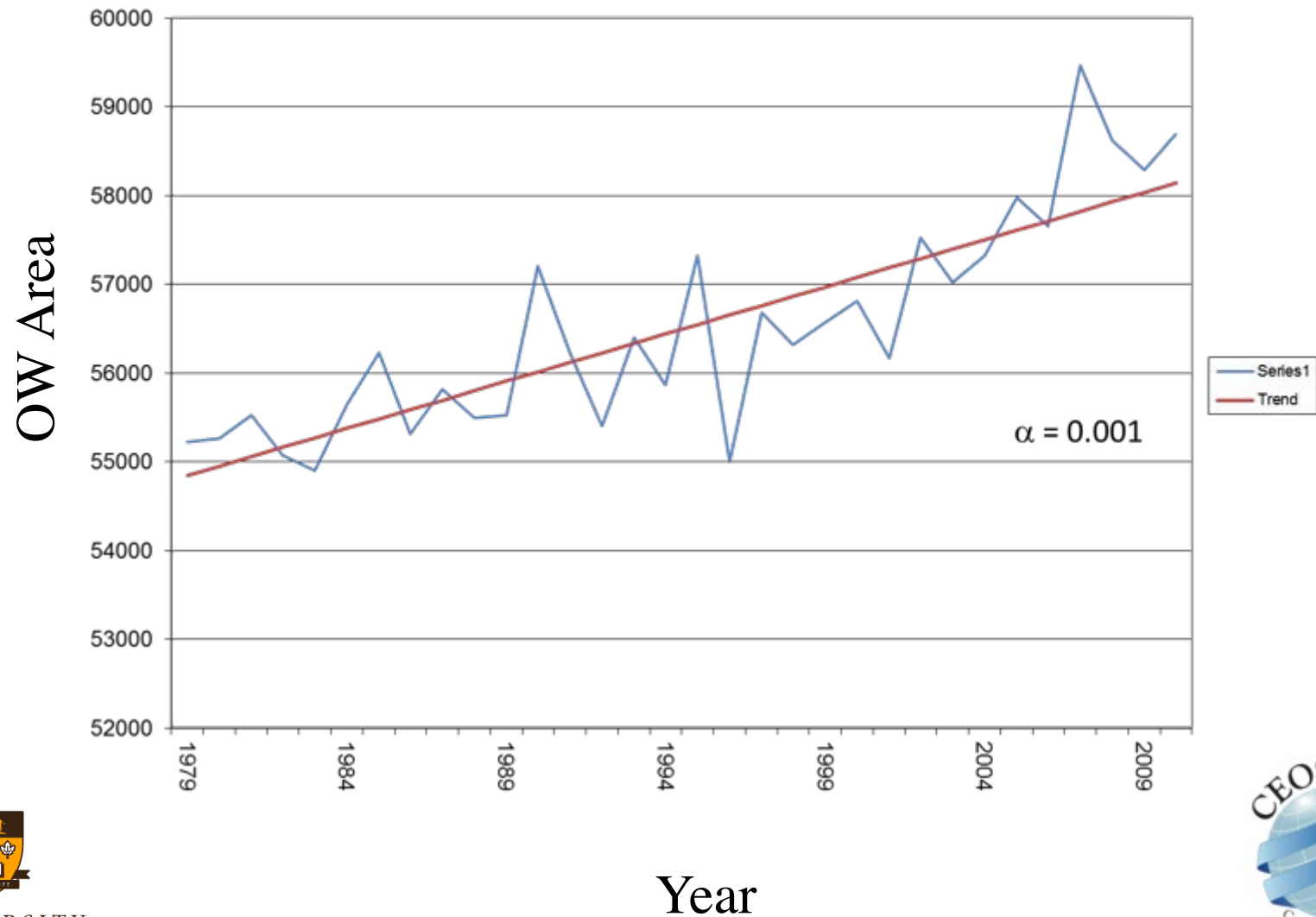
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# Trend in Open Water by Month (1979 – 2010)

August

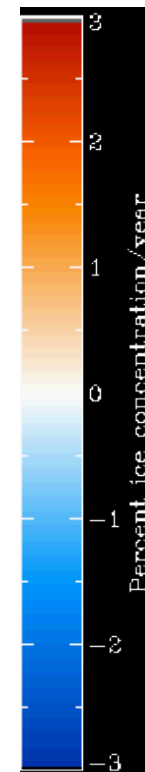
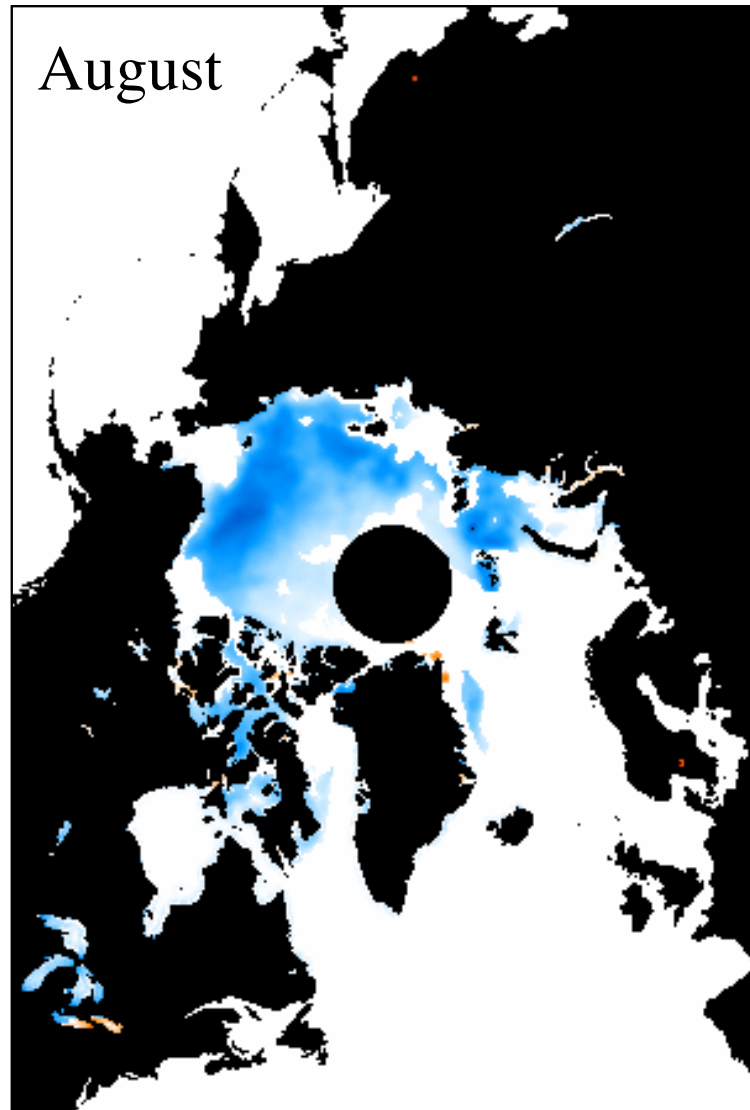


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Trends in Percent  
change in SIC  
 $\alpha \leq 0.05$



Barber et al. 2015

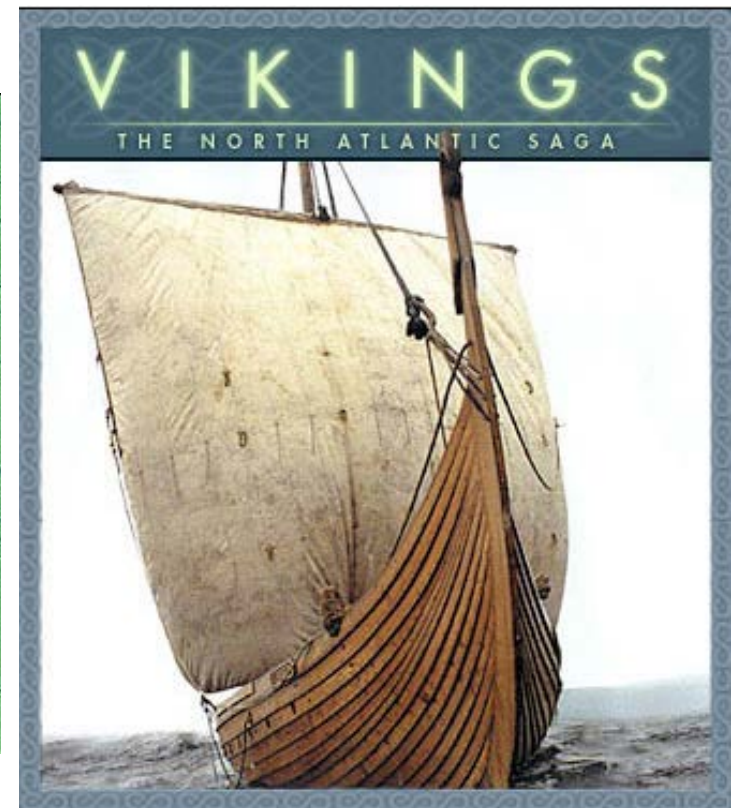
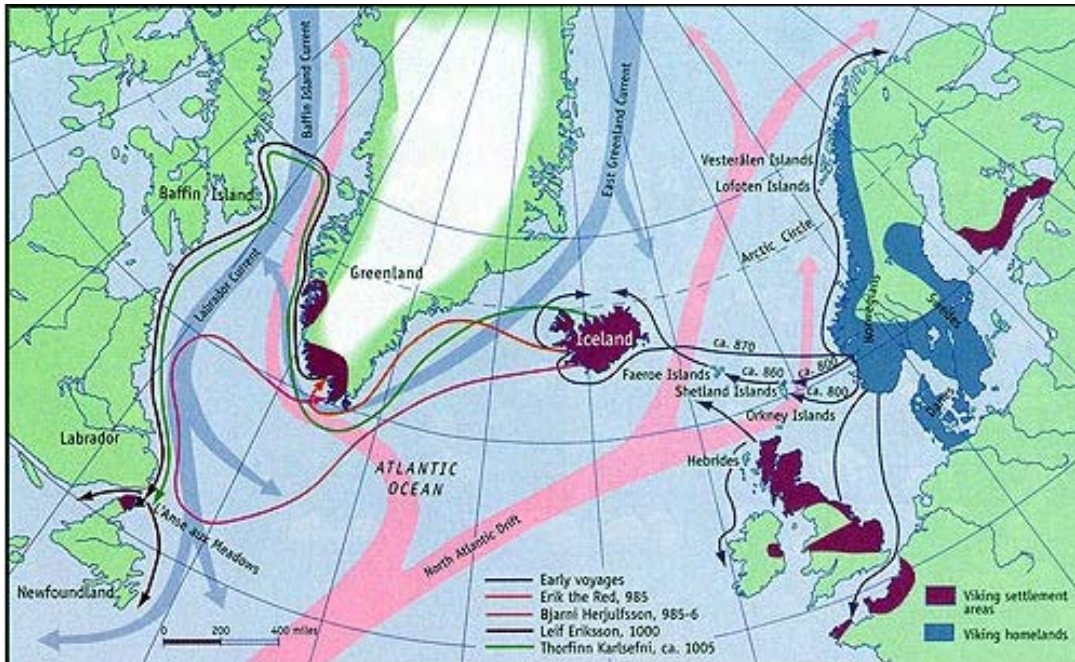


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# So how significant is this change?

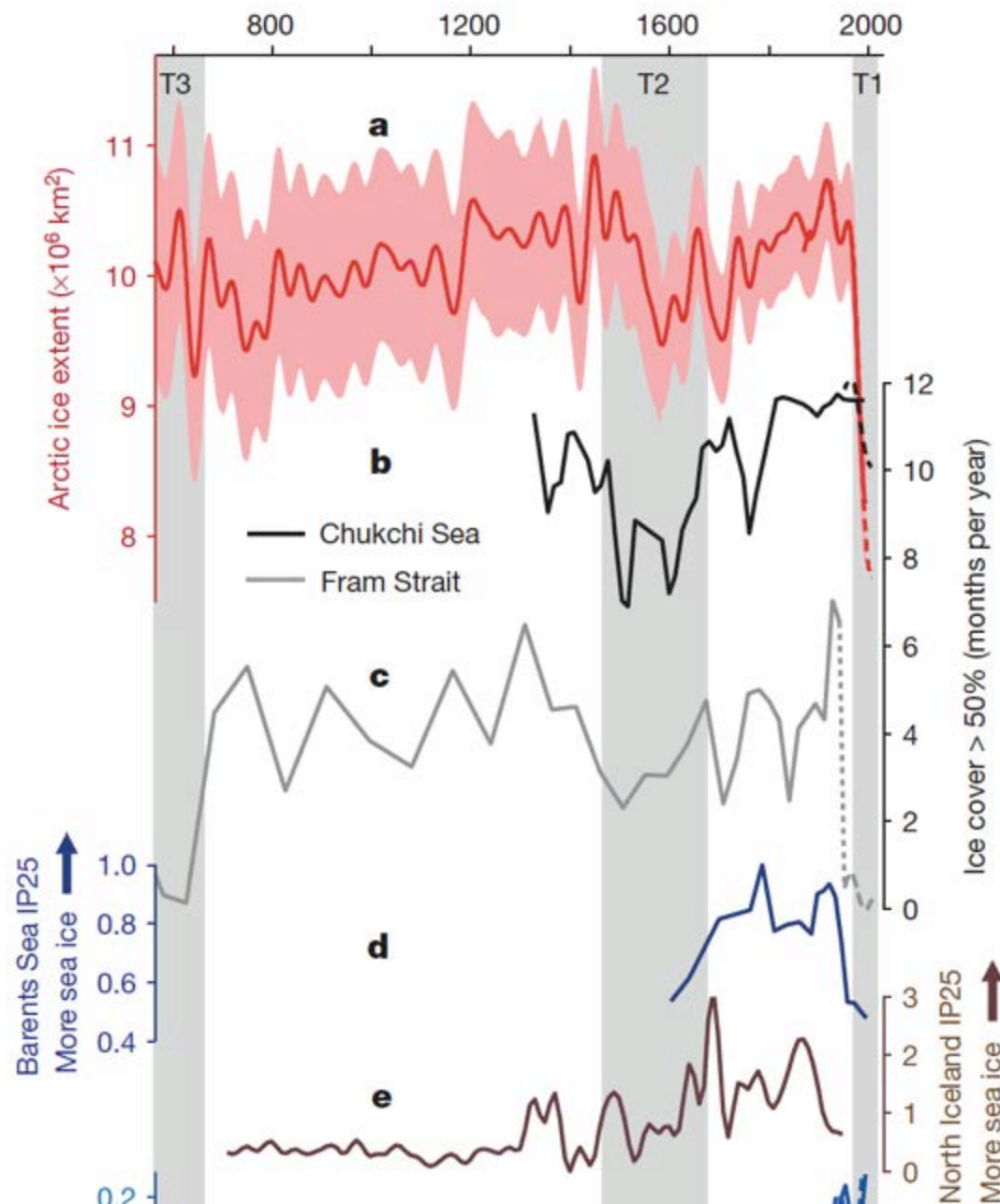


## The Medieval Warm Period



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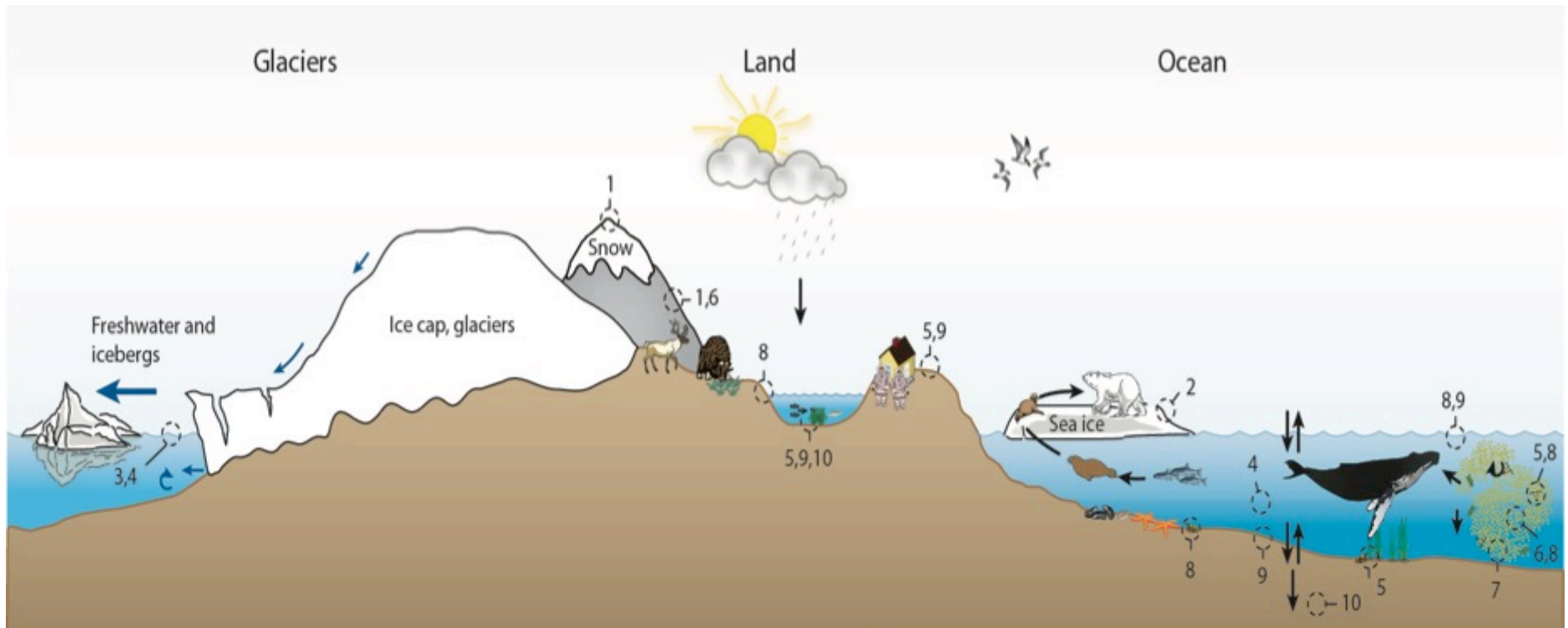




So how significant is this change?



# Glacial freshwater fluxes

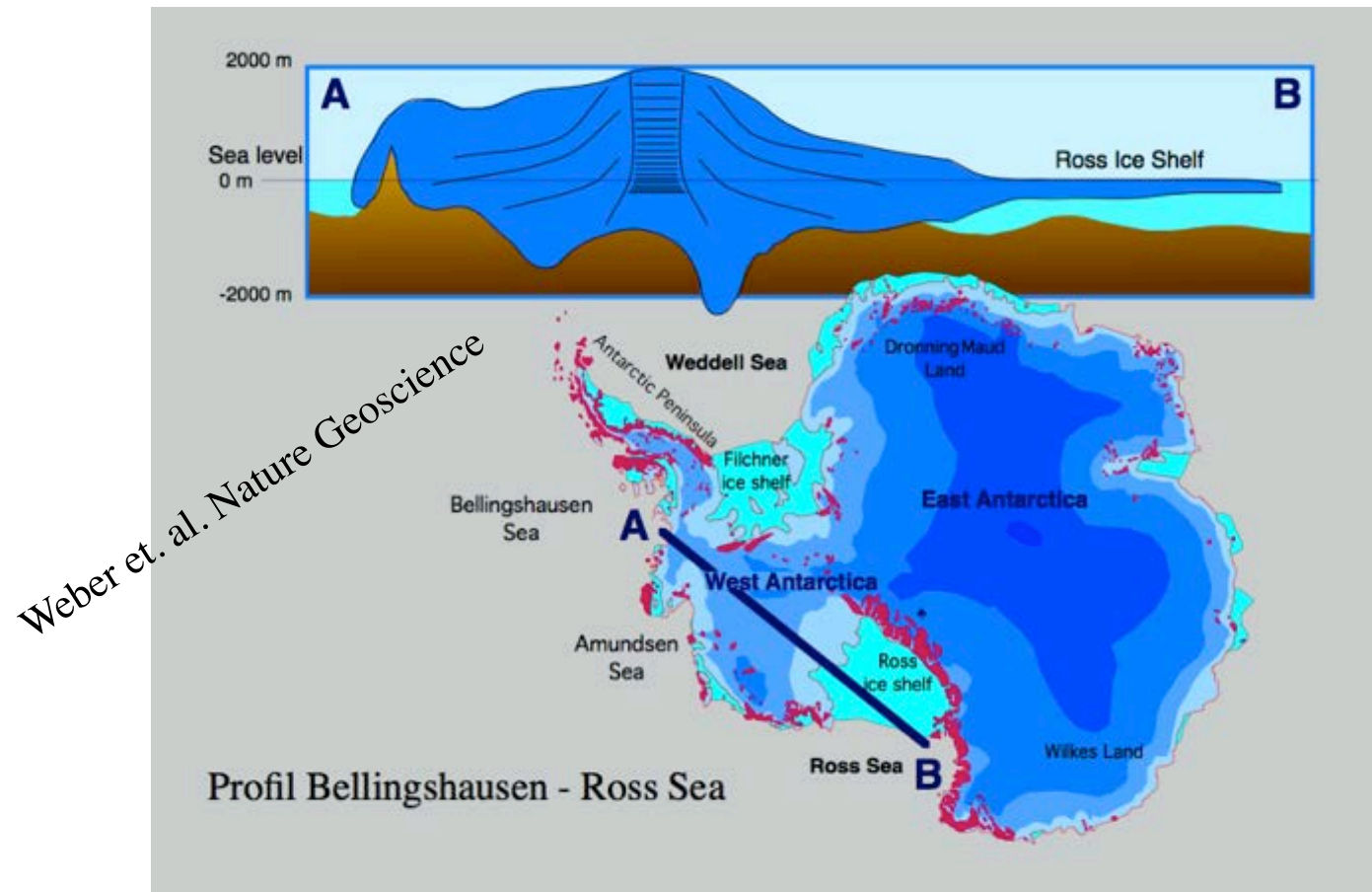


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# Glacial freshwater fluxes



Inevitable collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Shelves (Joughin et al 2014; and Rignot et al. 2014)



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## Glacial freshwater fluxes



Zachariae Isstrom (NE Greenland) glacier enters period of rapid retreat contributing 0.5M of sea level rise equivalent



## Glacial freshwater fluxes

Melt  
descending  
into a moulin,  
a vertical shaft  
carrying water  
to ice sheet  
base.

*Source: Roger Braithwaite,  
University of Manchester  
(UK)*



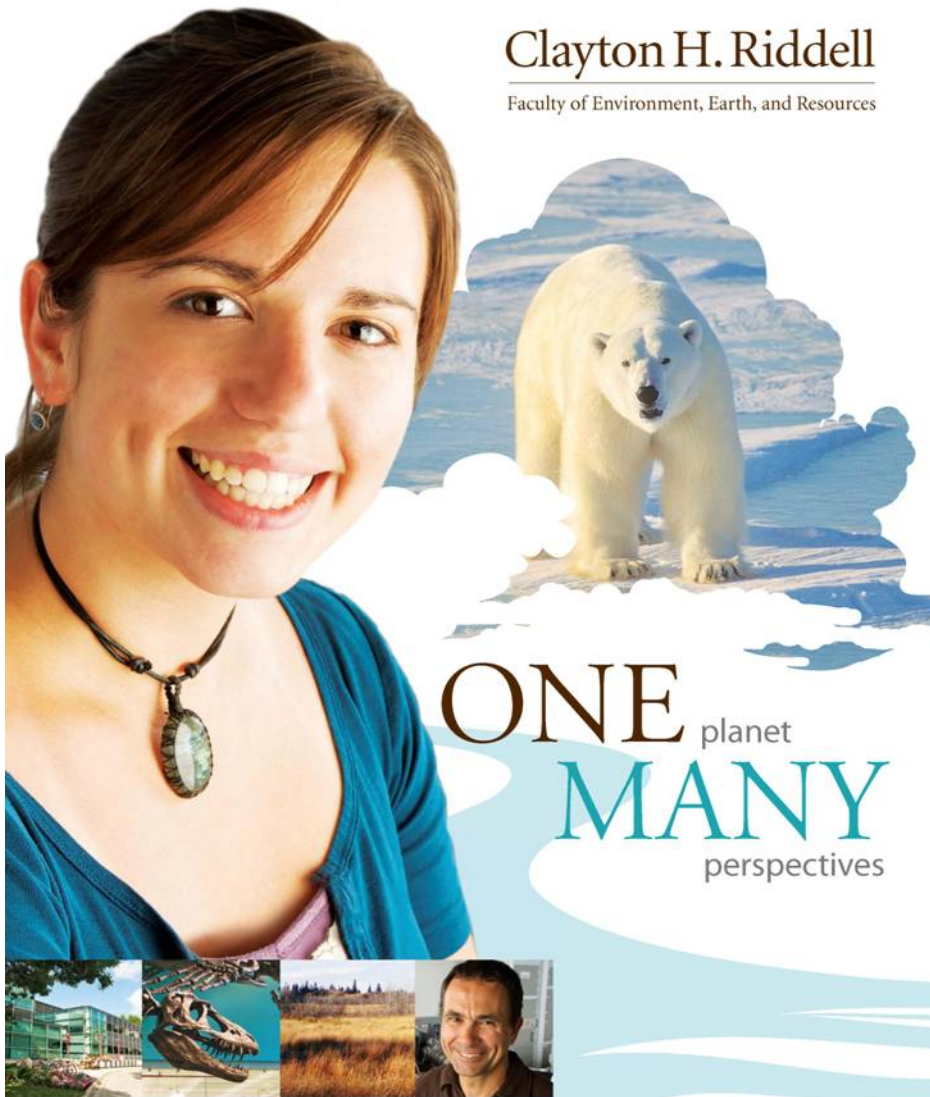
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**How we do our work**



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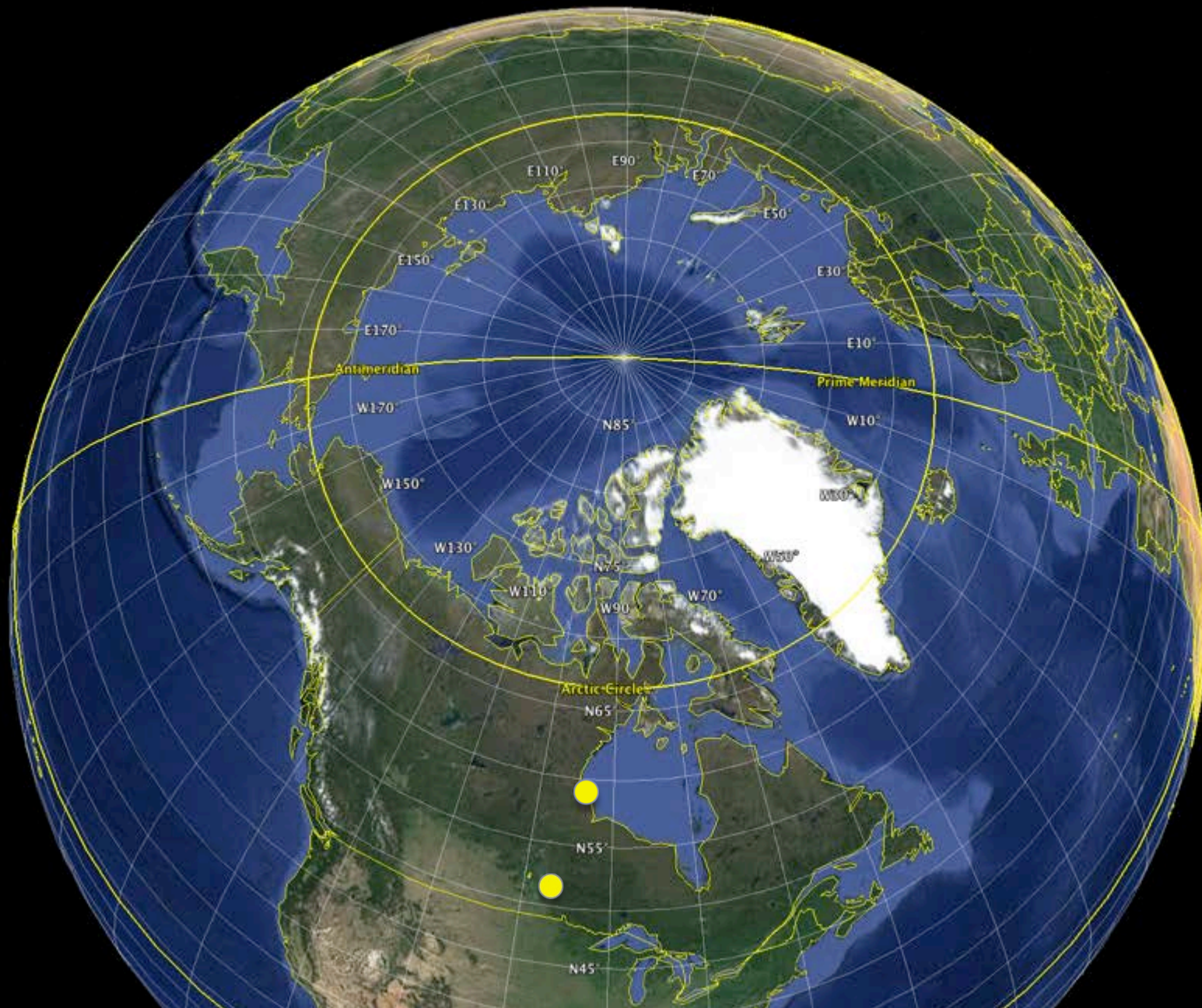


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# Arctic Marine Research in Prairie Canada







### Tenure Track Faculty (18)

Barber, David (CRC)  
 Rysgaard, Soeren (CERC)  
 Wang, Feiyue (CRC\*)  
 Stern, Gary  
 Lot Shafi (CRC)  
 Puyan Majobi  
 Mundy, C.J.  
 Kuzyk Zou. Zou.  
 Ehn, Jens. E.  
 Hanesiak, John  
 Papakyriakou, Tim  
 Halden, Norman  
 Iacozza, John  
 Hansen, Mark  
 Stewart, Ron  
 \*3 new faculty\*

### Research Faculty (9)

Dmitrenko, Igor  
 Galley, Ryan  
 Lui, George  
 Lukovich, Jennifer  
 McCullough, Greg  
 Raddatz, Rick  
 Hubert, Casey  
 Ogi, Masayo  
 Puko, Monika

### Adjunct Faculty (8)

MacDonald, Robbie  
 Michel, Christine  
 Ferguson, Steve  
 Prinsenberg, Simon  
 Loseto, Lisa  
 Miller, Lisa  
 Hammill, Mike  
 Gosselin, Michel

35 MSc, 30 PhD, 17 PDF, 28 Tech/admin = 135 staff



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## ARCTIC SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP



SEARCH



HOME

NEWS & EVENTS

RESEARCH

EDUCATION

COMMUNICATION

ABOUT ASP

CONTACT US

CENTRE FOR EARTH  
OBSERVATION SCIENCE  
(CEOS)

GREENLAND CLIMATE  
RESEARCH CENTRE  
(GCRC)

ARCTIC RESEARCH  
CENTRE (ARC)



### THE ARCTIC SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP

is a new and extensive  
Greenlandic-Danish-Canadian  
research collaboration,  
bringing together  
the world's leading  
Arctic climate scientists.



### EXPLORE THE ARCTIC

Click on the icons below to observe sea ice  
extent, and to see the locations of  
research facilities and ASP research  
projects.



CERC Program

>350 people

Totally Integrated Academic and  
Research Programs!



## First ASP planning meeting in Gimli - Canada





# ArcticNet

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One of 21 Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE)  
jointly funded by the 3 Research Councils of Canada.

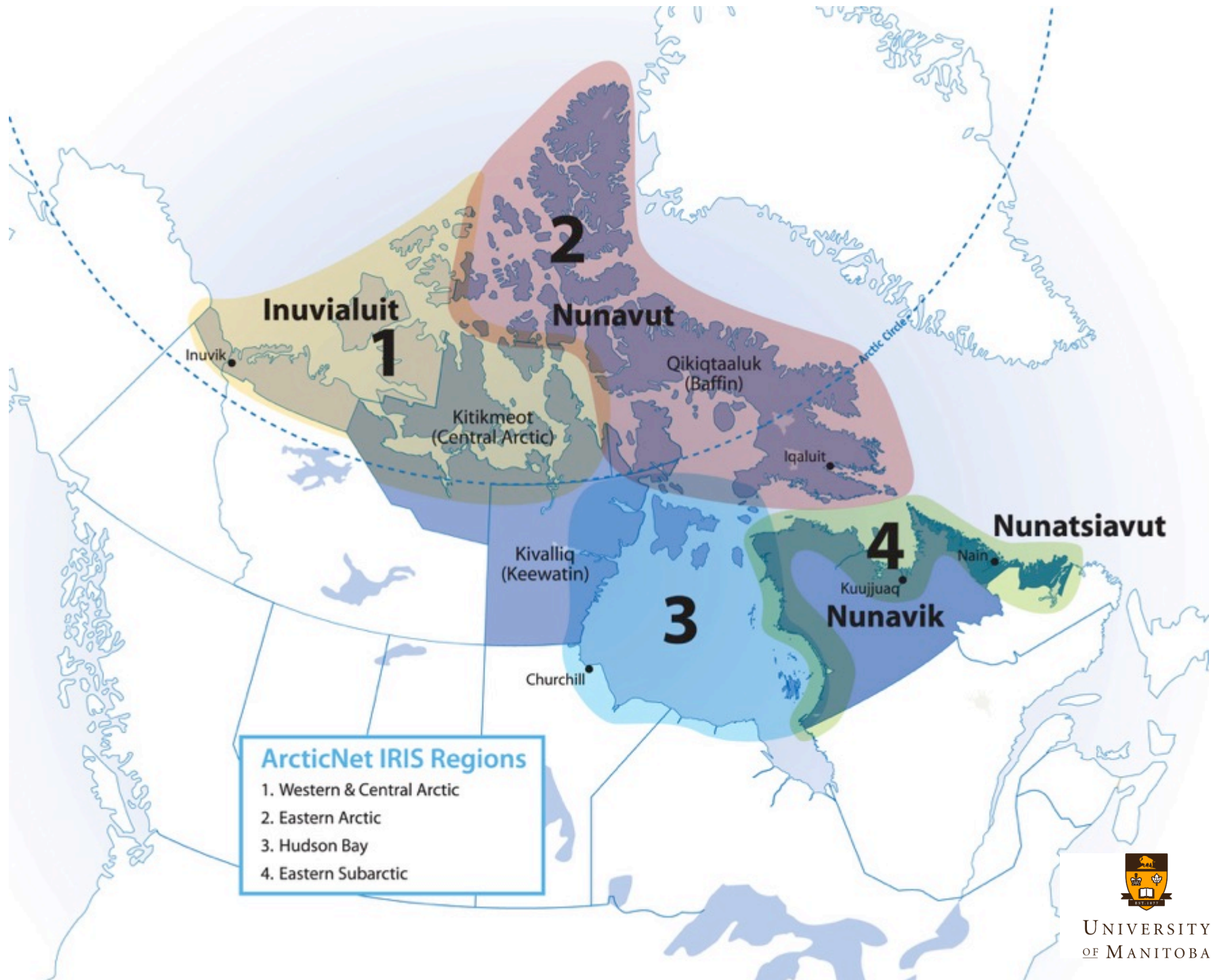
Funded for 7 years (2004-2011)  
with possibility of 14 years (2004-2018)  
\$CDN 6.4 Million from NCE per year

\$CDN 9.2M from NCE per year (2011-2018)

Canada

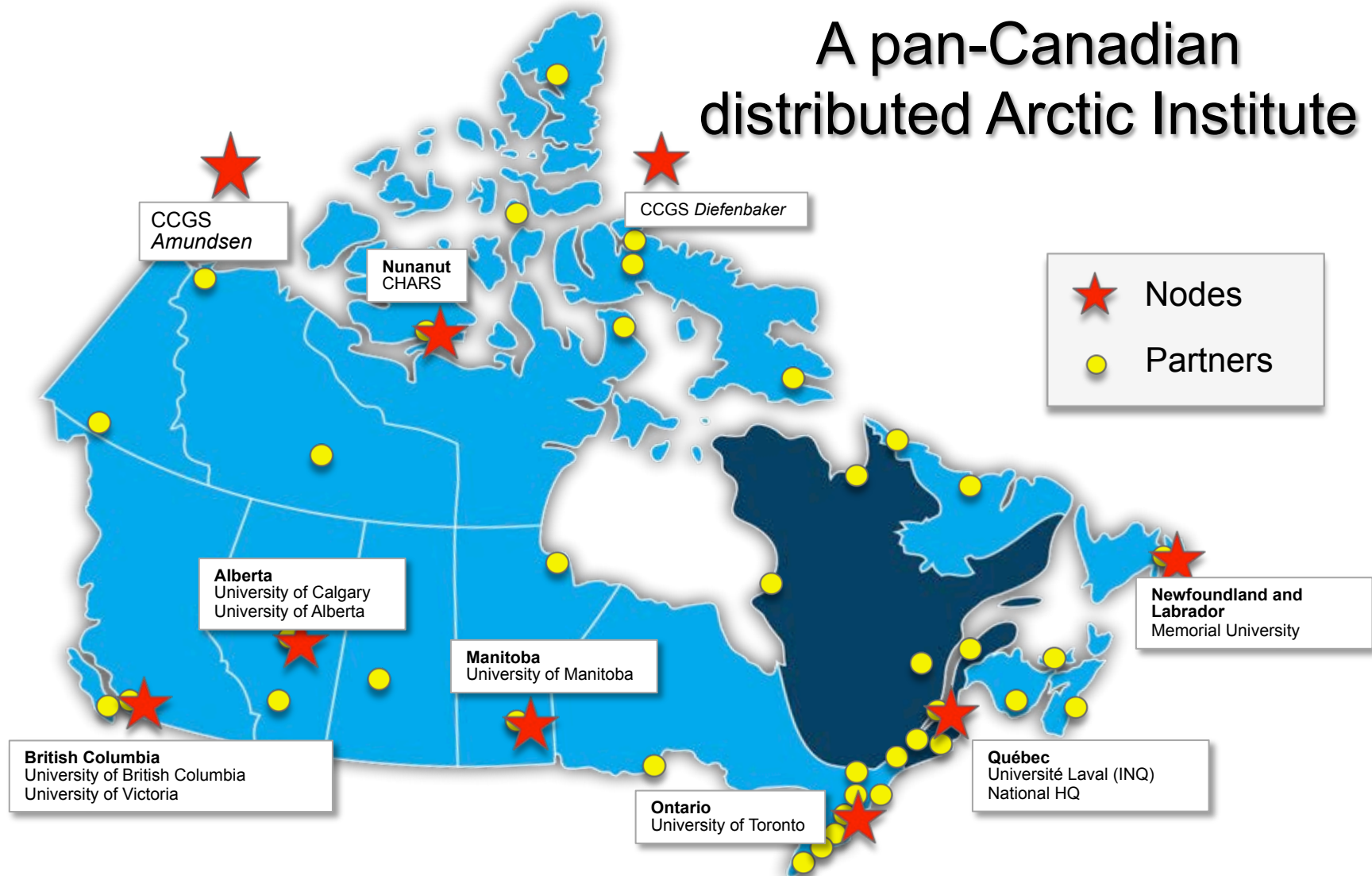




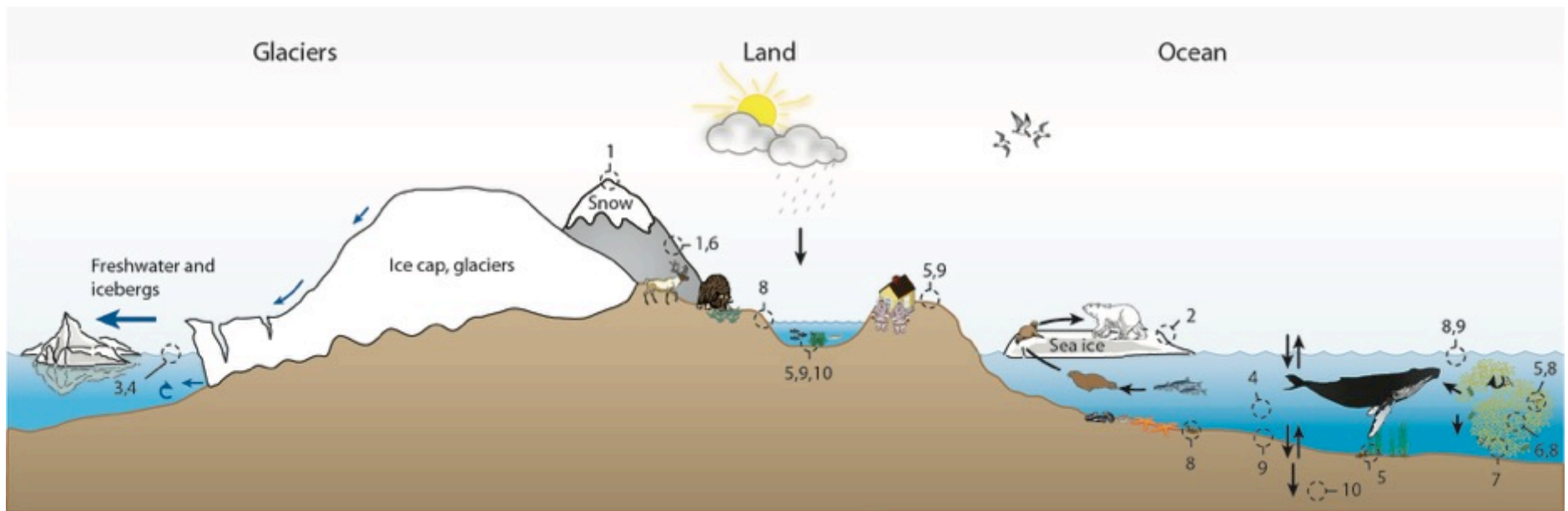




# A pan-Canadian distributed Arctic Institute







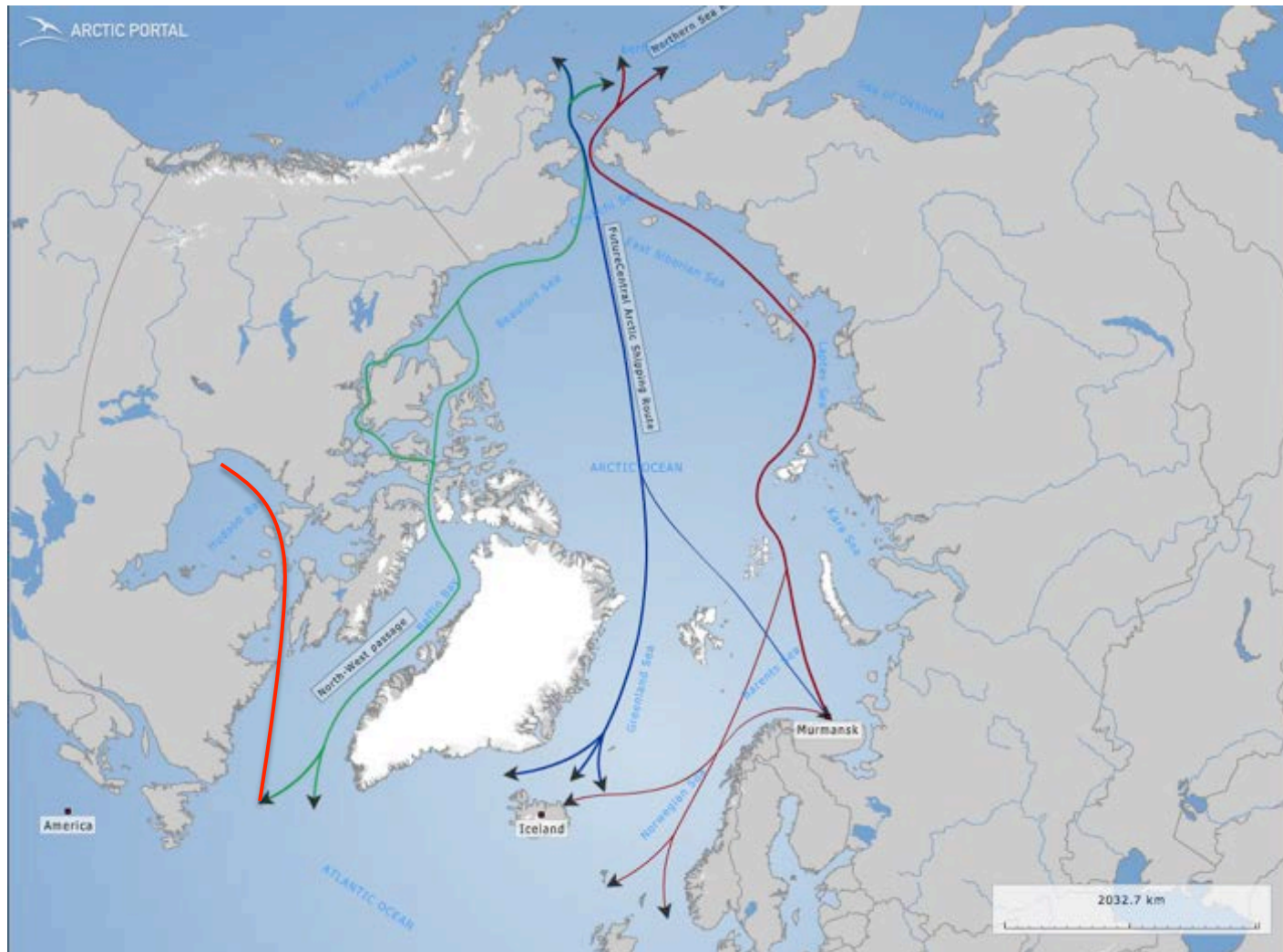
- Sea Ice physics
- Meteorology
- Climate Change
- Paleo science
- Biogeochemistry
- Carbon fluxes
- Ecosystems
- Shelf-ice
- Land-ice
- Techniques







# Opening of the Arctic





# Work with Industry





# Work with Industry



ArcticNet

▷▷<sup>5b</sup> C<sup>5b</sup>▷Γ<sup>b</sup> ▷P<sub>Γ</sub>σ◁<sup>5b</sup>Π<sup>c</sup>

\$14.7M

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LAVAL

**UQAR**

Université du Québec  
à Rimouski

UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

UNBC



TRENT UNIVERSITY



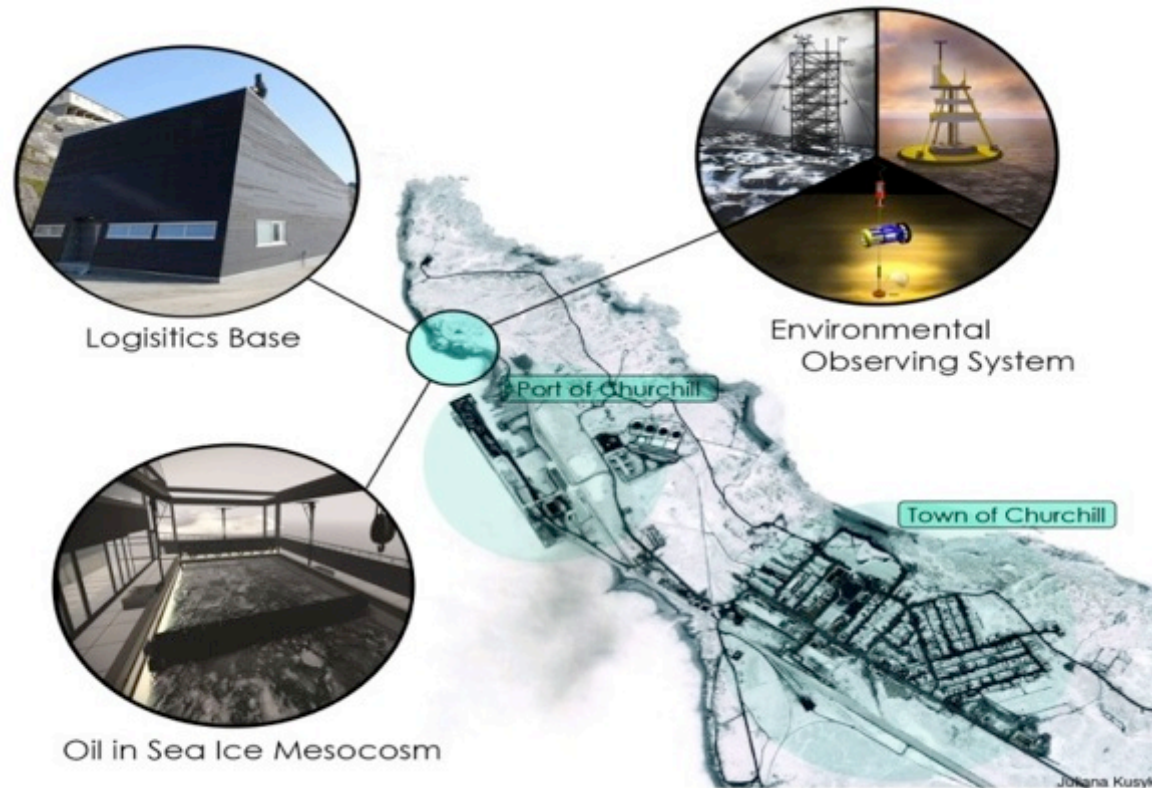
# Work with Industry





# The Churchill Marine Observatory (CMO)

*Science and Technology  
In support of Arctic Sustainable Development*



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\$31.8M capital and \$18M operating

INNOVATION.CA  
CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION | FONDATION CANADIENNE POUR L'INNOVATION



# The Churchill Marine Observatory (CMO)



## 1. Oil in Sea Ice Mesocosm (OSIM)

- ▶ labs

## 2. Environmental Observatory (EO)

- ▶ Atmosphere
- ▶ Ocean
- ▶ Ecosystem
- ▶ Contaminants
- ▶ Freshwater

## 3. Marina/Wharf

- ▶ Garage



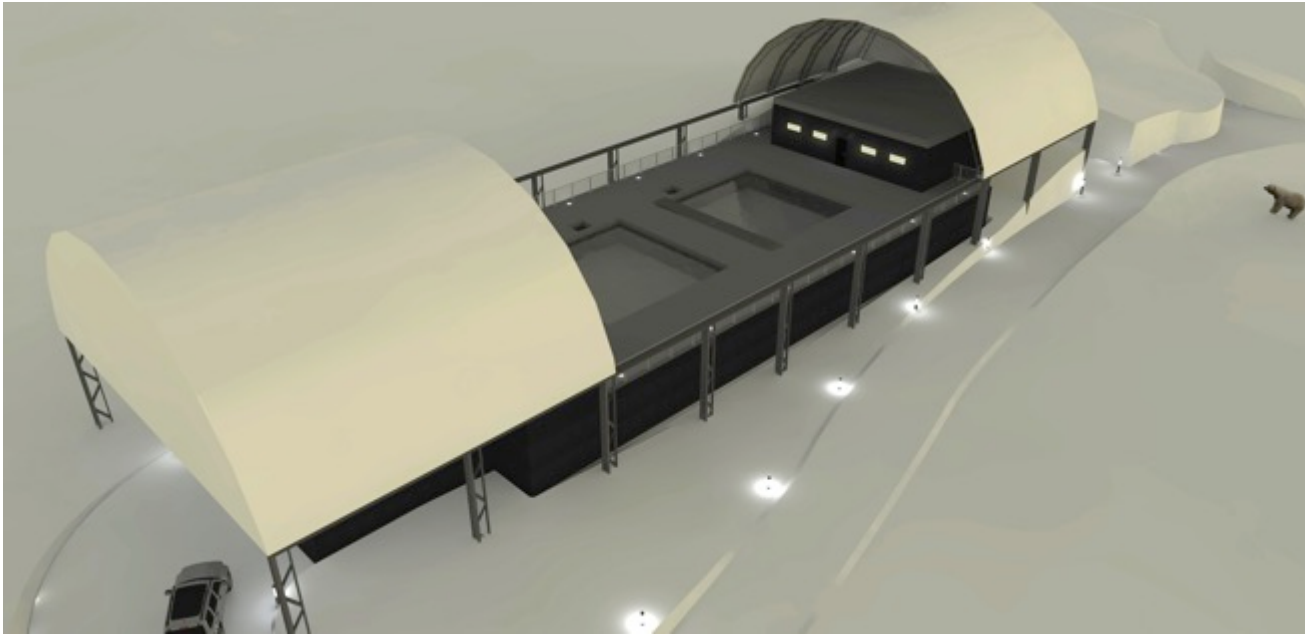
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# Oil in Sea Ice Mesocosm - OSIM

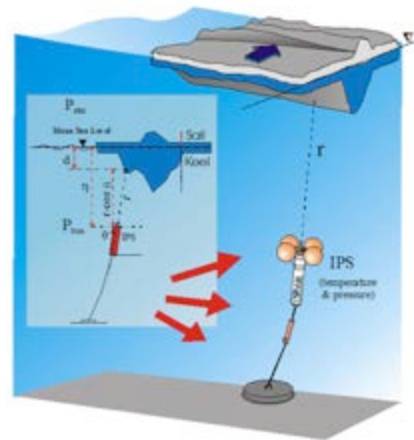
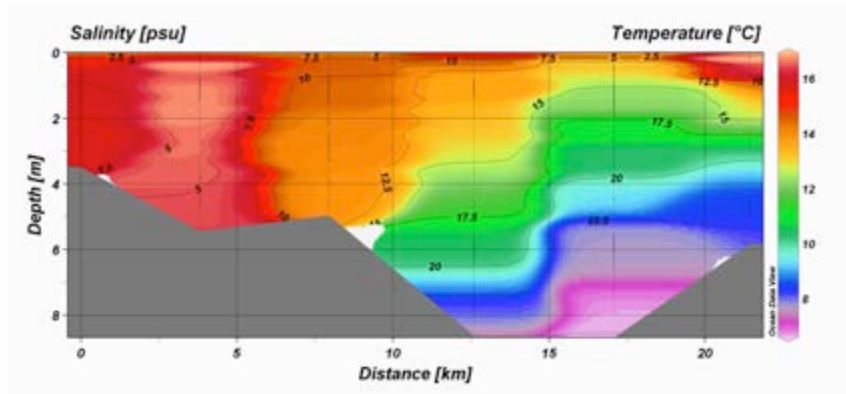


- ▶ A concept to allow controlled testing of the ocean, sea ice system response to oil, LNG, and contaminants.
- ▶ Science would concentrate on
  - ▶ **Detection** (of oil in sea ice)
  - ▶ **Impacts** (of oil spills on marine ecosystems)
  - ▶ **Mitigation** (of oil spills in sea ice using both genomics-enhanced bioremediation technologies and conventional techniques)



# Environmental Observatories (EOs)

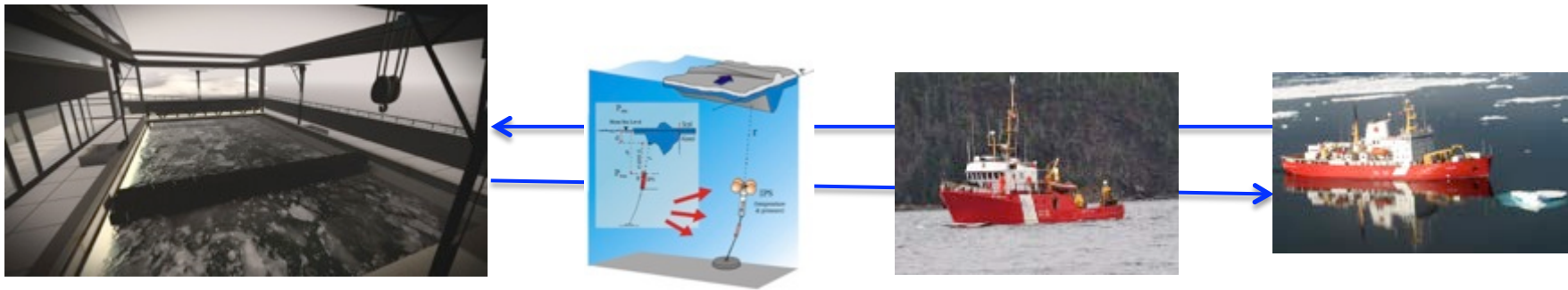
- ▶ Estuary
- ▶ Ocean
- ▶ Atmosphere





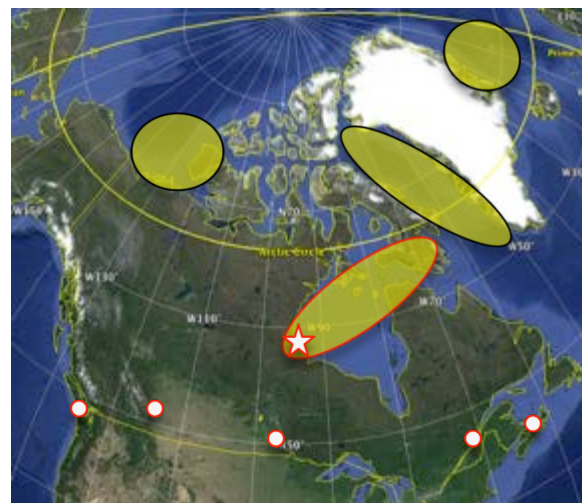
# The Churchill Marine Observatory (CMO)

*A national centre with an international mandate.*



OSIM process studies

Scaling Arctic wide through EO system, CHARS, ARF, and international field programs

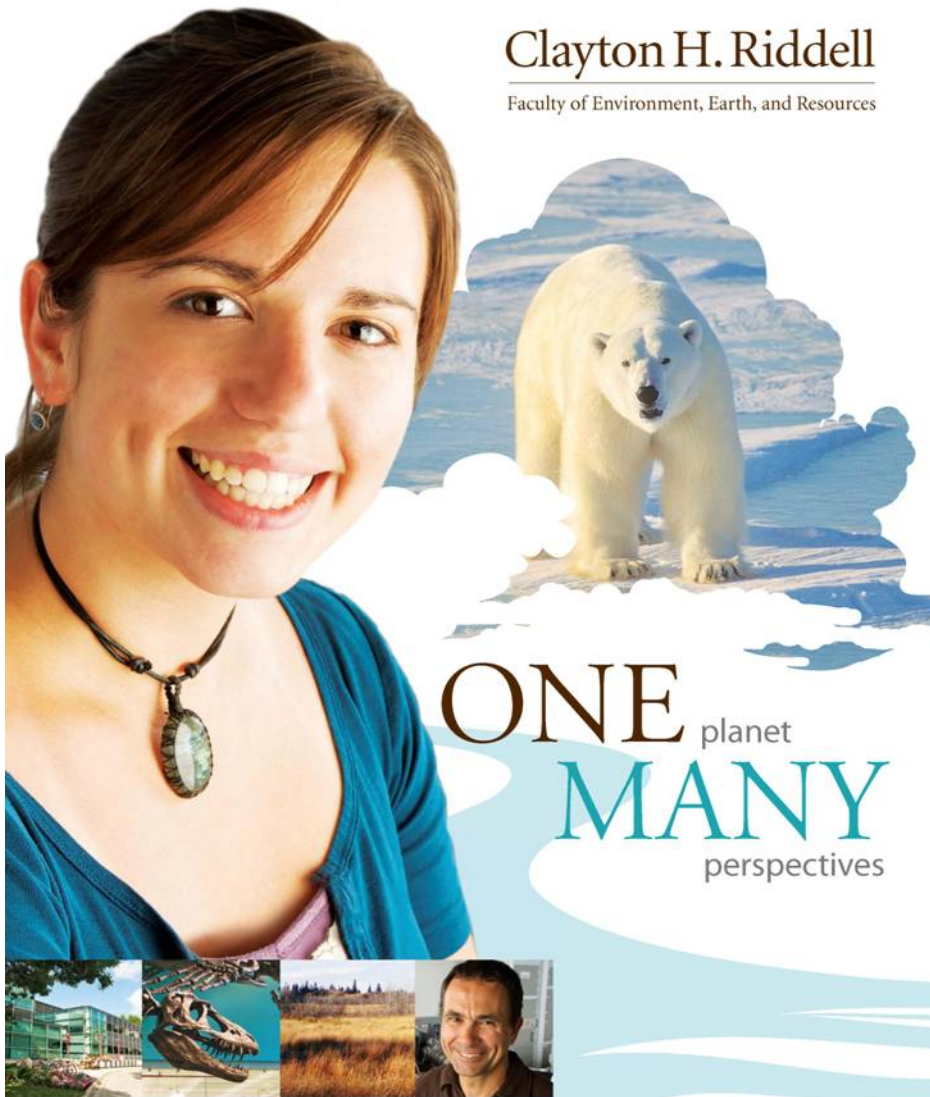


- 170 researchers
- 6 CDN universities
- 10 gov. departments
- 10 private sector
- 4 NGO, co-management
- 50 HQP



Clayton H. Riddell

Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources



ONE planet  
MANY perspectives

## Unexpected Discoveries

Seven Surprises



204 474-7252  
[umanitoba.ca/environment](http://umanitoba.ca/environment)



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One university. Many futures.





1



CO<sub>2</sub> exchange

Bromine – Ozone

Mercury Exchange

Thinner and Saltier Ice Surfaces





2



Snow on sea ice





3



Polar Bear and Seal Habitat



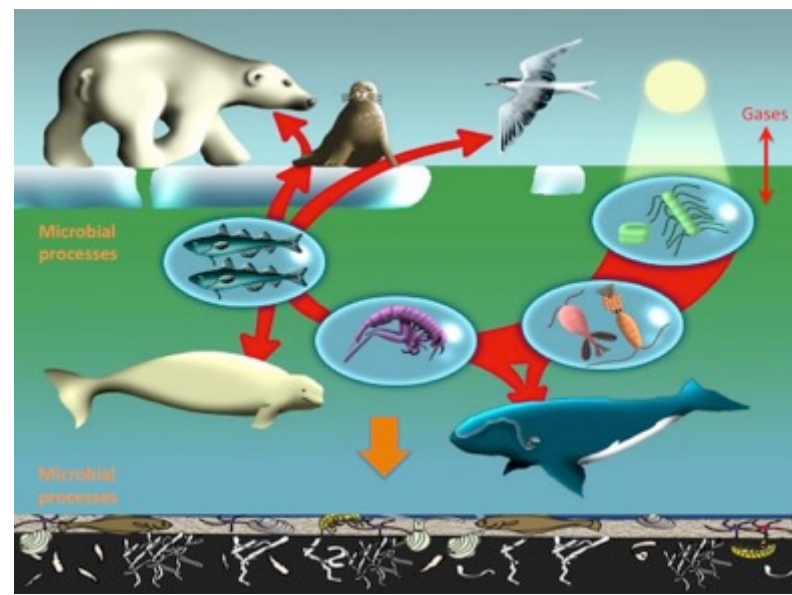


4

Sea Ice



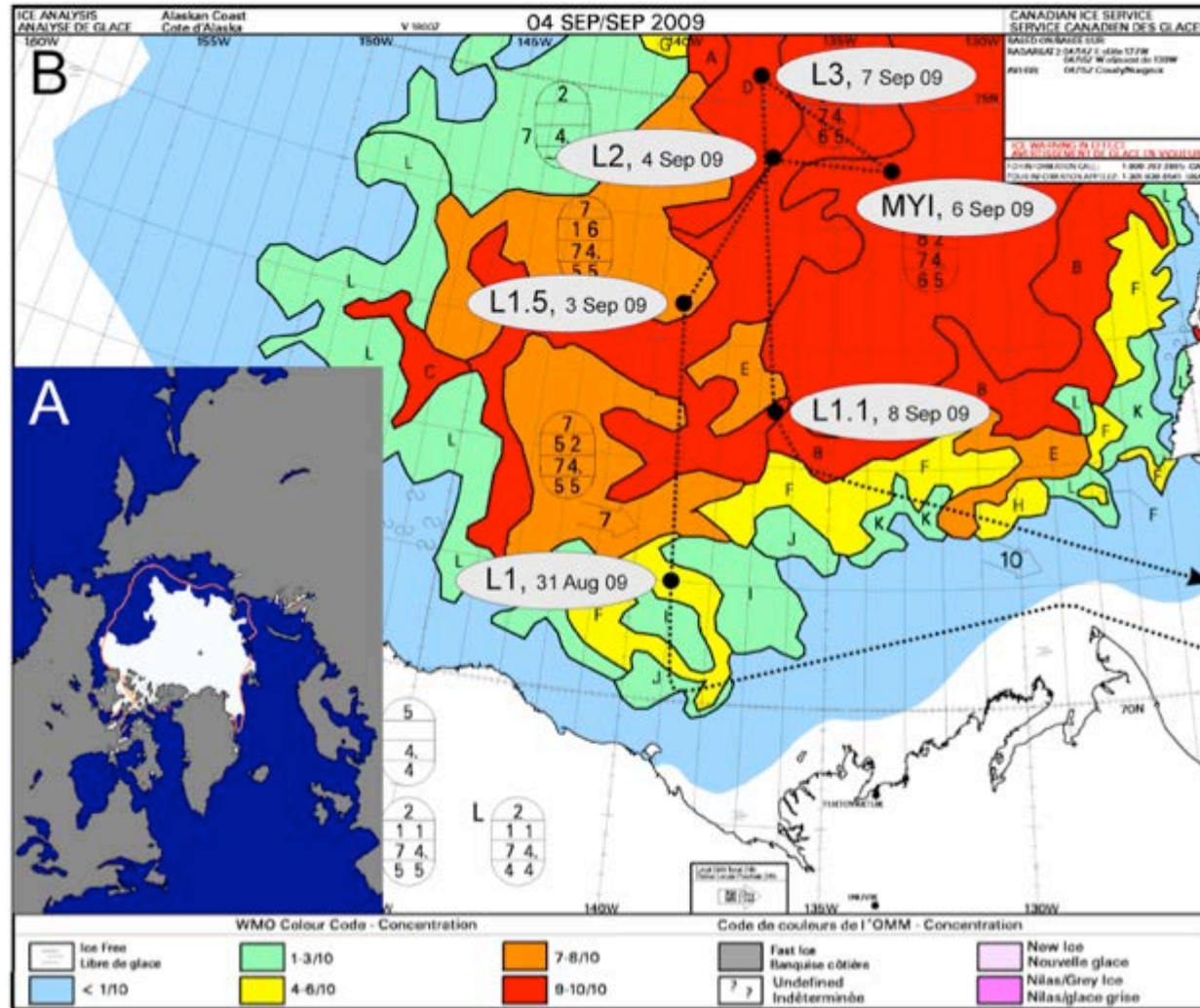
Tropical Rain Forest







5

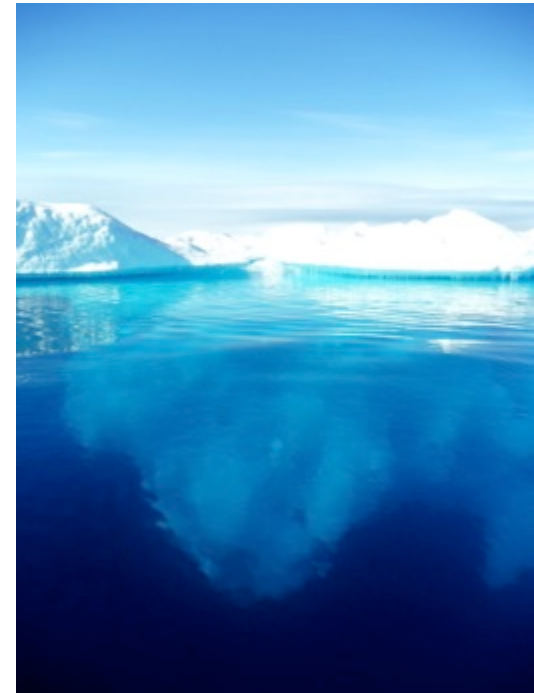


The appearance of a 'new' type of summer sea ice (rotten ice).





6



Winds

Faster Motion

Glacial Ice

Thick MY

Increasing Ice Hazards?



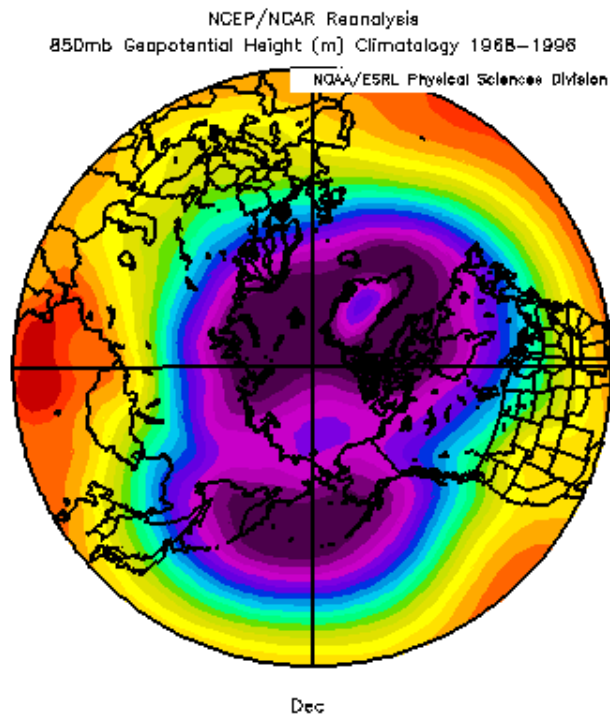
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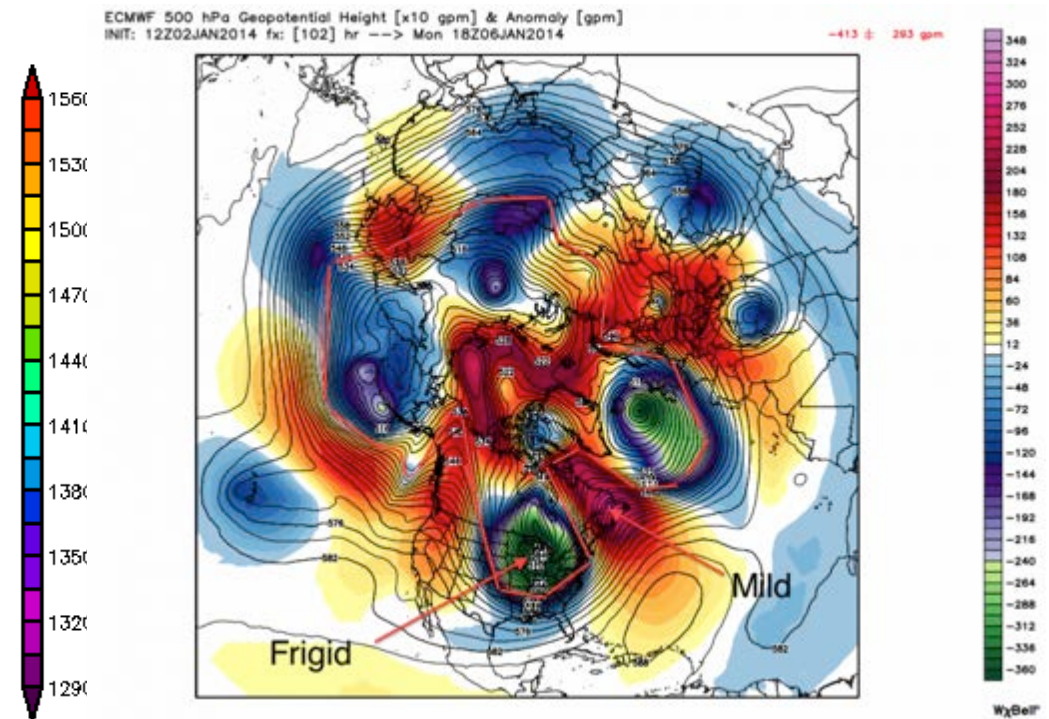


7

## Warm ocean cold continent hypothesis



Polar Vortex  
Traps cold air in the Arctic



Polar Vortex breaks down  
Increases cold outflows and persistence





## In summary

1. A saltier ice surface increases exchange with atmosphere
2. Snow on sea ice causes decrease in MYI does not affect FYI
3. Polar bear habitat increasing in some areas decreasing in others
4. Whole ecosystem (virus – whales) affected (invasive species have arrived)





## In summary

5. Rotten sea ice is now common in the high Arctic – northern sea routes are opening
6. Paradoxically - Ice hazards are increasing
7. Polar Vortex appears to play a large role in cold air outbreaks and persistence of climate at lower latitudes



# Motivation



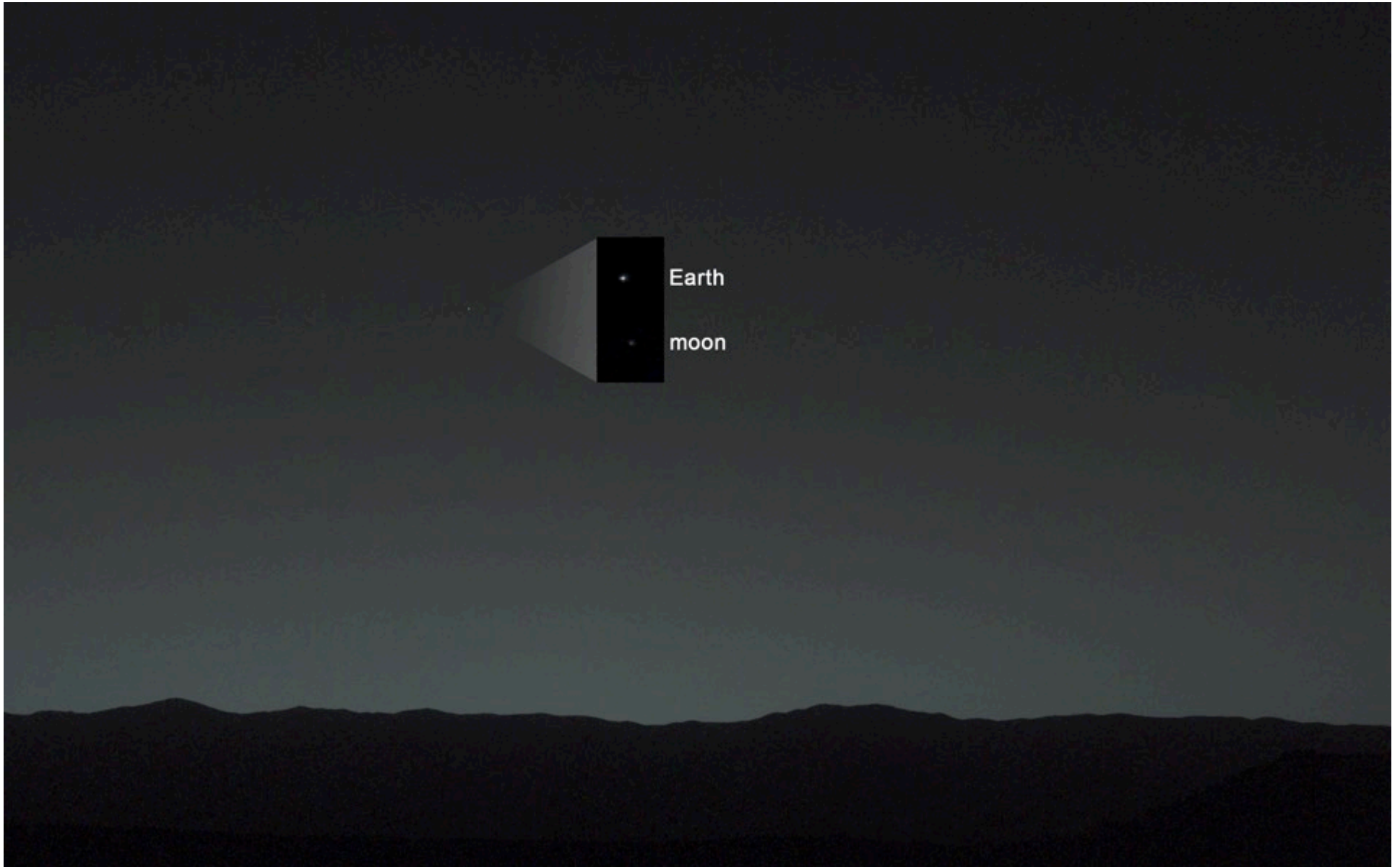


# Motivation



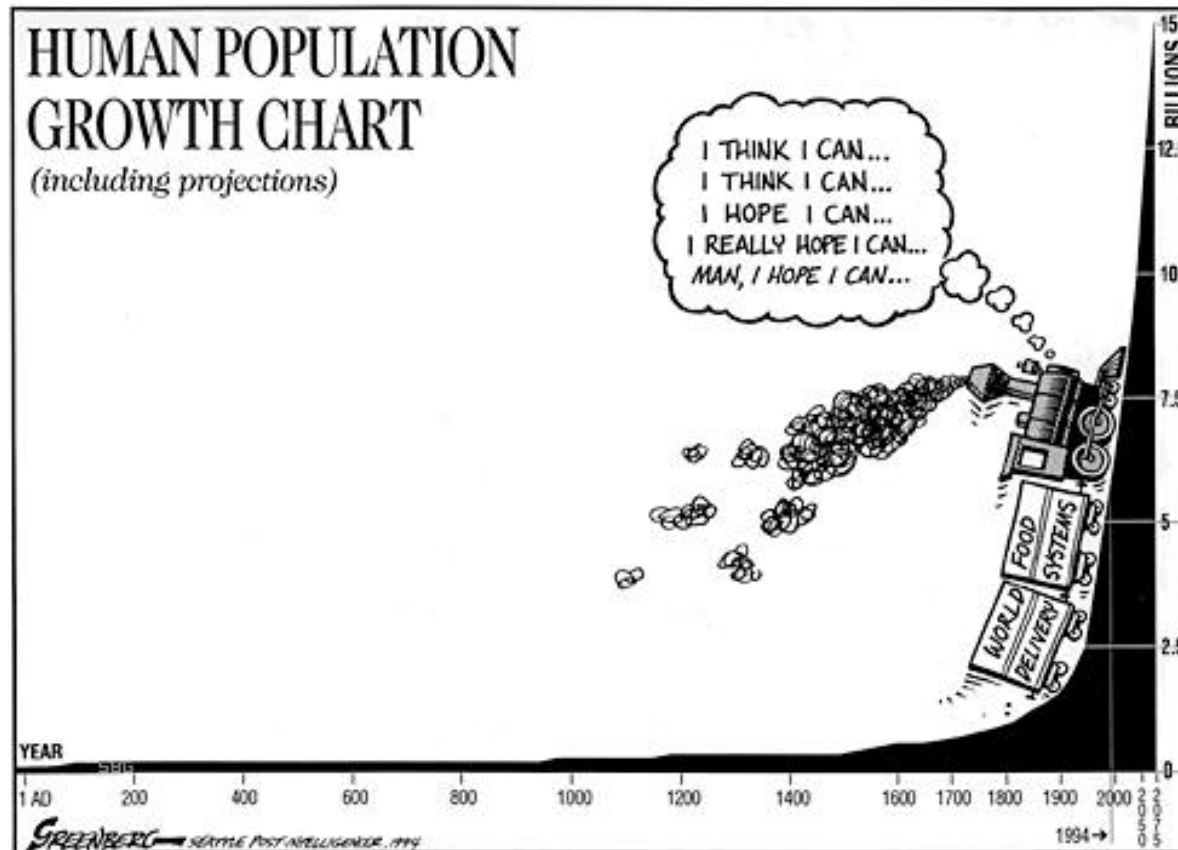


# Motivation





# Motivation



- 7000yrs – first billion;
- 130 yrs – second billion;
- 12-14yrs –third and onwards



# Motivation





