



STATE OF THE ARCTIC

16 - 19 March 2010 • Hyatt Regency Miami



JEAN-CLAUDE
GASCARD

DAMOCLES

**Climate Change, the Arctic Ocean
and
the European Community contribution during the 4th IPY**

**by Jean-Claude Gascard
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TARA – E. Bourgois
C. de Marliave, R. Troublé

IPEV – A. Desautez
ENSIETA – N. Seube

External partners Cooperation EU-US

“SEARCH for DAMOCLES”

LDEO – P. Schlosser

IARC – J. Walsh

UAF – H.Eicken

UAA – M. Berman- J. Kruse

Colorado – M. Parsons

WHOI – A.Proshutinsky, J. Toole

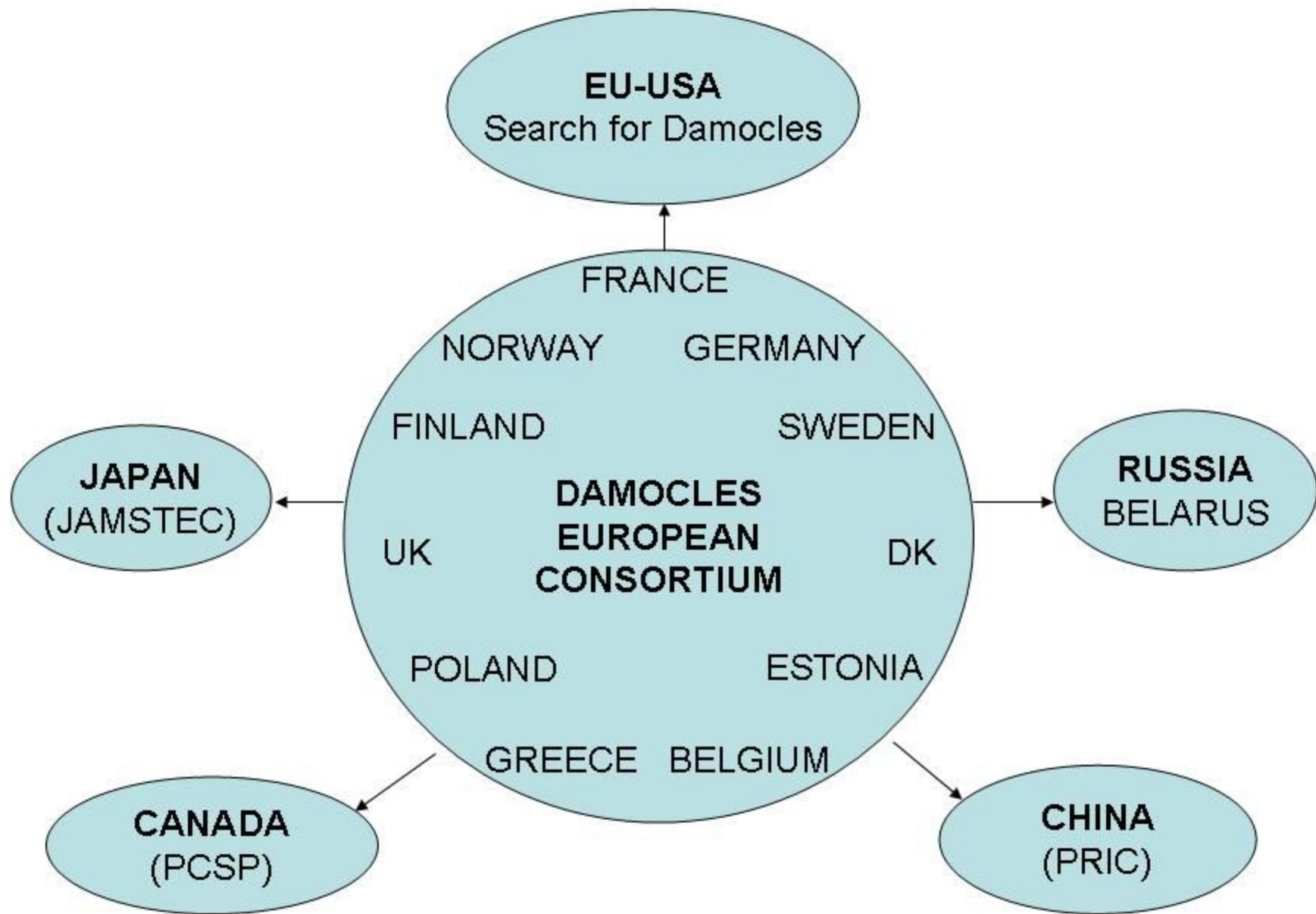
CRREL – J. Richter-Menge

Don Perovich

APL – C. Lee

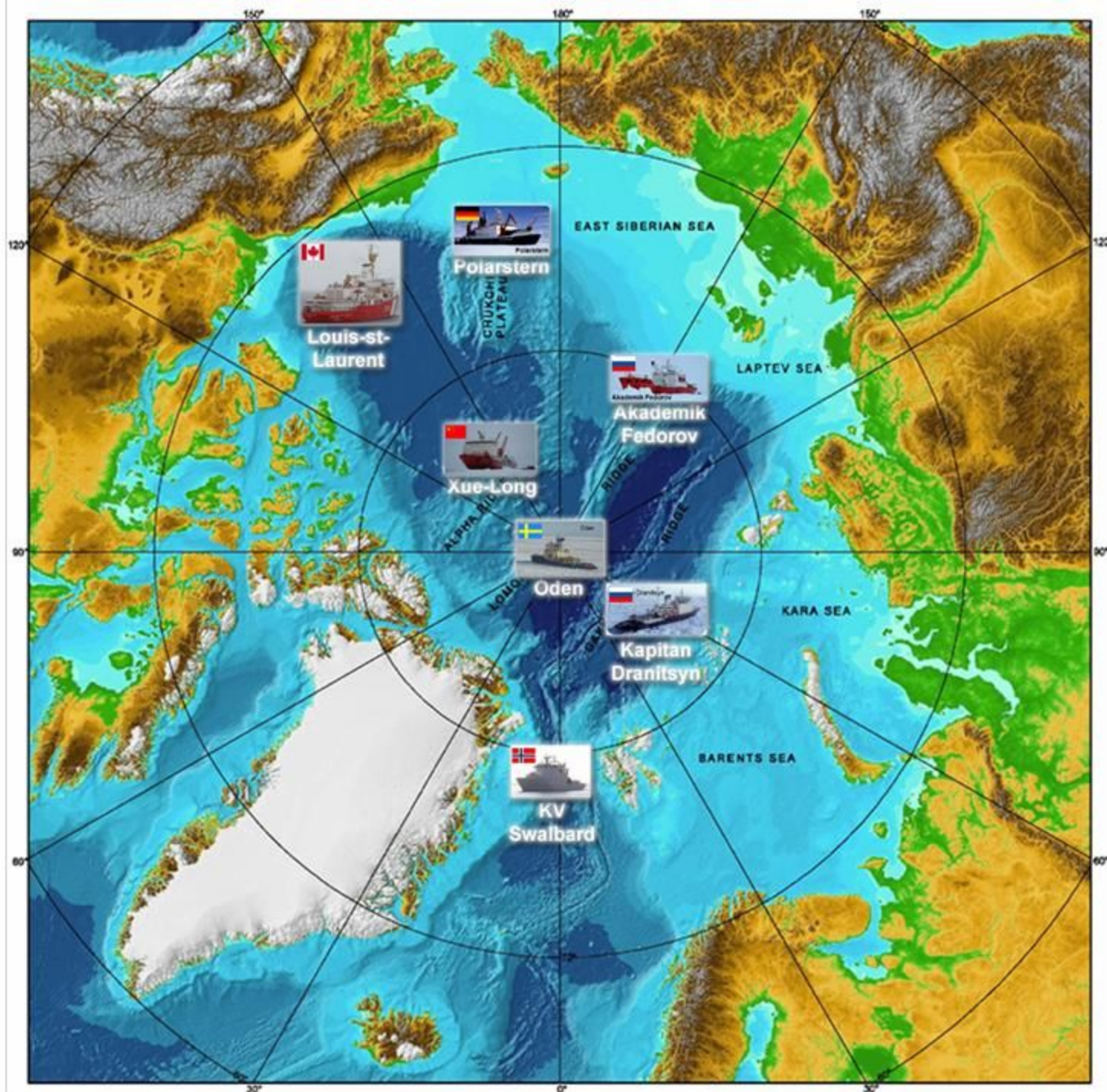
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IOS – H. Melling

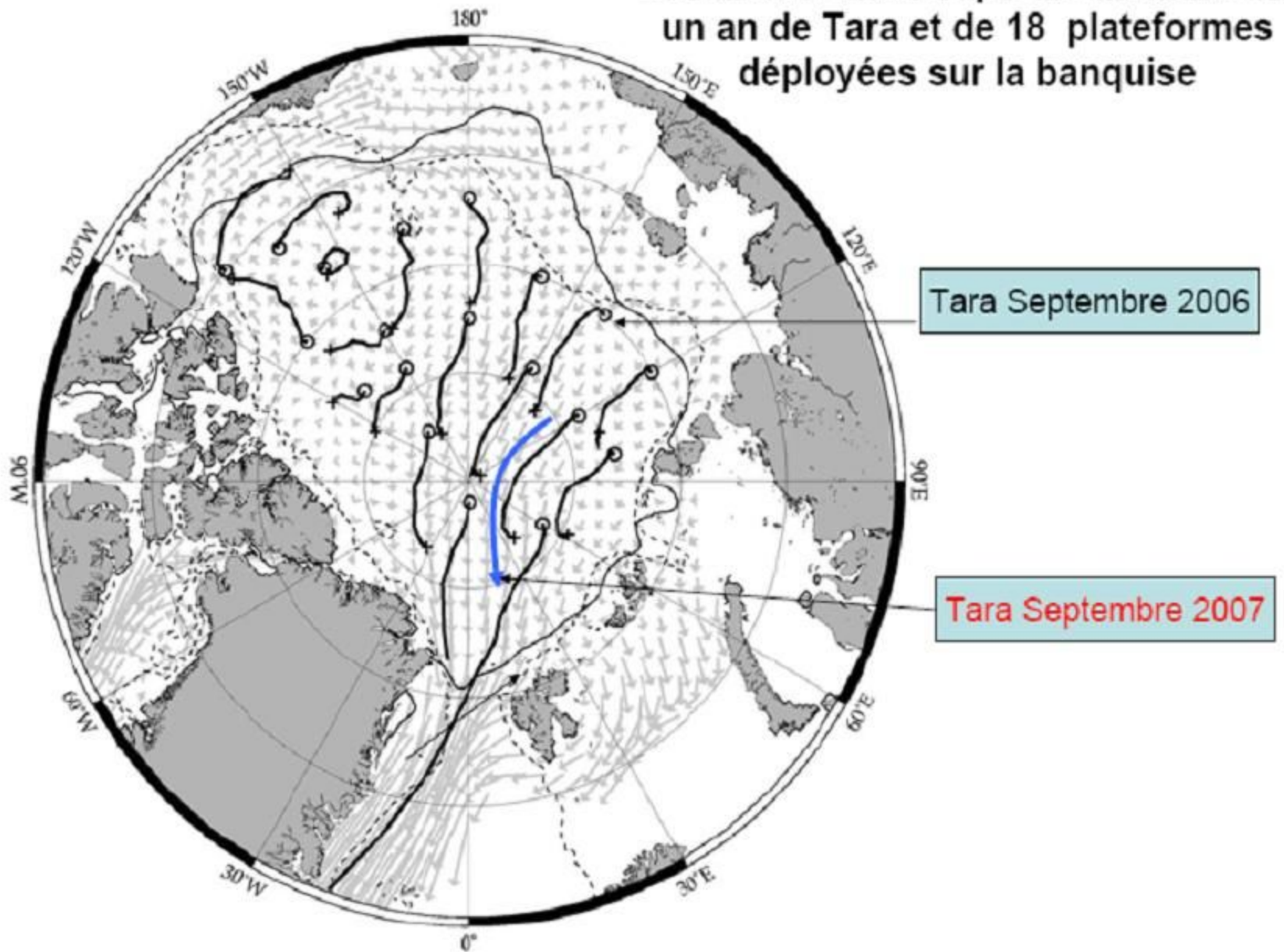


iAOOS & IPY and the International cooperation

IPY
Summer 2008



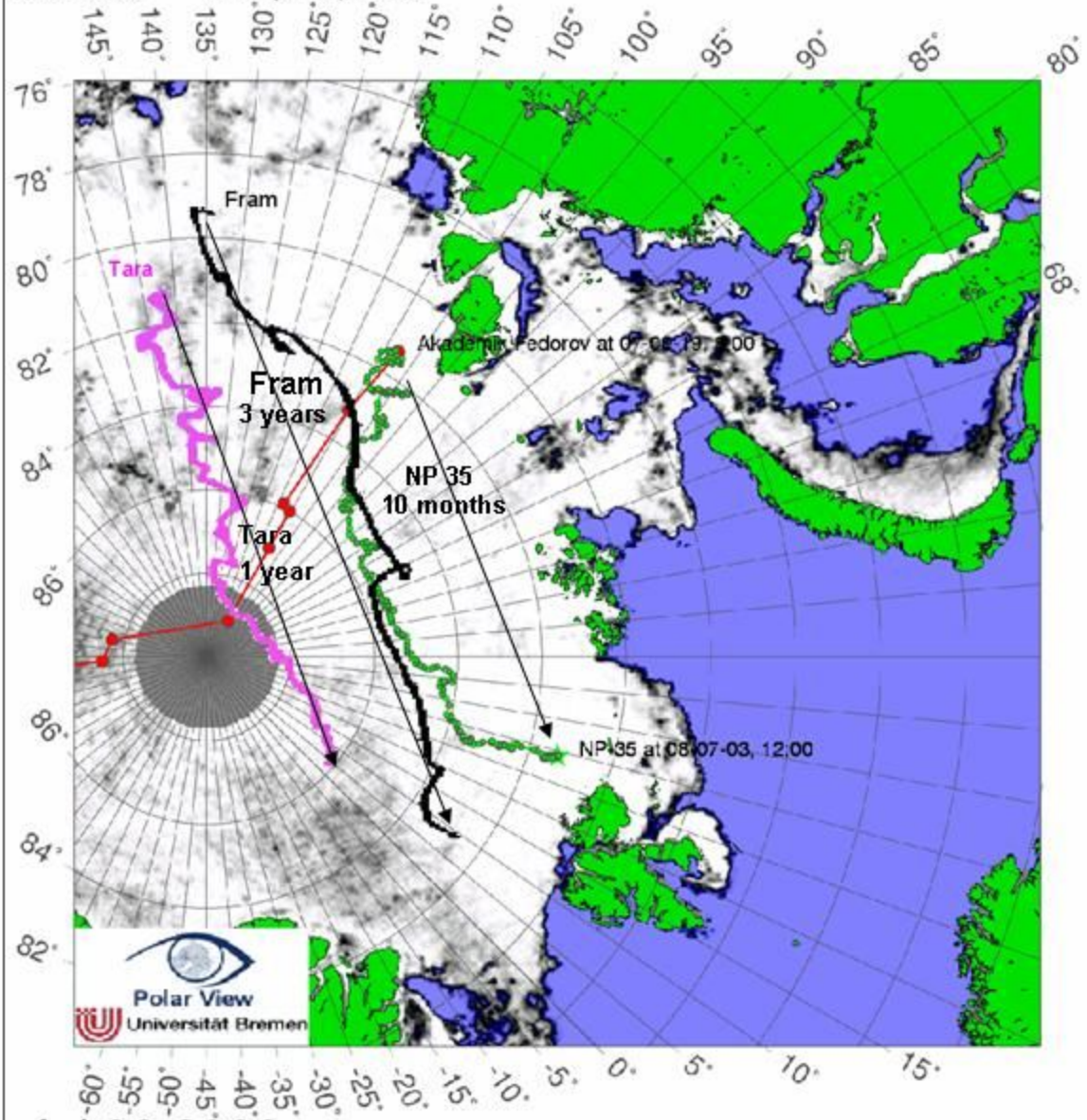
Simulation numérique de la dérive en un an de Tara et de 18 plateformes déployées sur la banquise



Damocles Experimental design (2005)

Lat: 81.3 Date: 08-07-03

Lon: 29.2 Time (UTC): 12:00

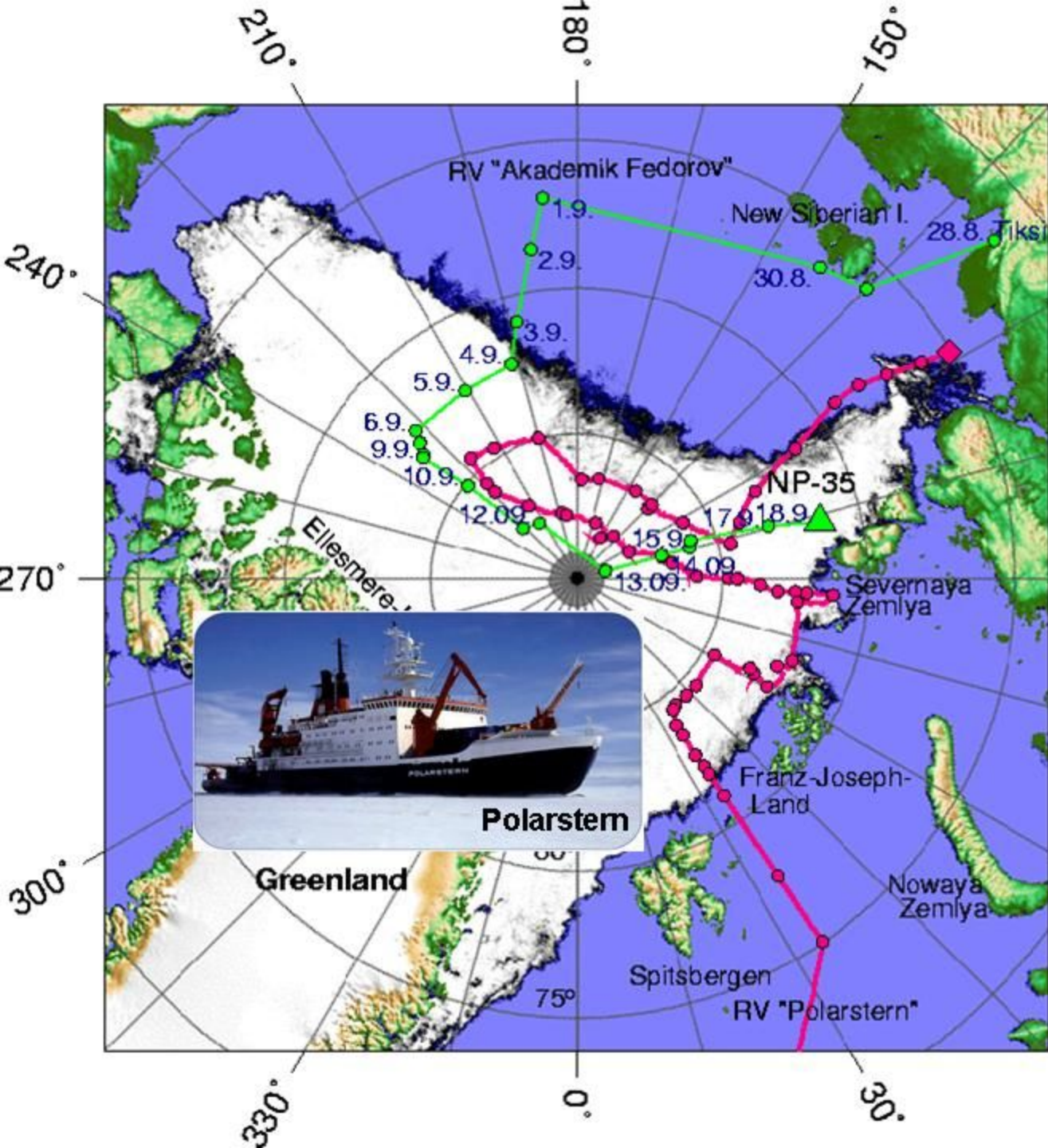


Jul 03 2008



ASI ver. 5.2, Grid 3.125 km, Geolocation_UB





Polarstern



Akademik Fedorov



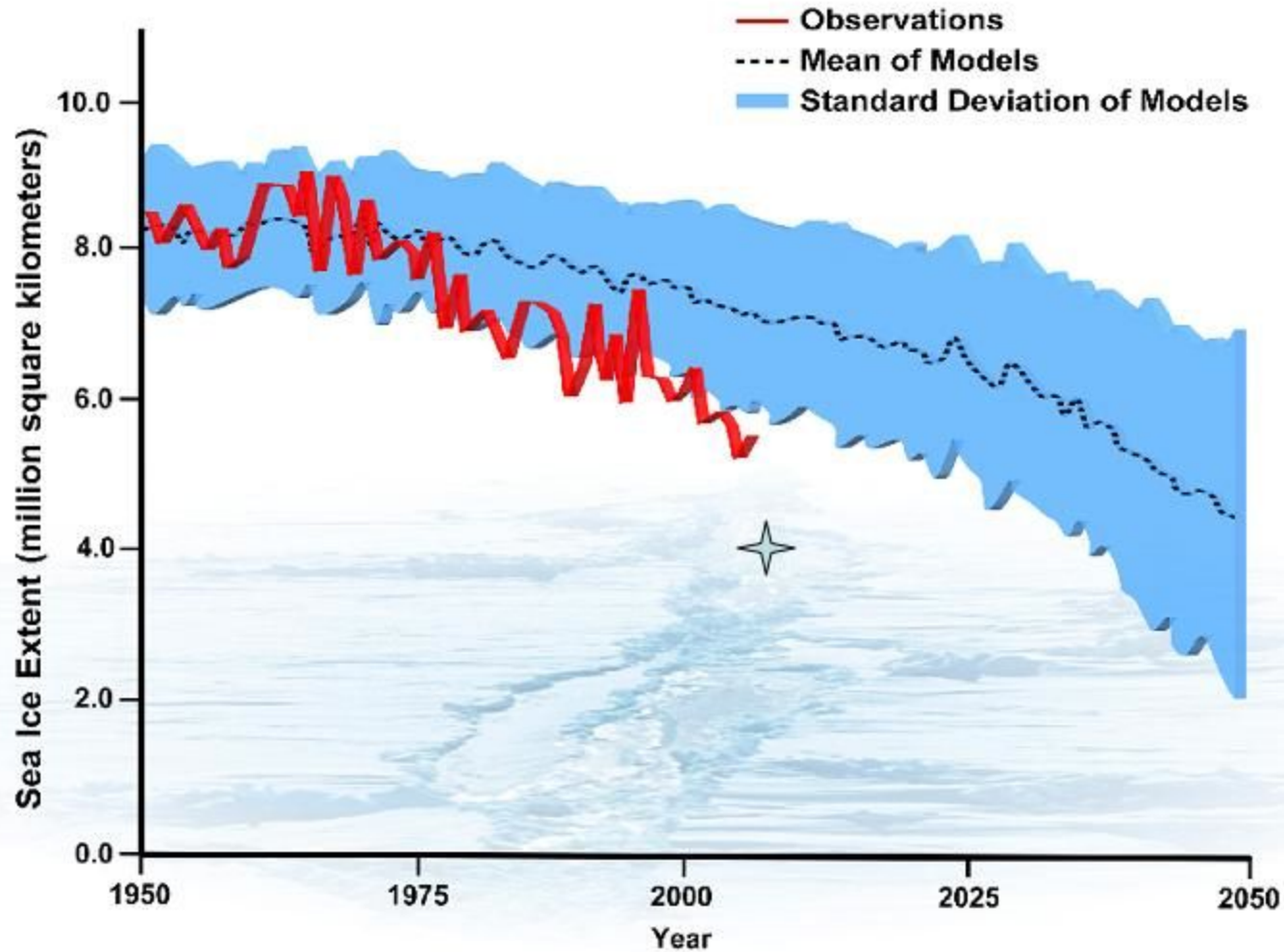
NP35
Sept 21, 2007



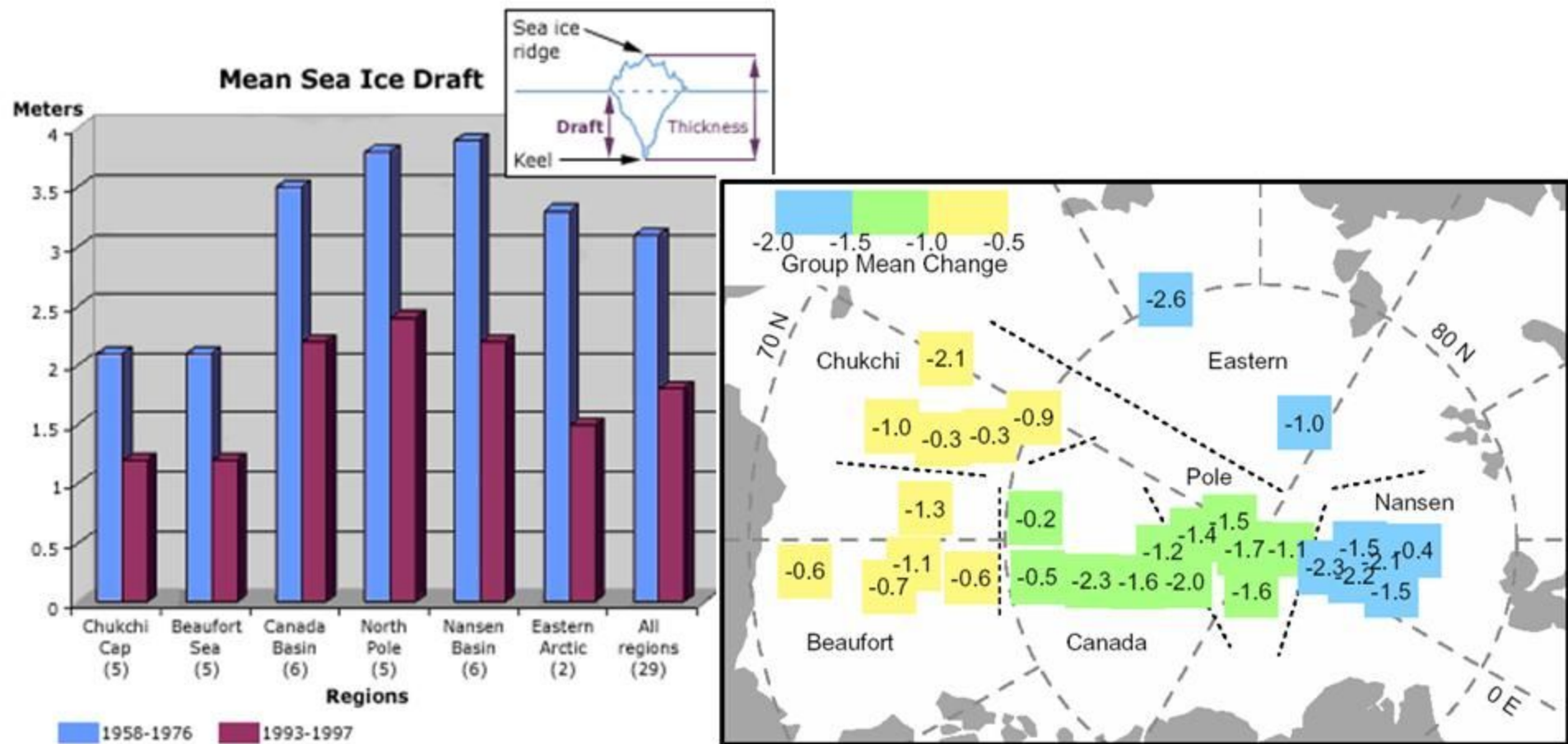
Rossiya
Akademik Fedorov
Rossiya – MI-8 - NP35
September 2007

Polarstern
August-September 2007

Arctic September Sea Ice Extent: Observations and Model Runs



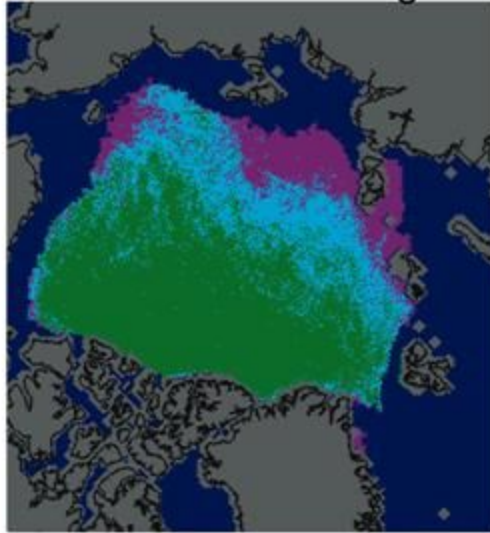
Ice thickness changes



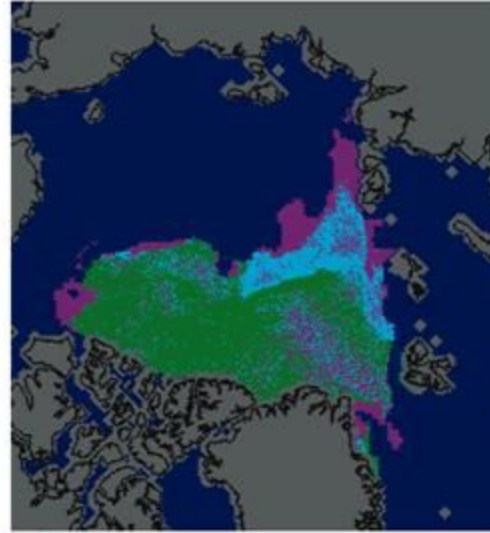
(Rothrock et al., 1999)

Arctic sea ice age at the end of the melt season

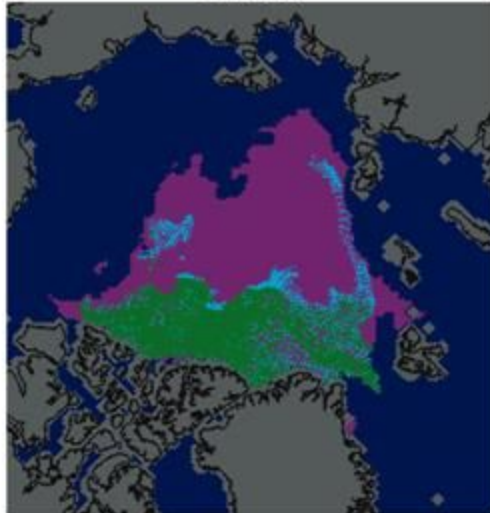
1981 - 2000 average



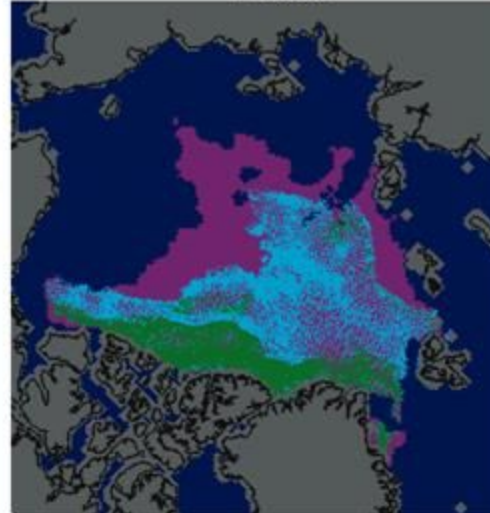
2007



2008



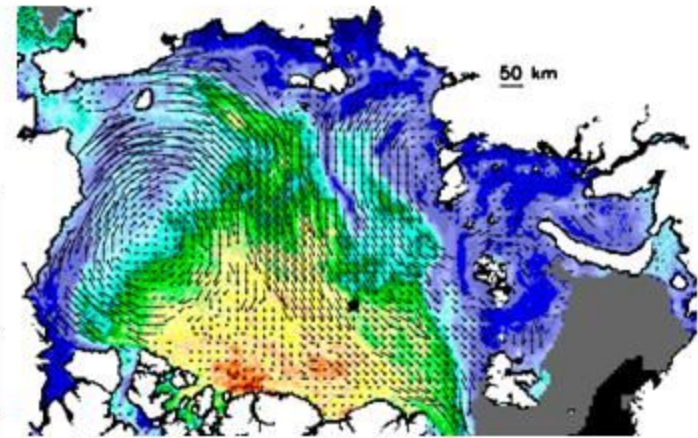
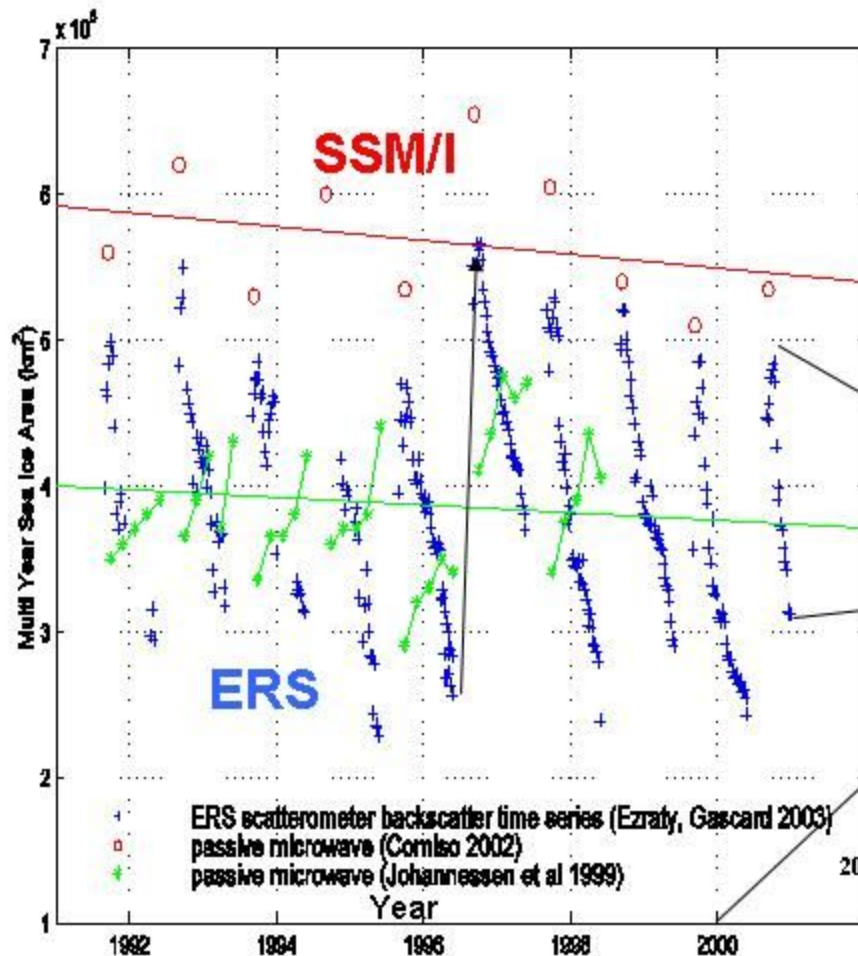
2009



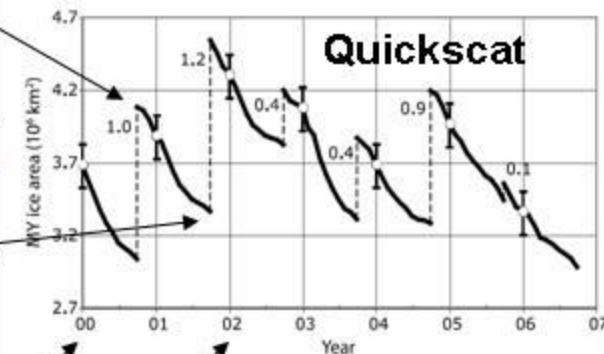
■ First-year ice (<1 year old) ■ Second-year ice (1-2 years old) ■ Older ice (>2 years old) ■ Open water ■ Land

NSIDC courtesy C. Fowler and J. Maslanik, University of Colorado Boulder

Multi Year Ice



Four days Sea-ice drift (April 30-May 3, 2002)



2002

Time series of arctic MYI from ERS (R.Ezraty and J-C.Gascard 2003) and Quickscat scatterometers (R.Kwok 2007).

Backscatter maps and intercomparison with passive microwave data (J.Comiso 2002, O. Johannessen et al 1999)

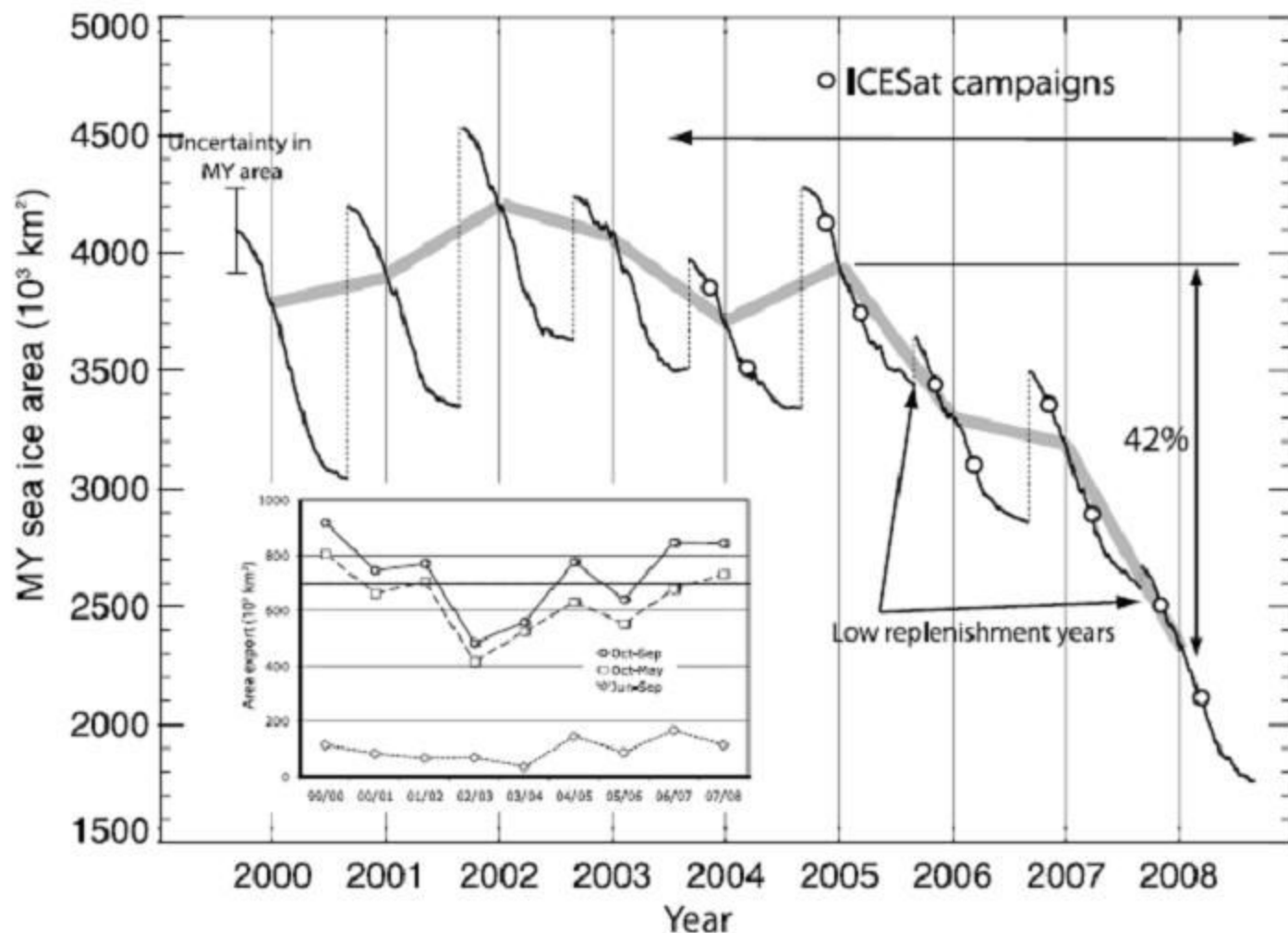
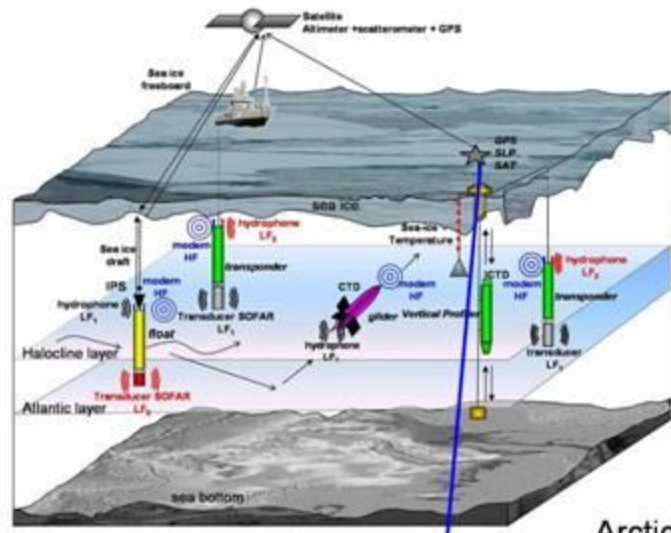
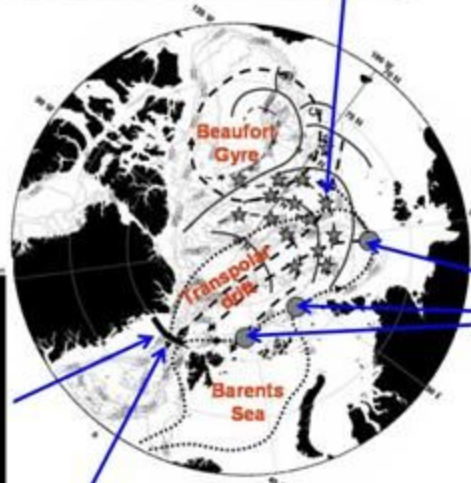


Figure 9. Nine annual cycles of replenishment/export of Arctic Ocean multiyear ice area constructed using QuikSCAT data and Fram Strait ice export. Open circles show the approximate times of the 10 ICESat campaigns used here. The dashed vertical lines show the replenishment of the MY ice reservoir by first-year ice at the end of each summer. The two near-zero replenishment years of 2005 and 2007 are indicated. Inset shows the annual and seasonal Fram Strait ice export over the same period.

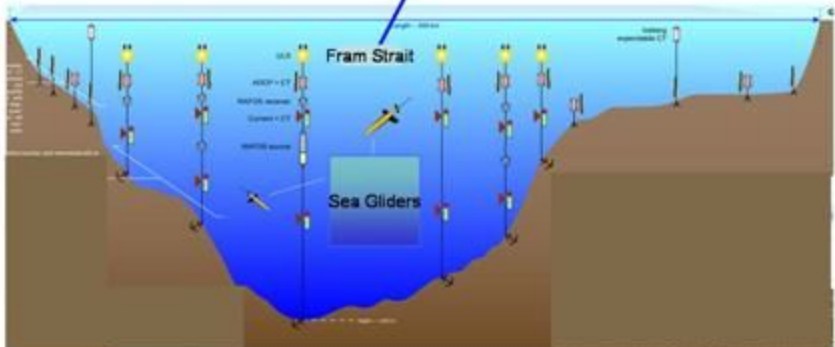
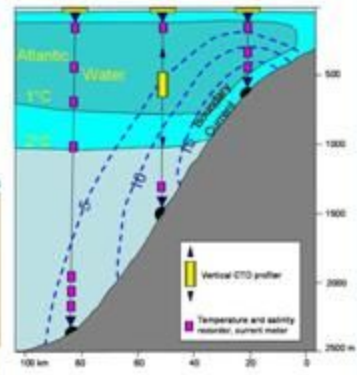
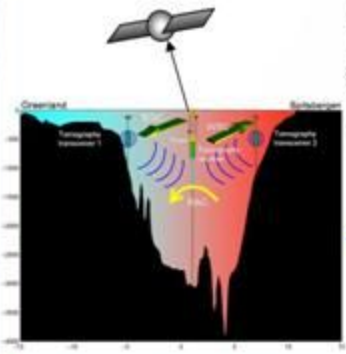
Kwok, R., Cunningham, G.F., Wensnahan, M., Rigor, I., Zwally, H.J., Yi, D. 2009. Thinning and volume loss of the Arctic Ocean sea-ice cover: 2003-2008. JGR.



Arctic Ocean
Central Basin



Eurasian
Continental Slope



Meteo mast



Tethersonde

Solar radiation

Tara

Radiometers

Tiltmeter

IMB

Sismometer

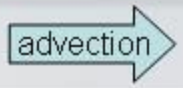
Vertical profile (18 July 2007)

Altitude

Depth

1300 m

1100 m



900 m

700 m

500 m



300 m

100 m

Temperature (°C)

-2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

- 100 m



- 300 m

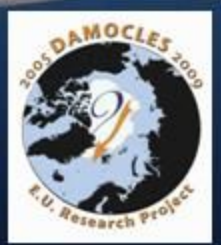


- 500 m

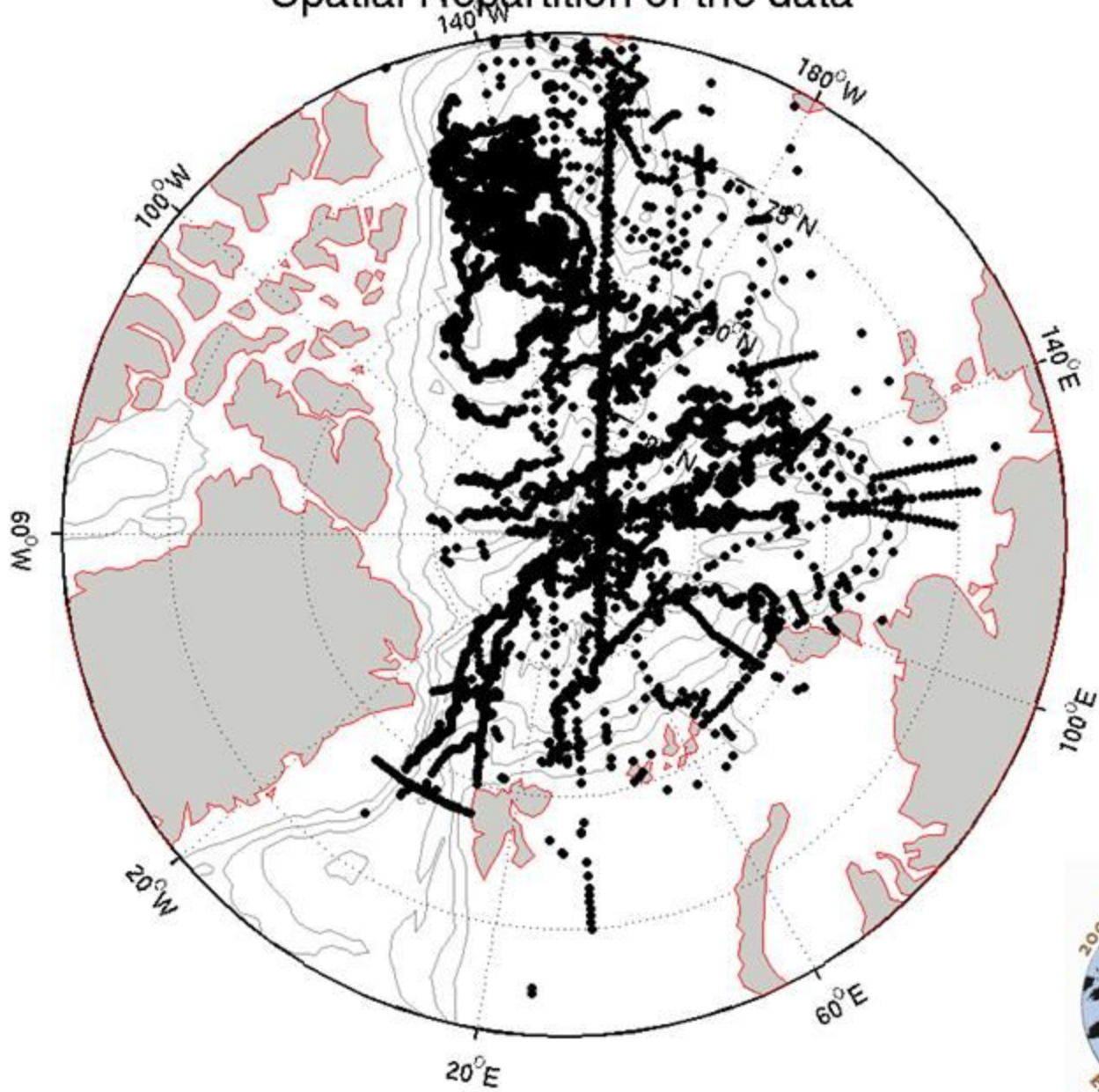
- 700 m

- 900 m

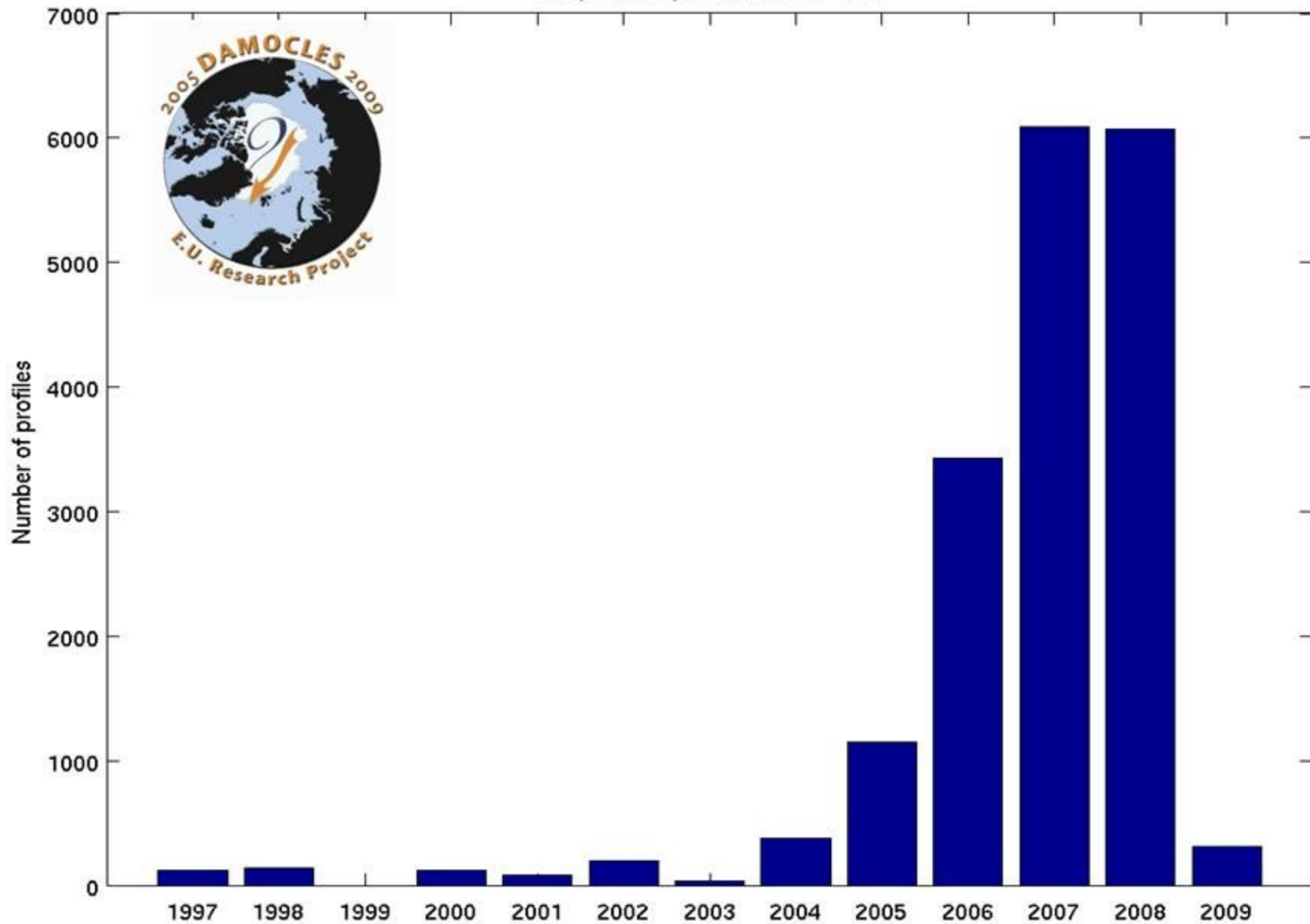
CTD



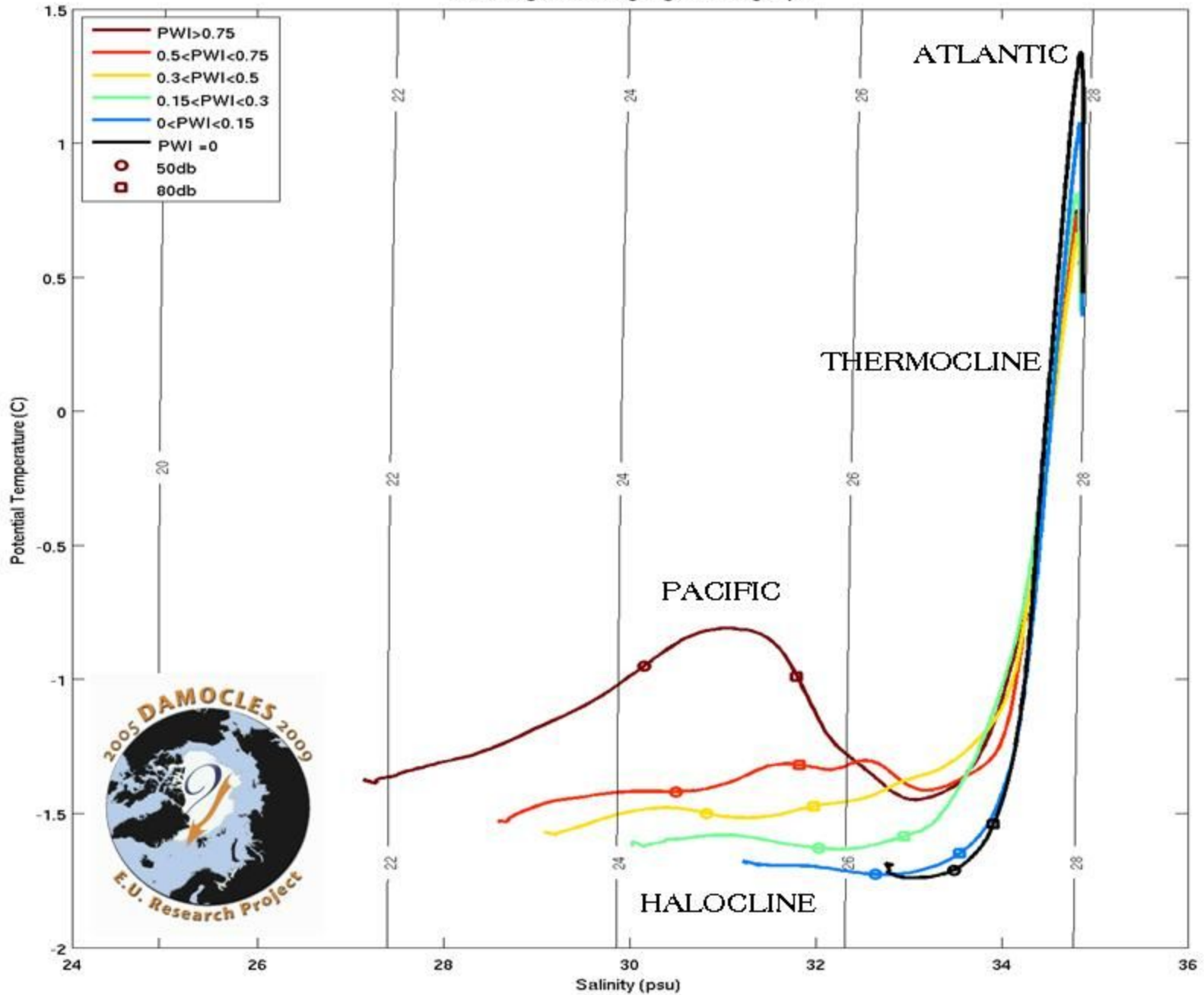
Spatial Repartition of the data

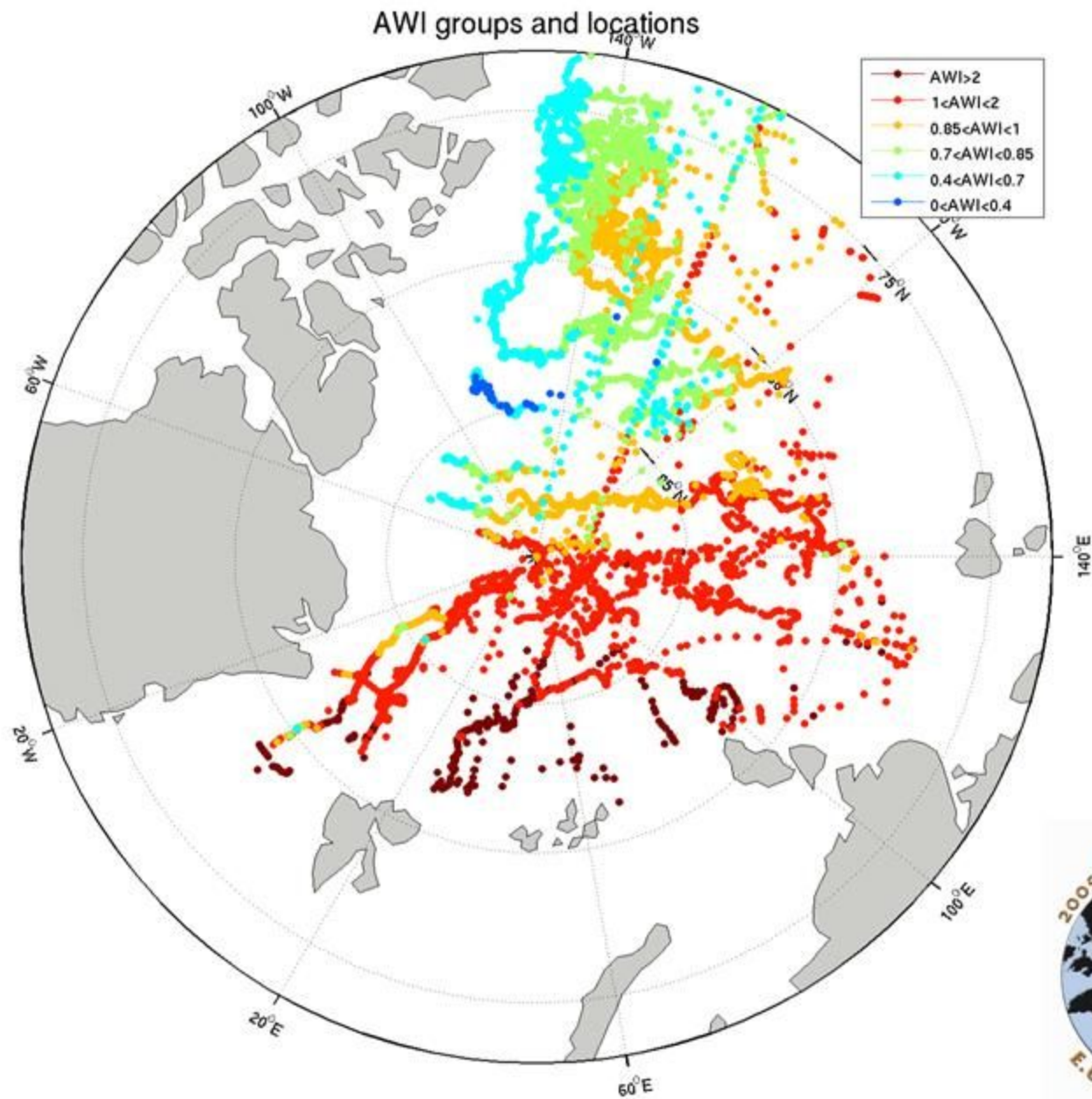


Temporal Repartition of the data



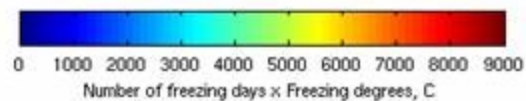
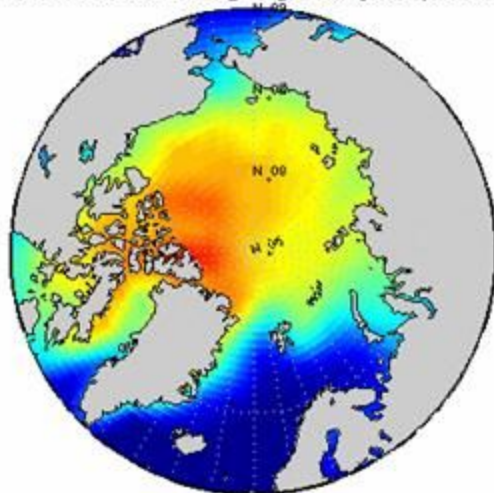
TP S Diagrams averaged given PWI groups



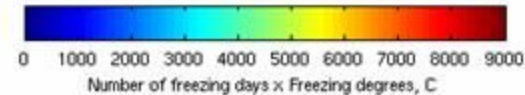
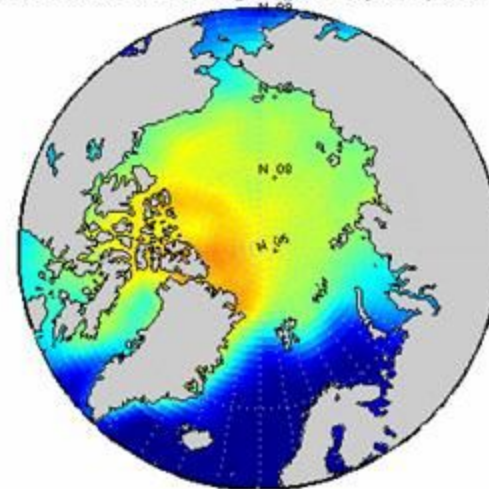


Pascaline Bourgain & J-C. Gascard (Poster)

Cumulative number of freezing degree days Sept1986-May1987

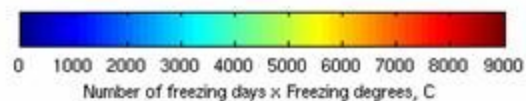
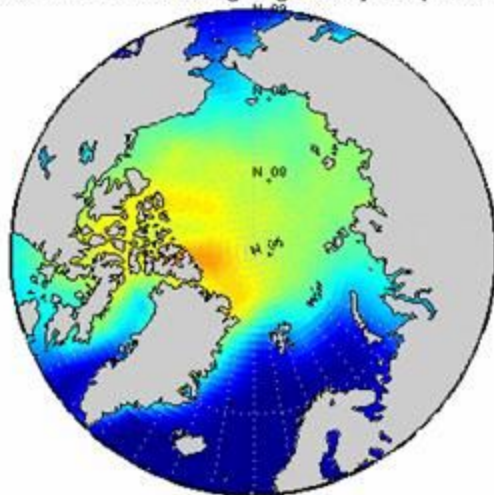


Cumulative number of freezing degree days Sept1994-May1995

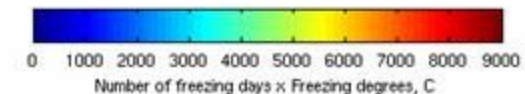
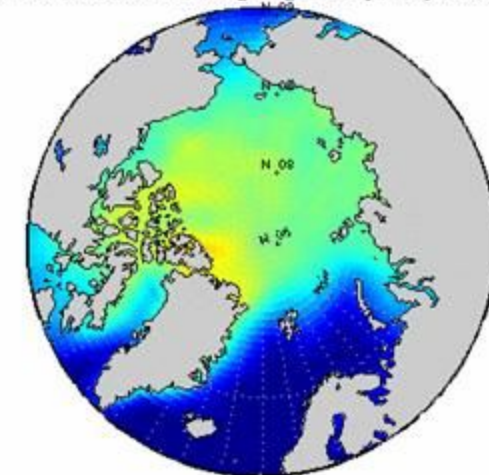


$T_{\text{freez}} - 1.7\text{C}$

Cumulative number of freezing degree days Sept2004-May2005

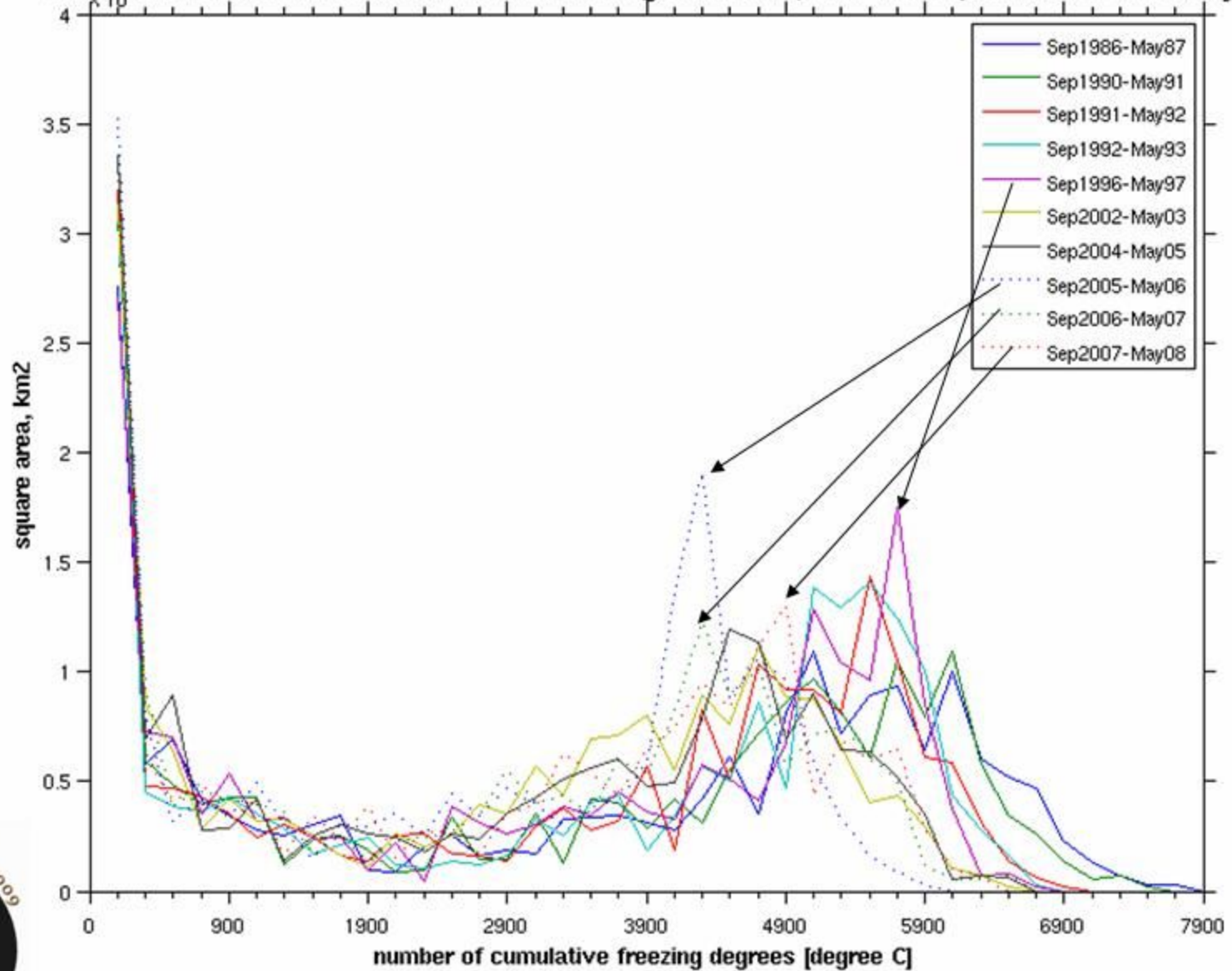


Cumulative number of freezing degree days Sept2005-May2006



Elena Maksimovich & J-C Gascard (poster)

Spatial distribution of Cumulative Freezing Degrees ($\leq -1.7^{\circ}\text{C}$)
 over the entire Arctic sea area for 10 freezing seasons (from 1st September to 31st May)



Winter index $I = \int x f(x)$ units : C.km² (Sea Ice Outlook)

Summary

The main parameters characterizing Arctic Sea-Ice changed drastically during the past 30 years: **extent decreased, thickness decreased, drift speed increased, age decreased.**

The extreme sea-ice summer minimum extent in 2005 and 2007, were characterized by a **quasi disappearance of FYI and SYI** resulting in no replenishment of MYI.

In 2008 & 2009, FYI & SYI spread widely at the expense of **MYI that reduced drastically.**

Thinning of sea-ice started 30 years ago well before any other arctic sea-ice main characteristics were reported to change.

Long term global atmospheric warming related to GHG effect, seems to be the triggering process for sea ice thinning while the albedo is the polar amplifying feedback process. Less thick ice would be formed during milder winters.
More sea-ice would melt during longer summers affecting sea-ice extent.

There is a strong need for dedicating lot of attention to the evolution of the **Arctic sea-ice thickness distribution** which is a sensitive element of the Arctic climate system. We are looking forward to Cryosat 2 in addition to new in situ observations, on-going space obs and advanced numerical modelling.