

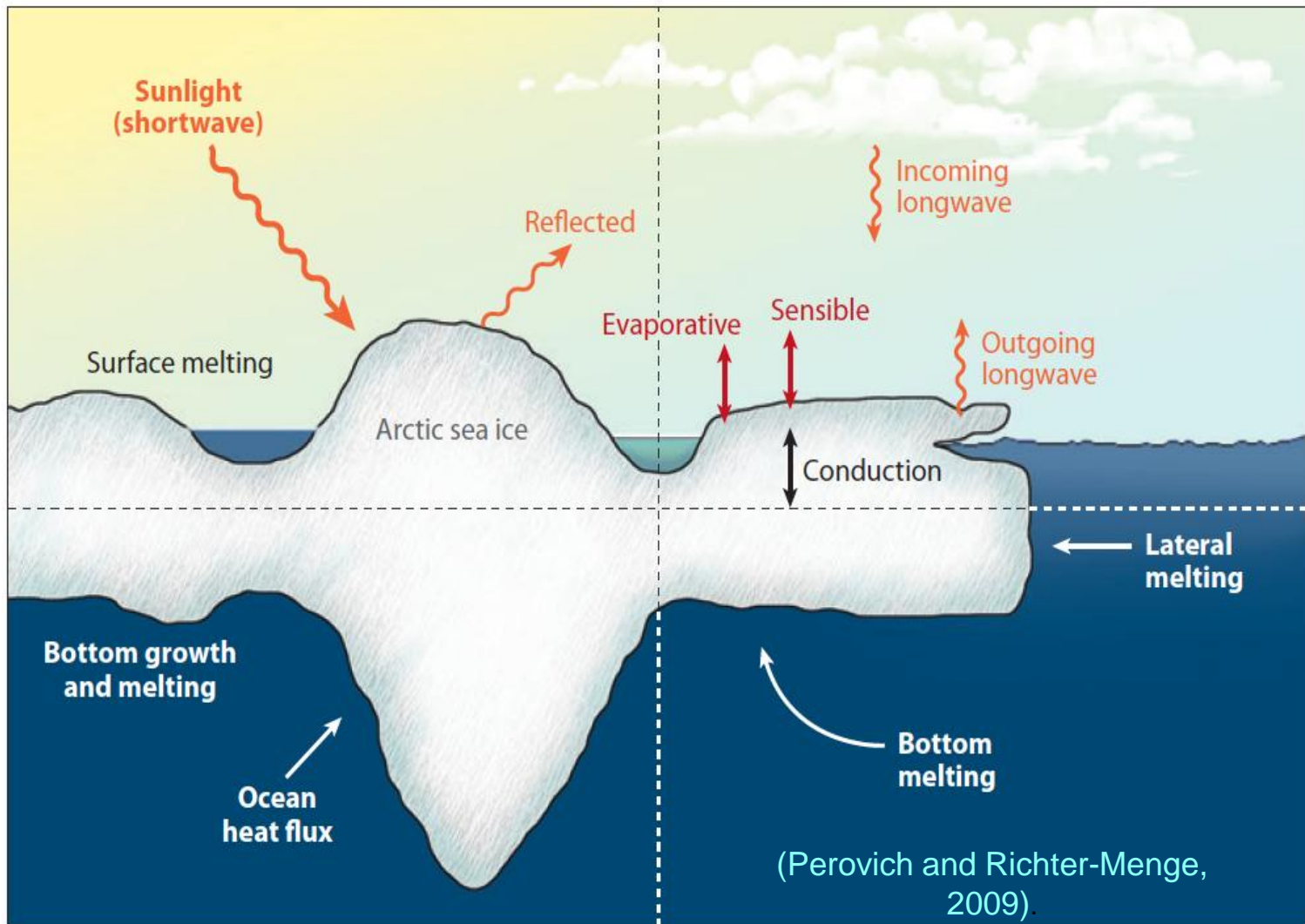
# Arctic sea ice loss: present and future

**Stein Sandven,  
Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center**

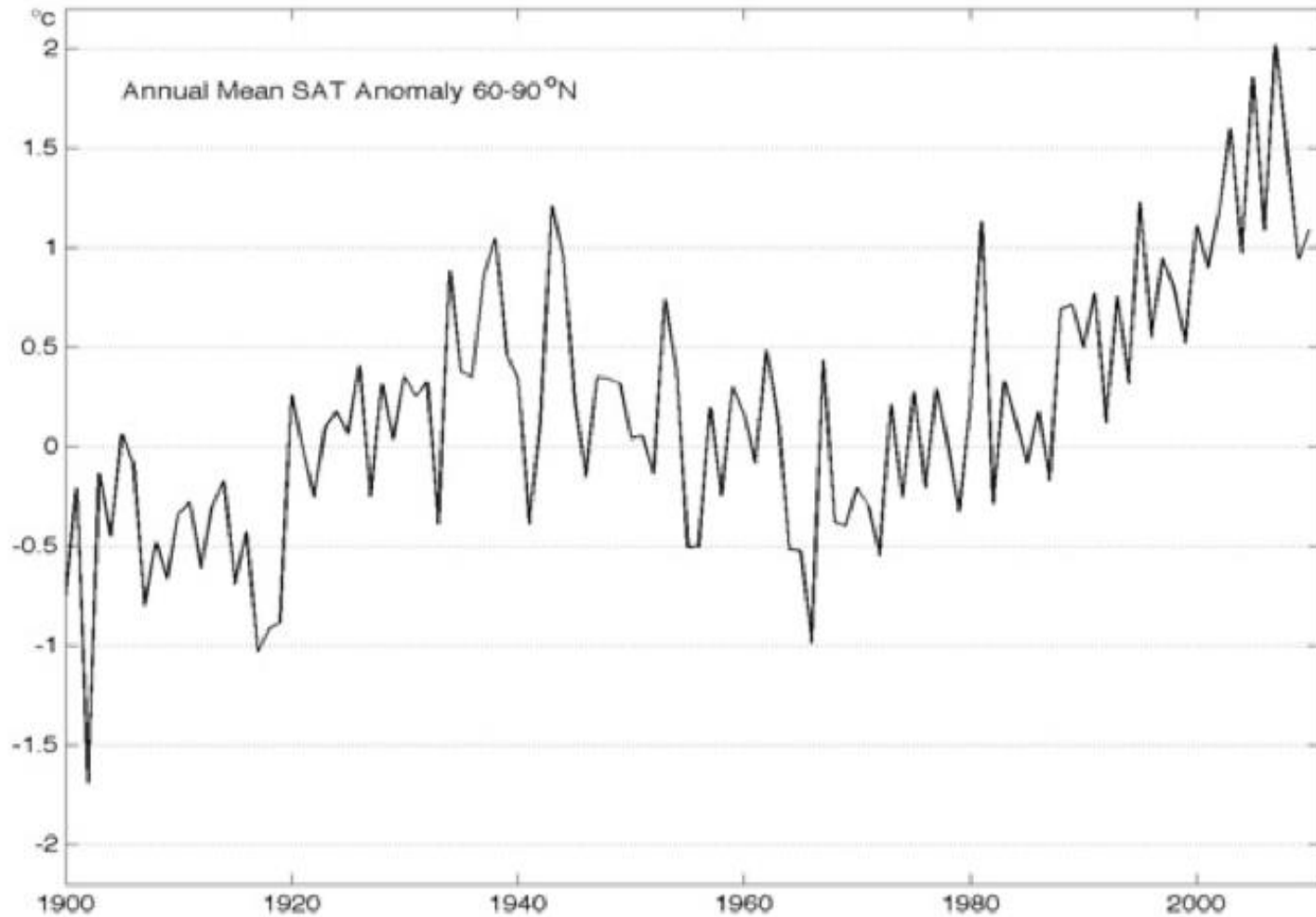
4<sup>th</sup> EMB Forum - Arctic 2050 Brussels 12 March 2014




# Sea ice processes



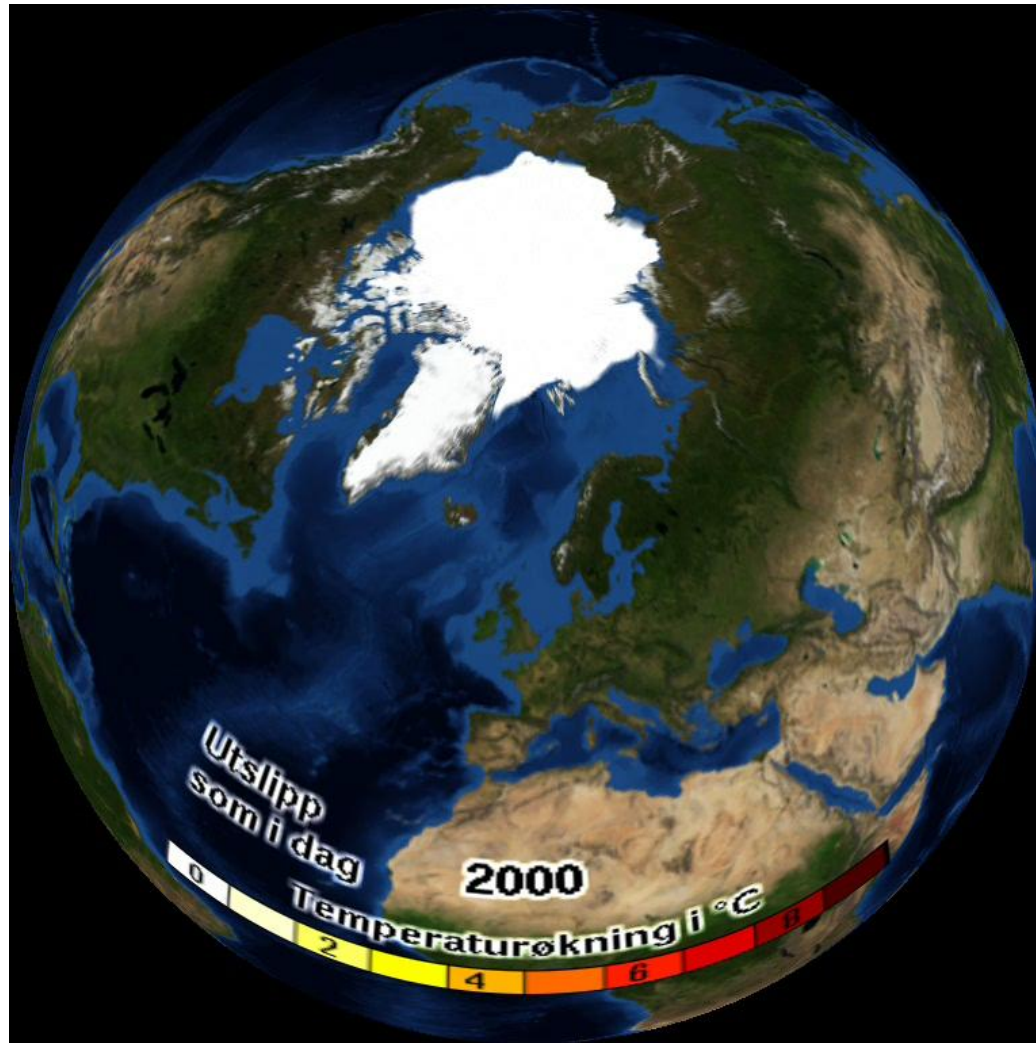
# Arctic air temperature 1900 - 2010



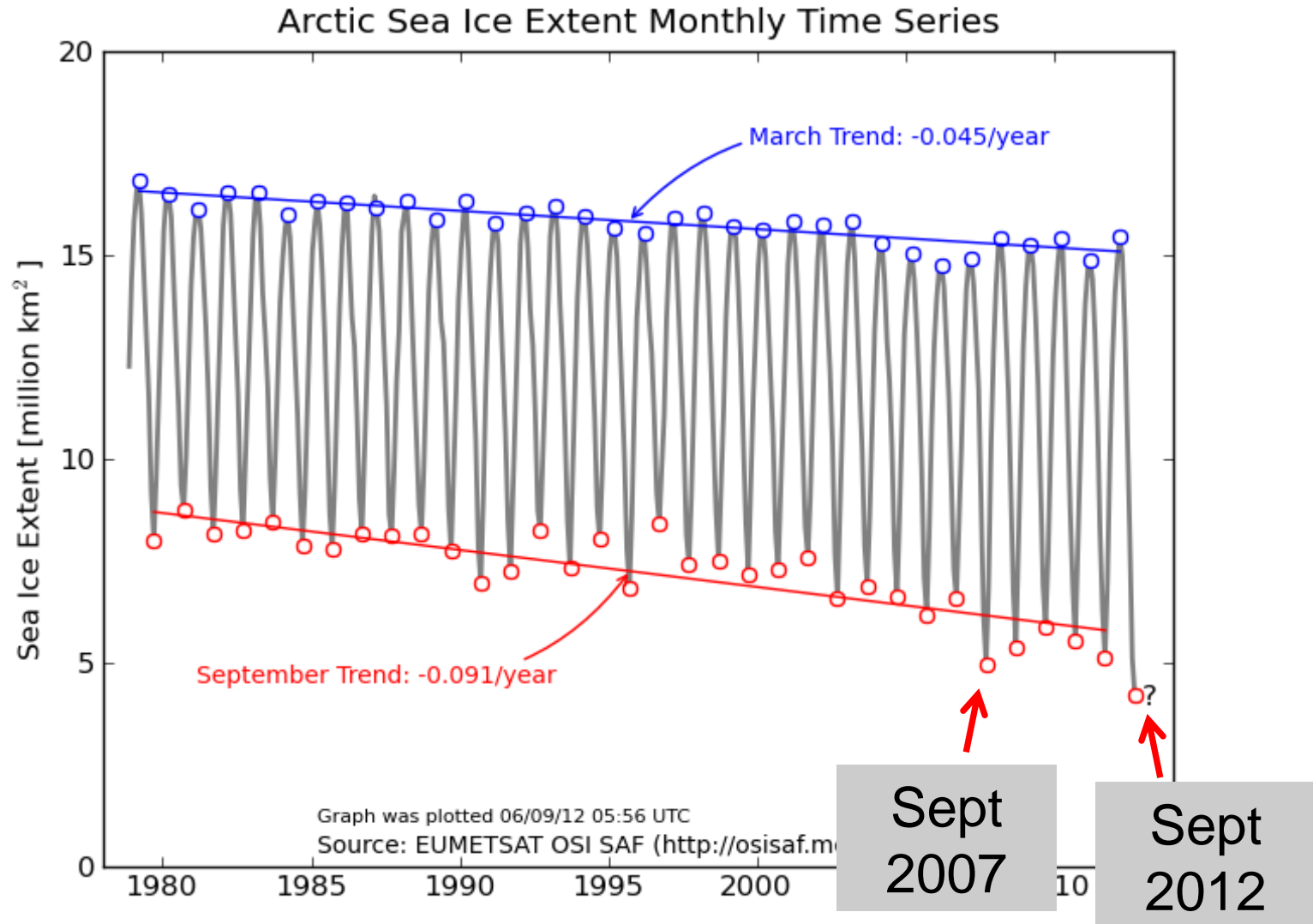
 Arctic-wide annual average surface air temperature anomalies relative to the 1961-90 mean, based on land stations north of 60° N. Data are from the CRUTEM 3v dataset, available online at [www.cru.uea.ac.uk/cru/data/temperature/](http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/cru/data/temperature/). Note this curve does not include marine observations.

# Bergen Climate Model (BCM)

Simulation of sea surface temperature  
2000-2100

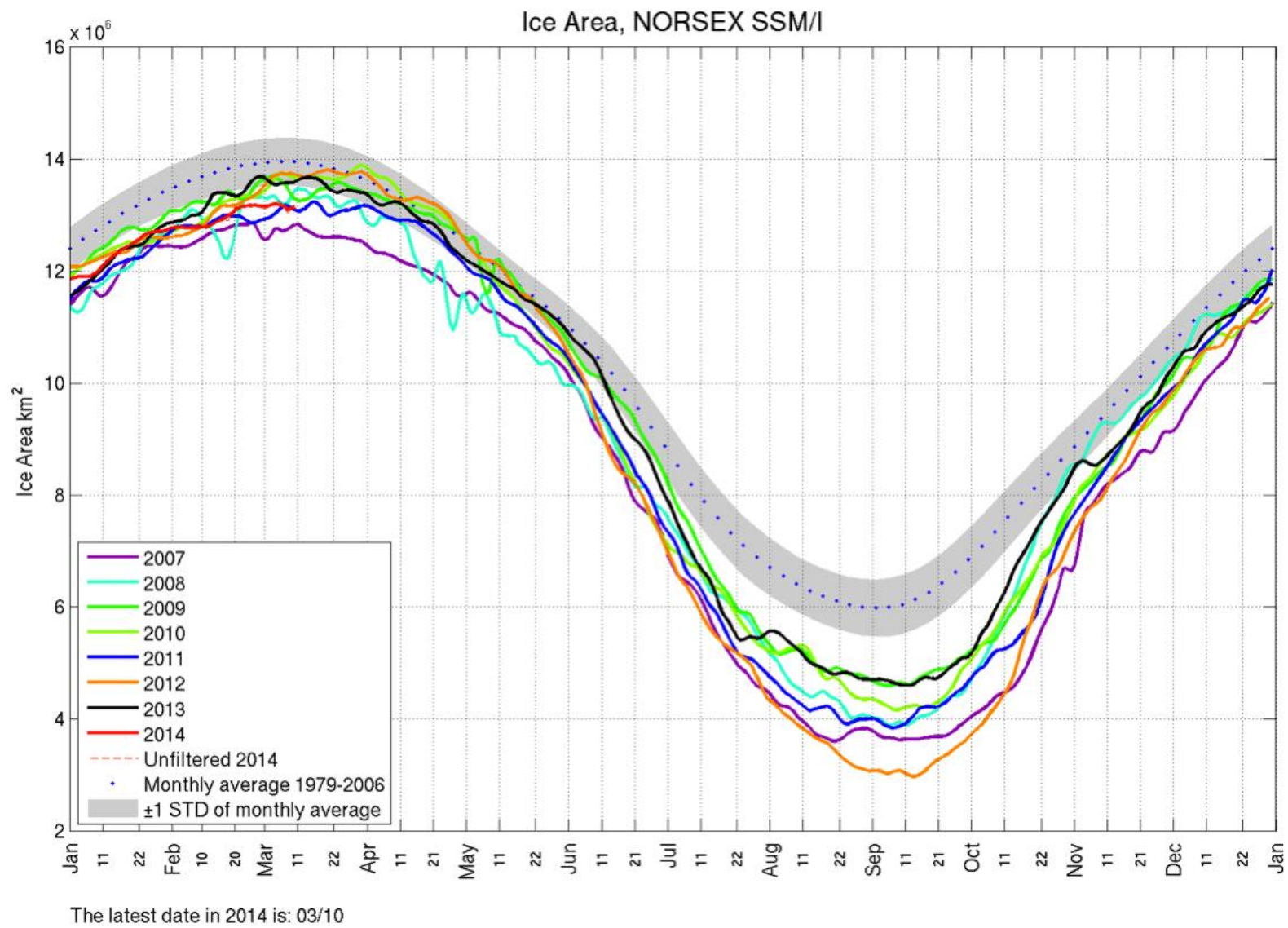


# Arctic sea ice extent summer minimum



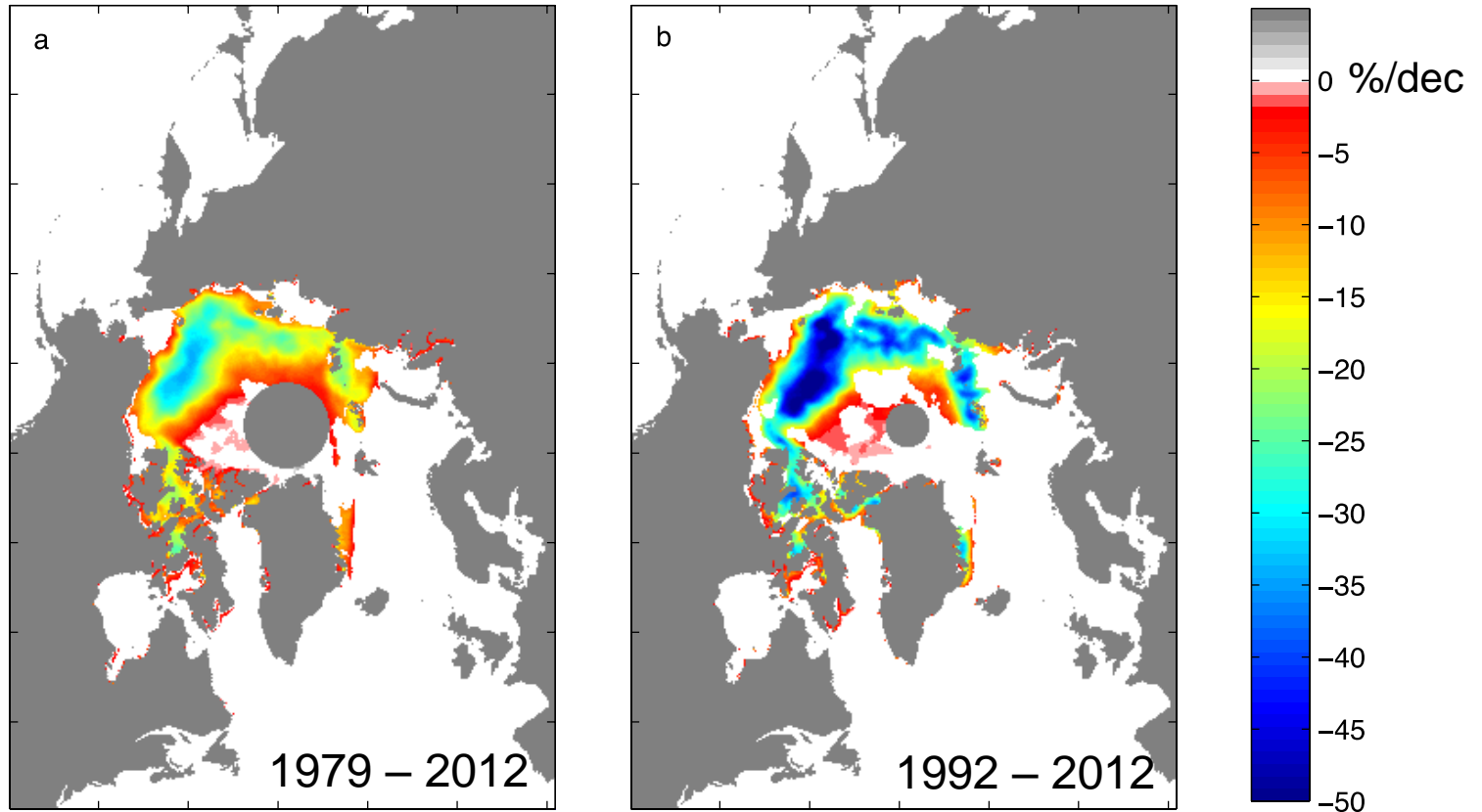


# Daily sea ice extent from passive microwave data

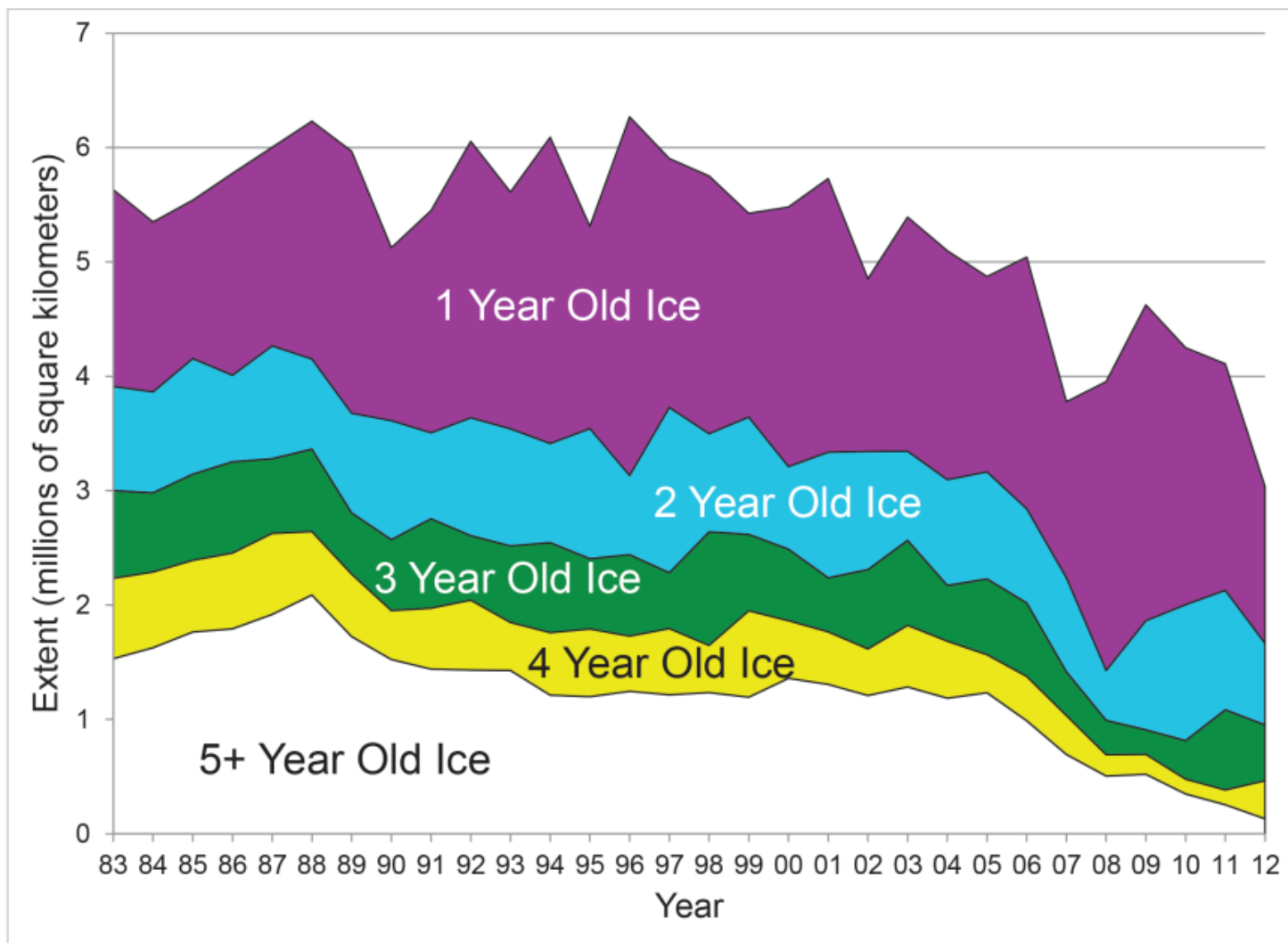


# Trends in sea ice concentration

Average September trend



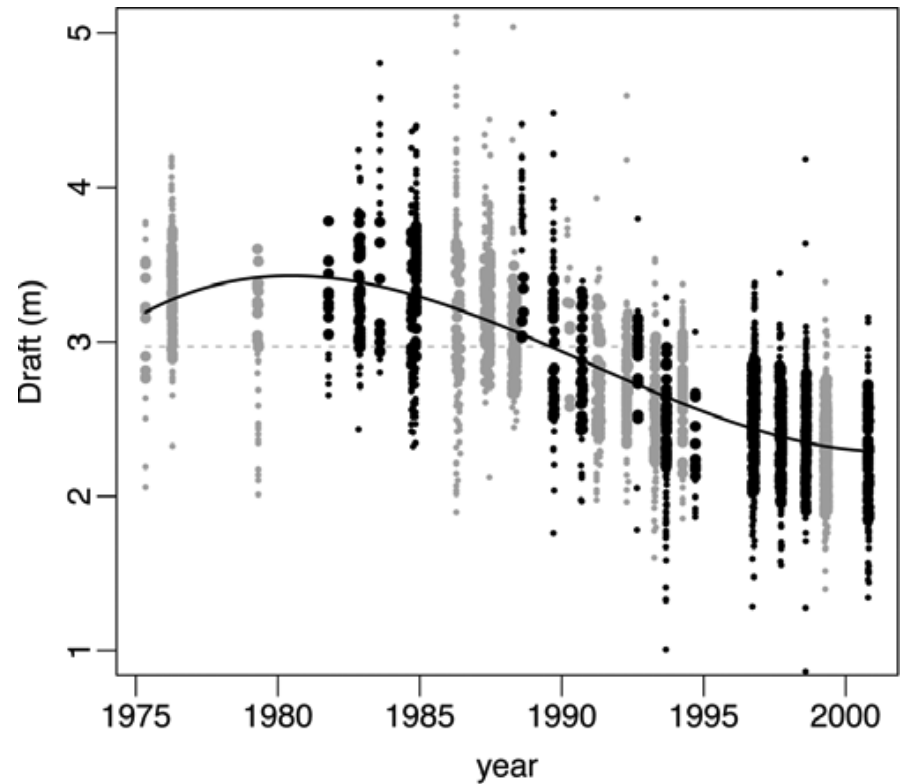
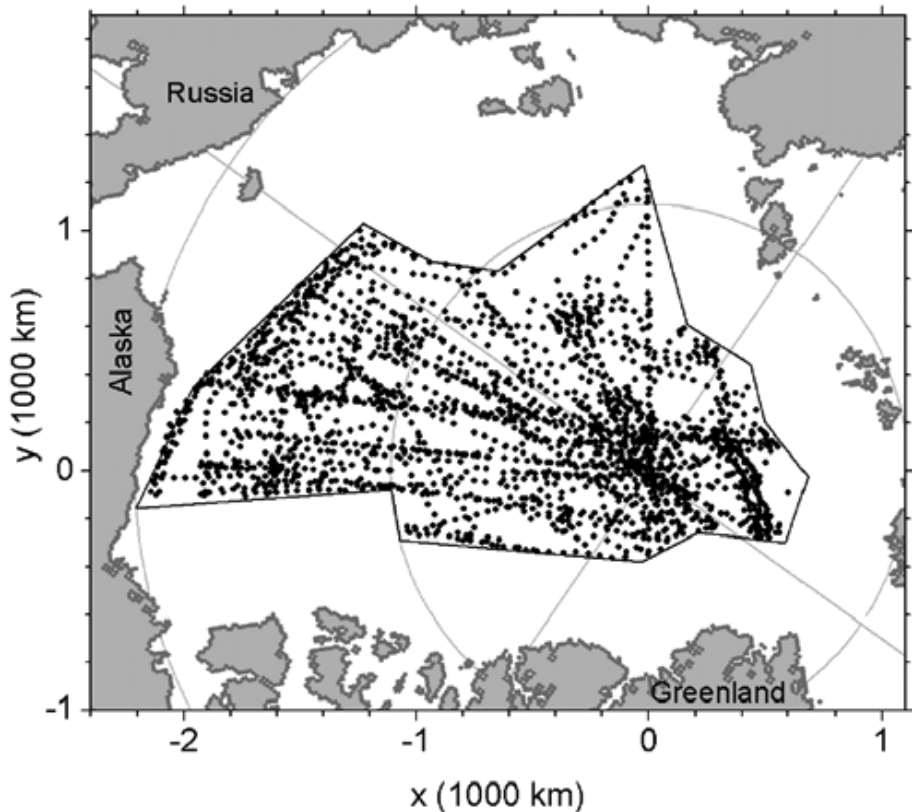
# Less old ice



Based on satellite observations; from J. Maslanik, M. Tschudi, Univ. Colorado



# Observed thickness reduction from submarine data 1975 -2000



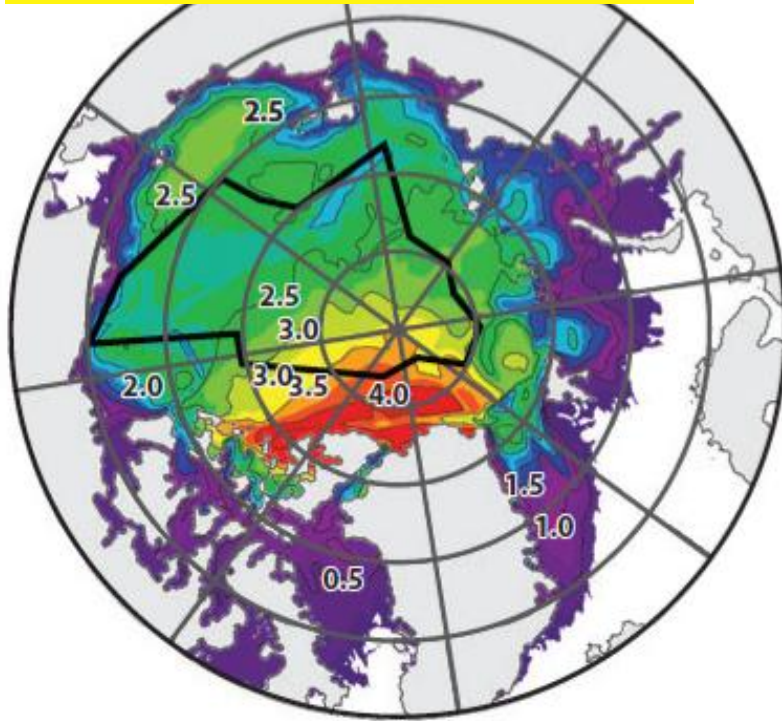
1980: 3.42 m, 2000: 2.29 m (mean value) Rothrock et al., 2008



# Ice thickness changes from 1988 to 2004

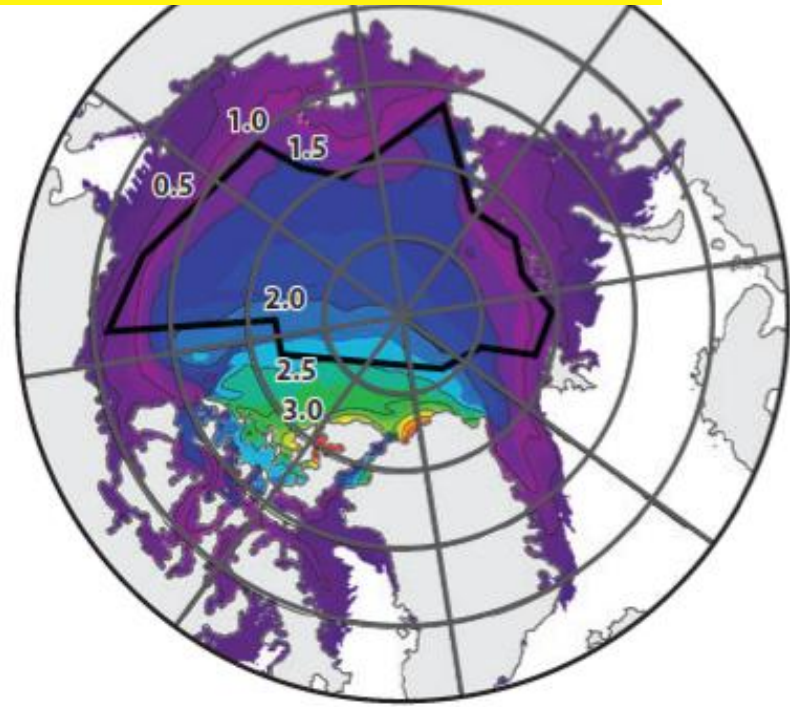
NAME model + submarine obs

Oct-Dec 1988



NAME model + IceSat obs

Oct-Dec 2004



Ice thickness (m)

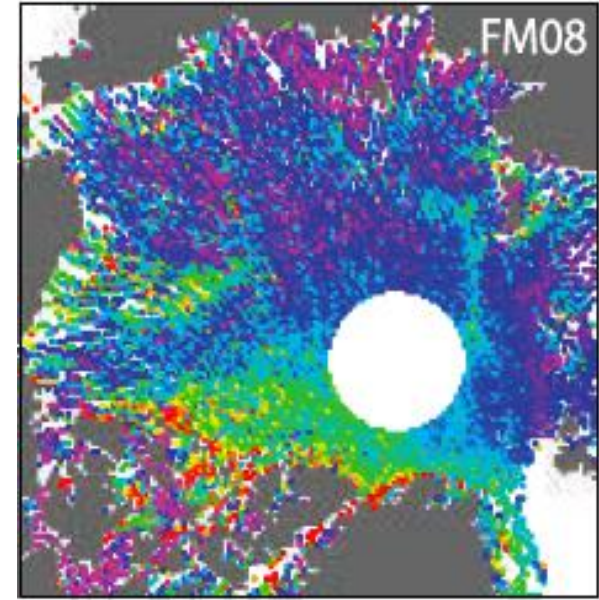
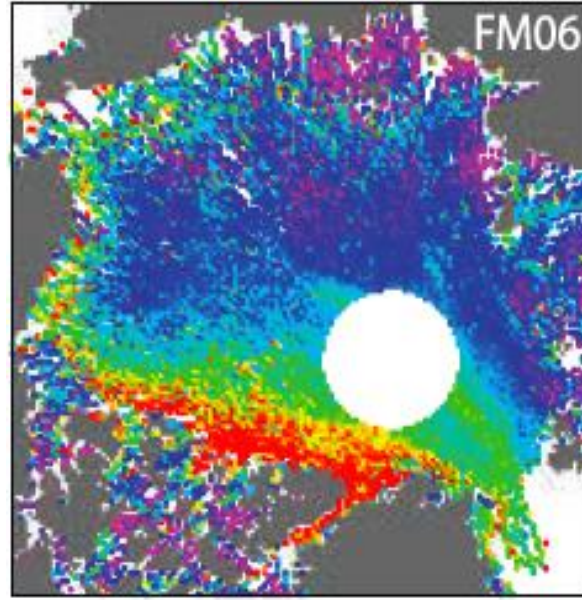
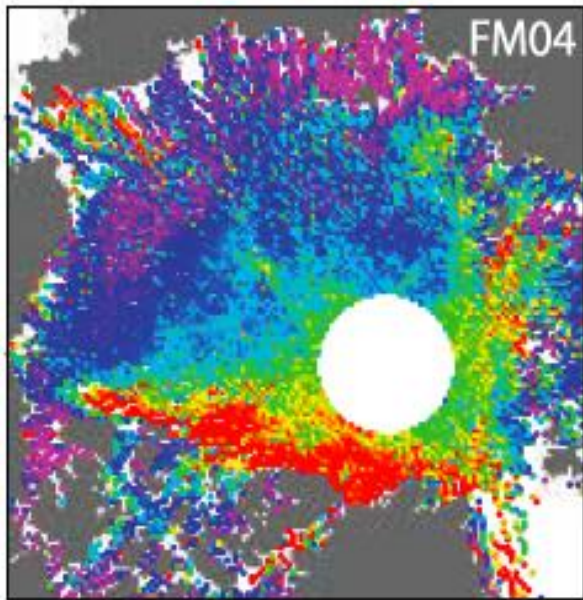


Maslowski et al., 2012



# Ice thickness retrieval from IceSat data: 2004, 2006, 2008

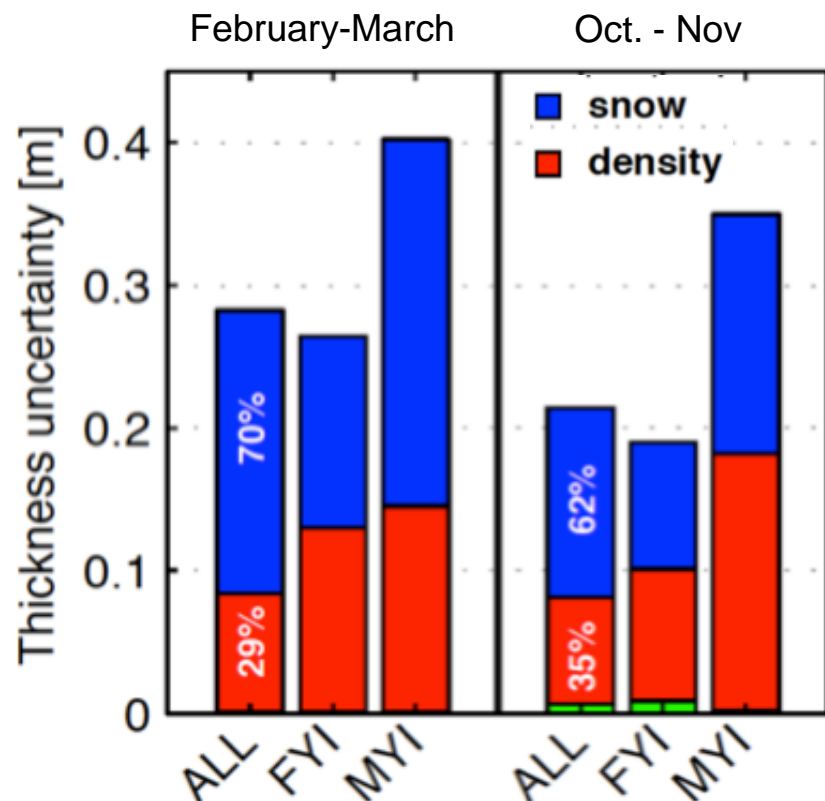
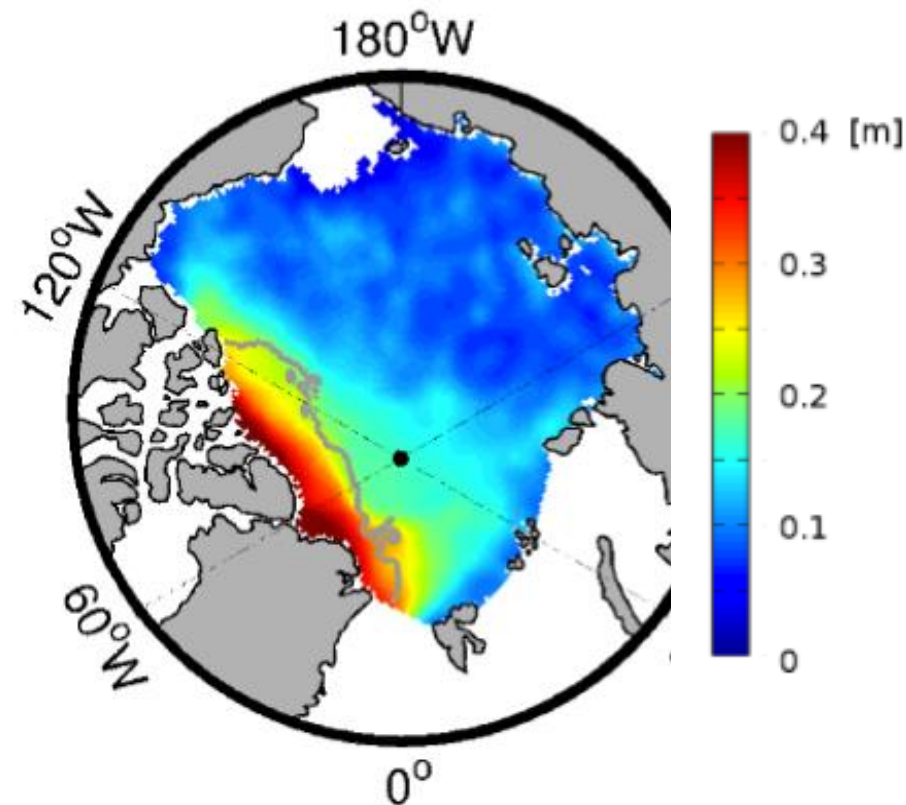
Thickness (m)  
0.0 5.0 m



(Kwok et al., 2009)

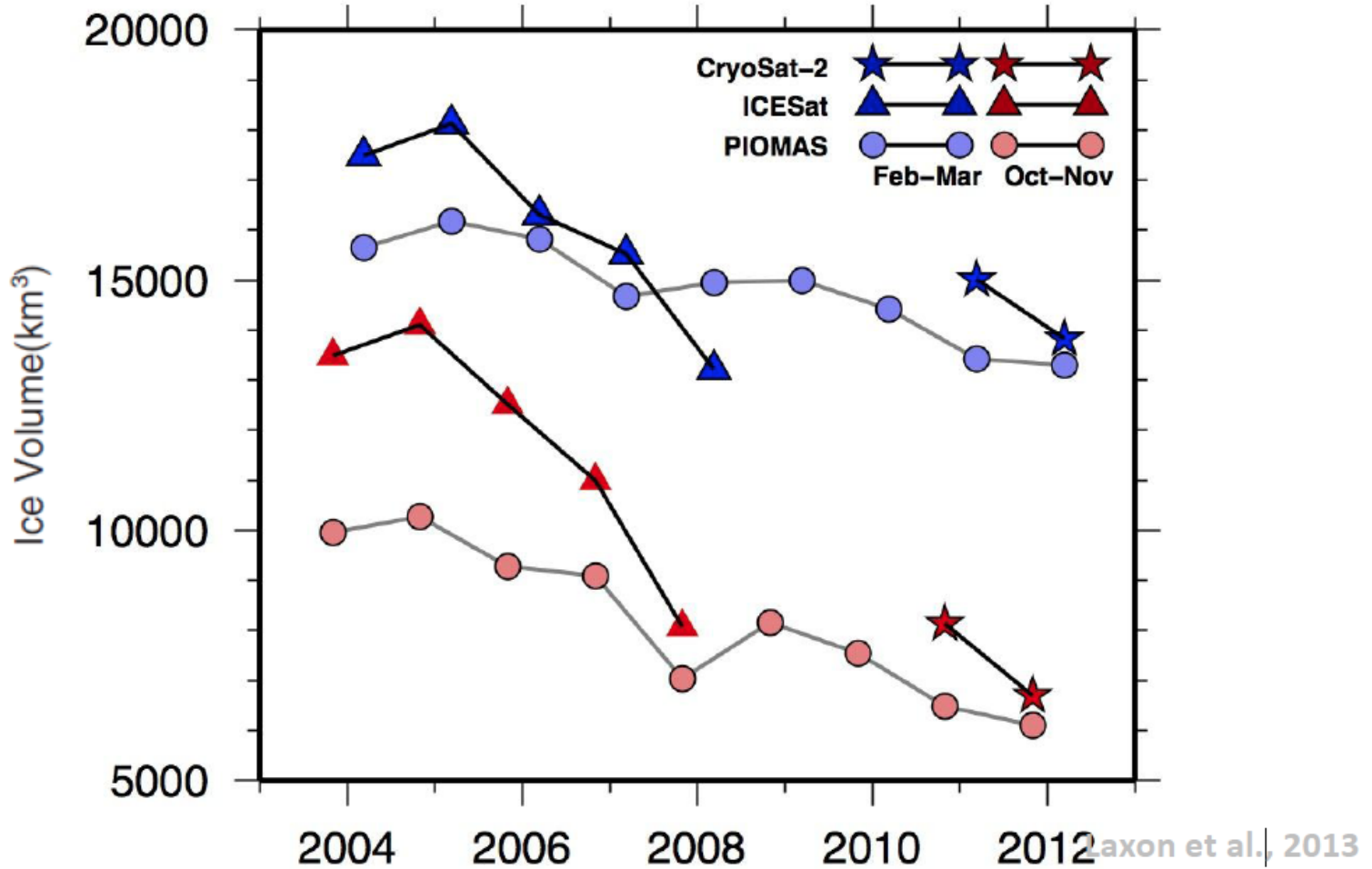


# Uncertainty in ice thickness estimation

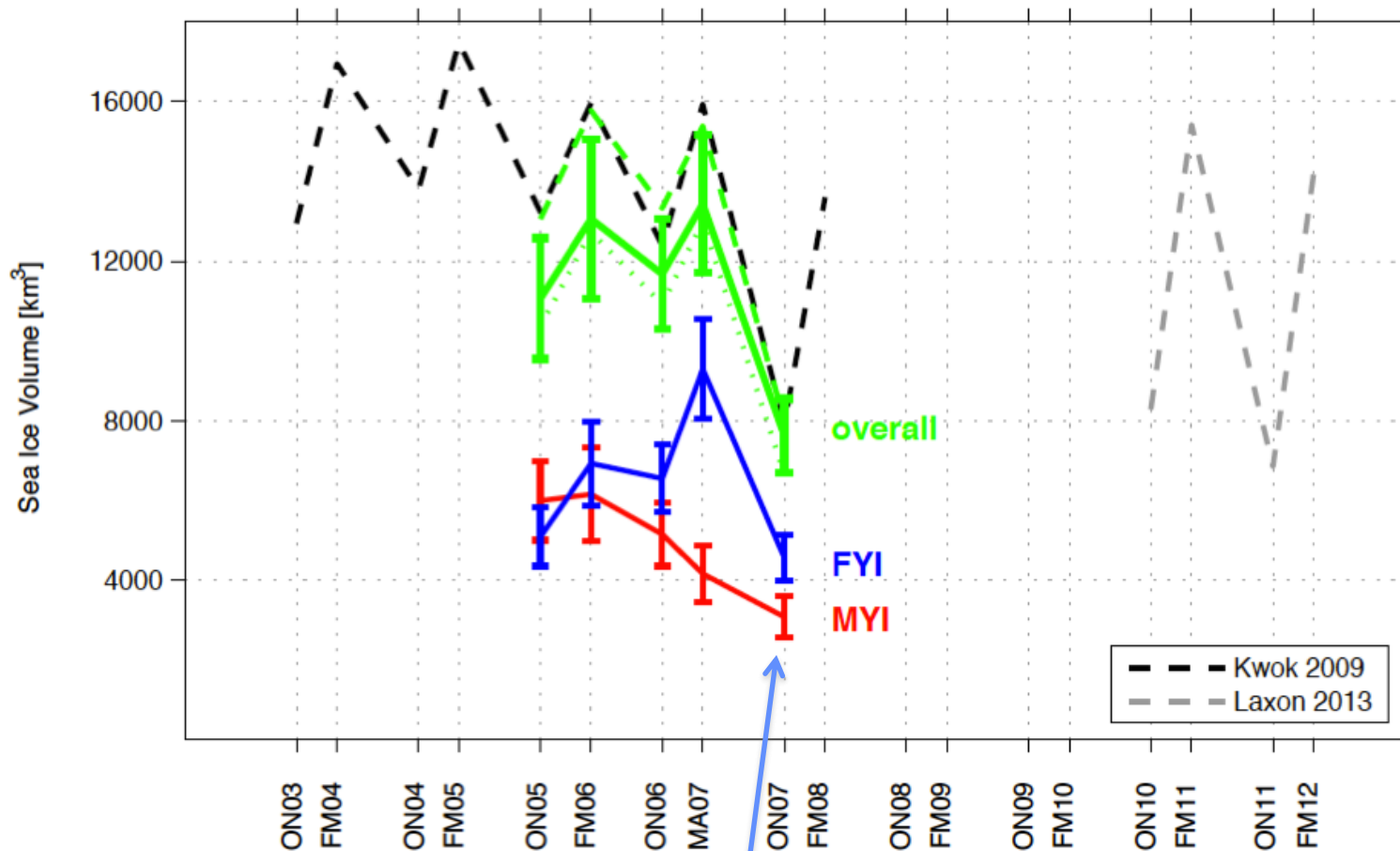


Analysis of IceSat thickness retrieval uncertainty due to ice density and snow cover uncertainty (Zygmuntowska et al. 2014)

# Ice volume decrease



# Sea ice volume with uncertainties



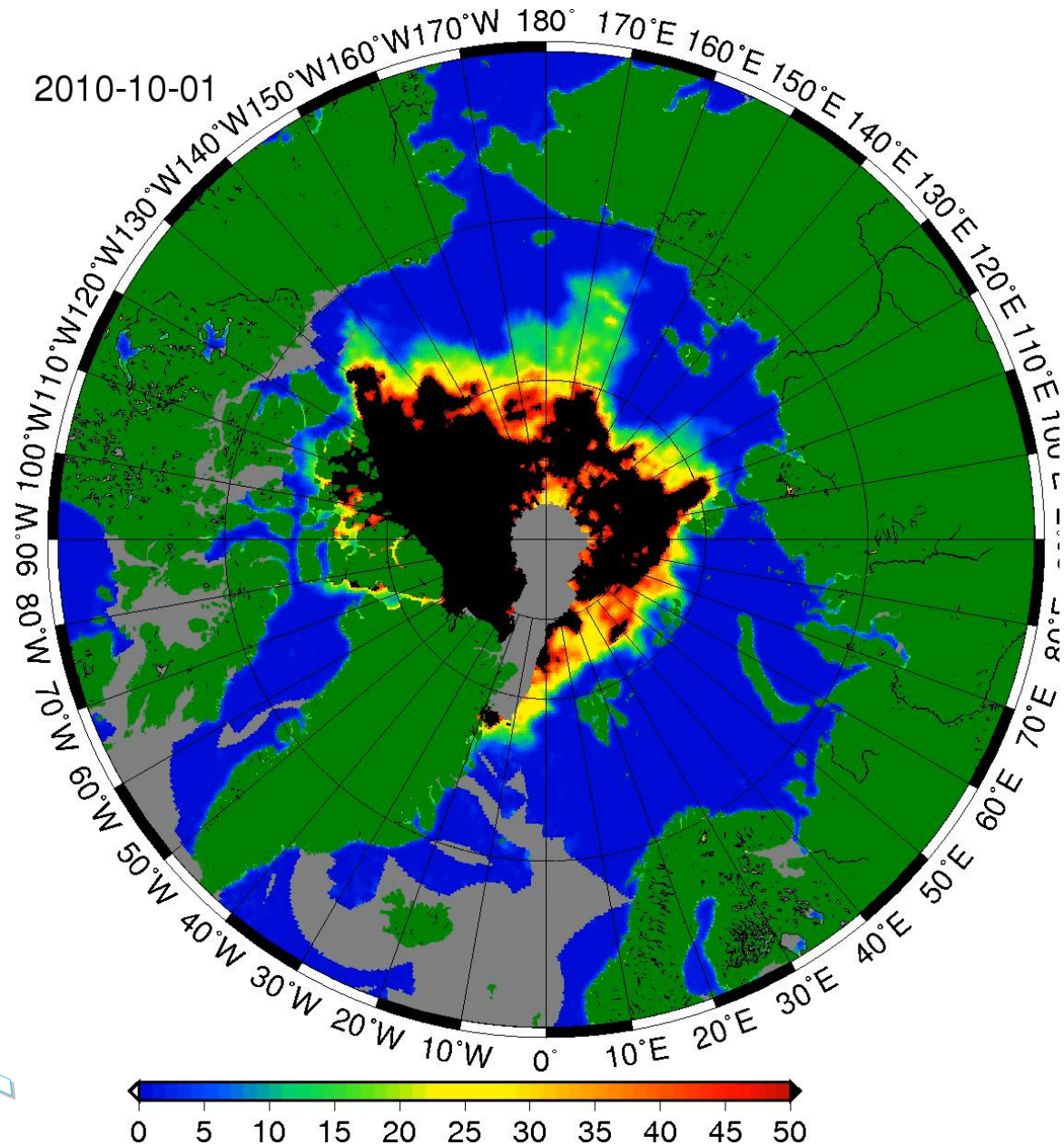
Sept 2007: very low extent

Ref. Zugmuntowska et al., 2014





# Estimating ice thickness below 0.5 m from SMOS satellite

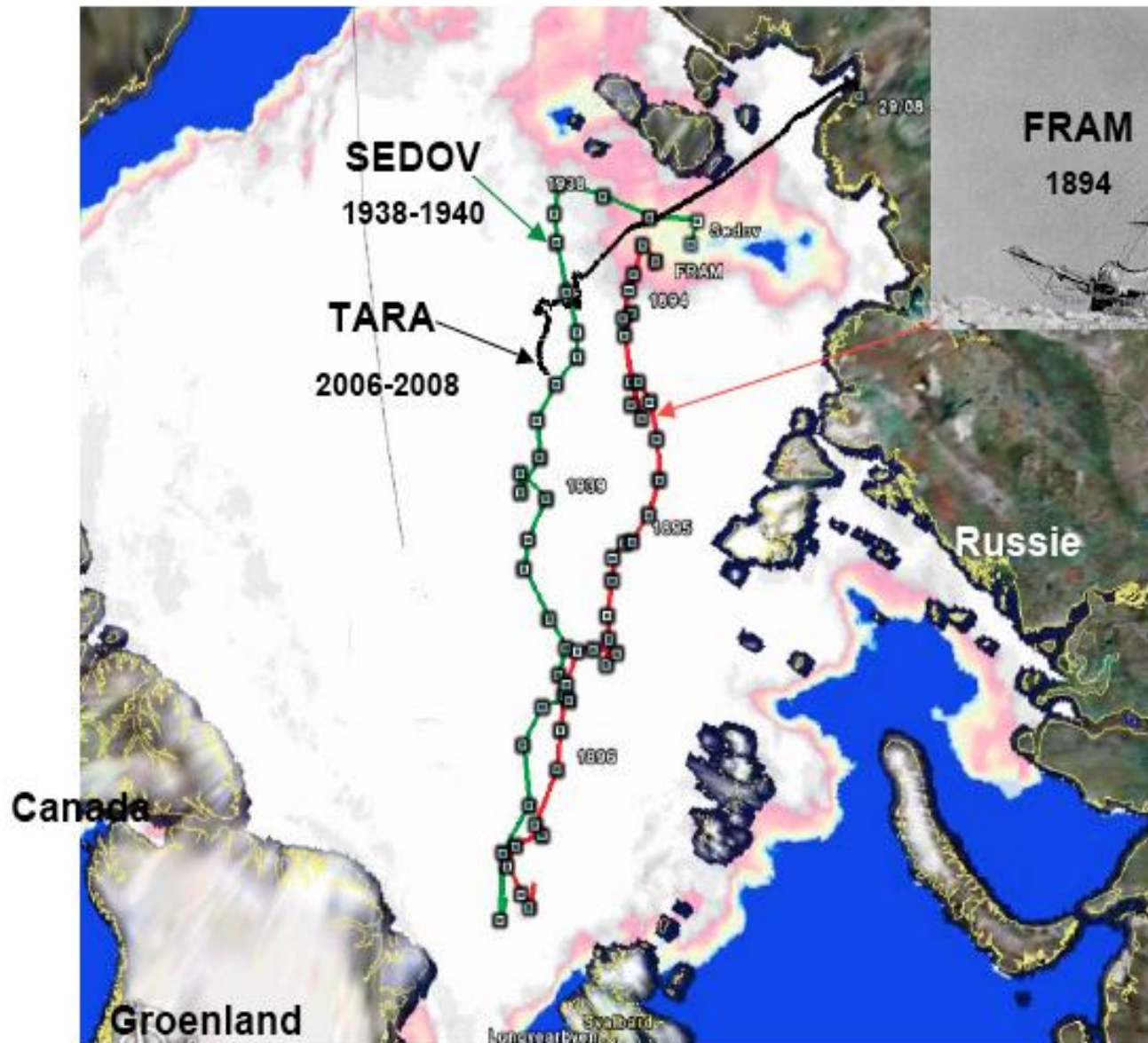


L-band passive  
microwave data from  
SMOS since 2010  
Animation of daily  
maps for October –  
December 2010

Ref- G. Heygster



# Transpolar ice drift: 1894 – 1938 – 2006



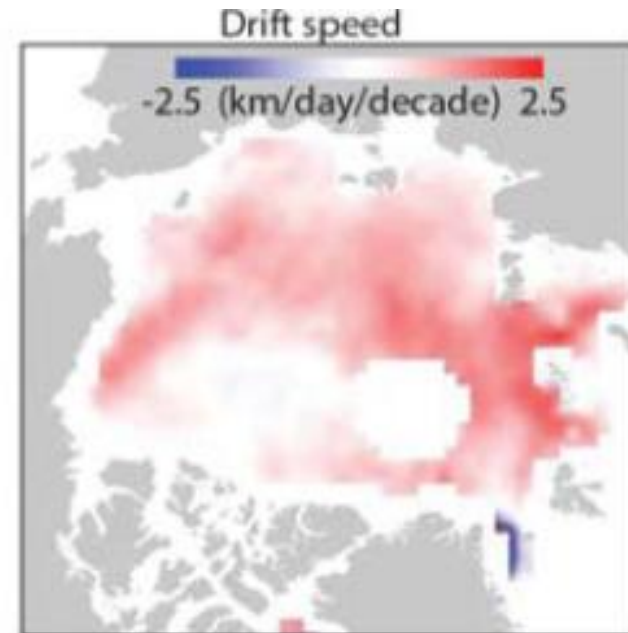
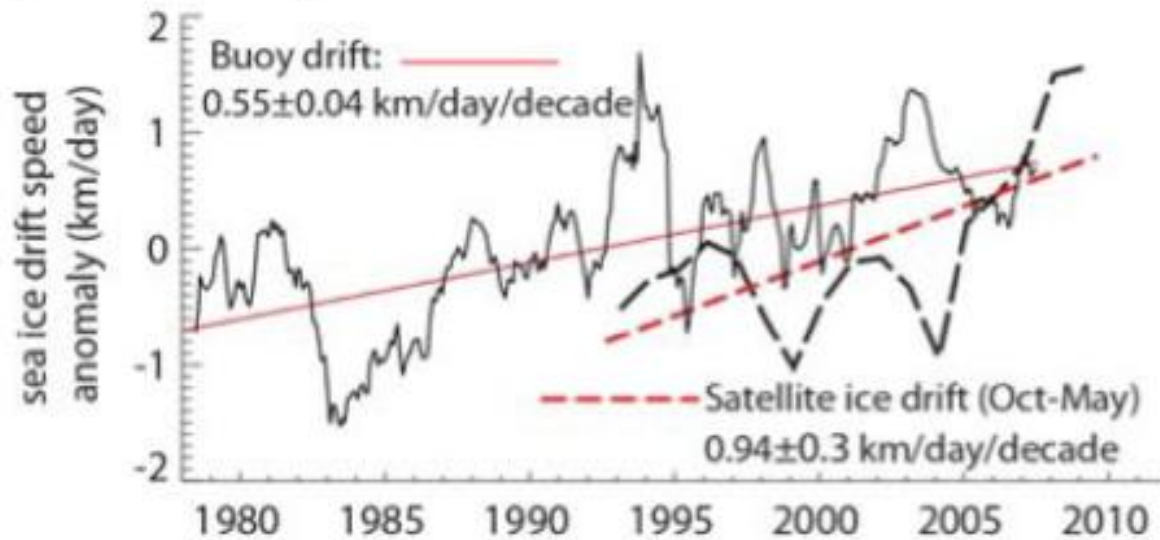
Fram drift:  
≈ 3 years

Tara drift:  
≈ 1.5 years

Ref. Jean-Claude  
Gascard

# Increasing ice speed

d) Sea ice drift speed

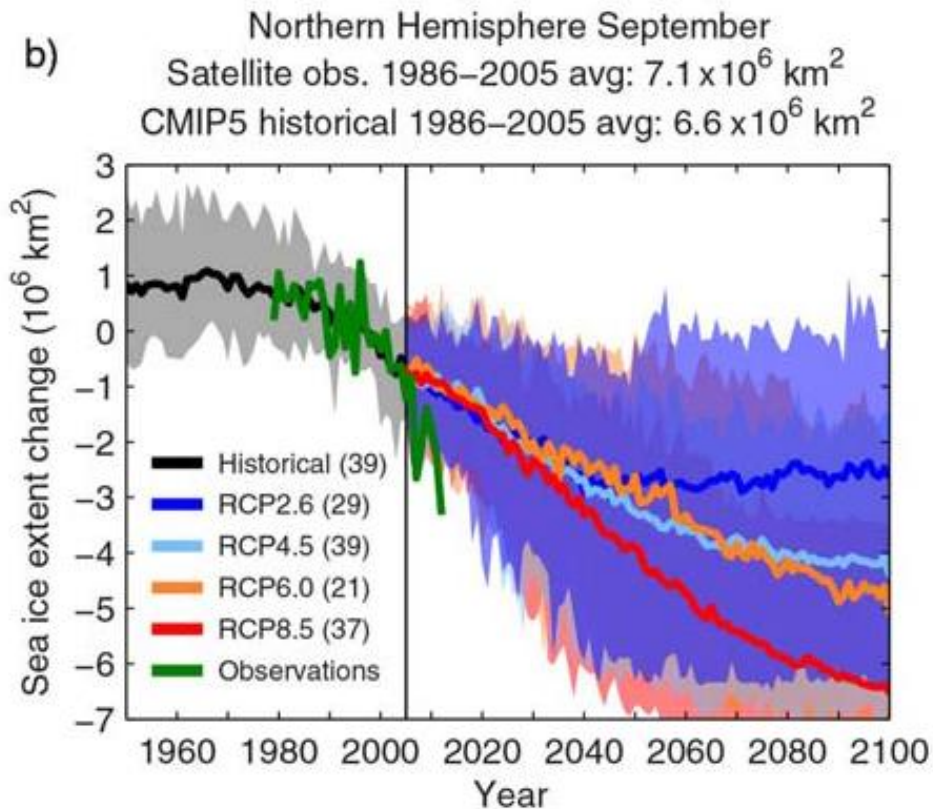
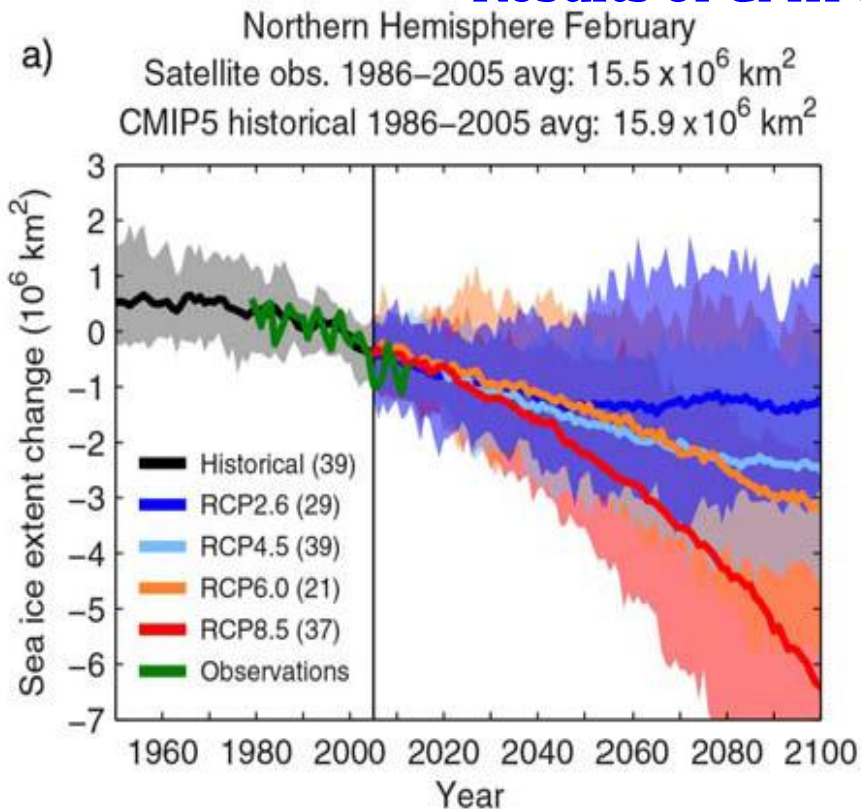


IPCC 2013



# How do models project sea ice extent in the 21<sup>st</sup> century ?

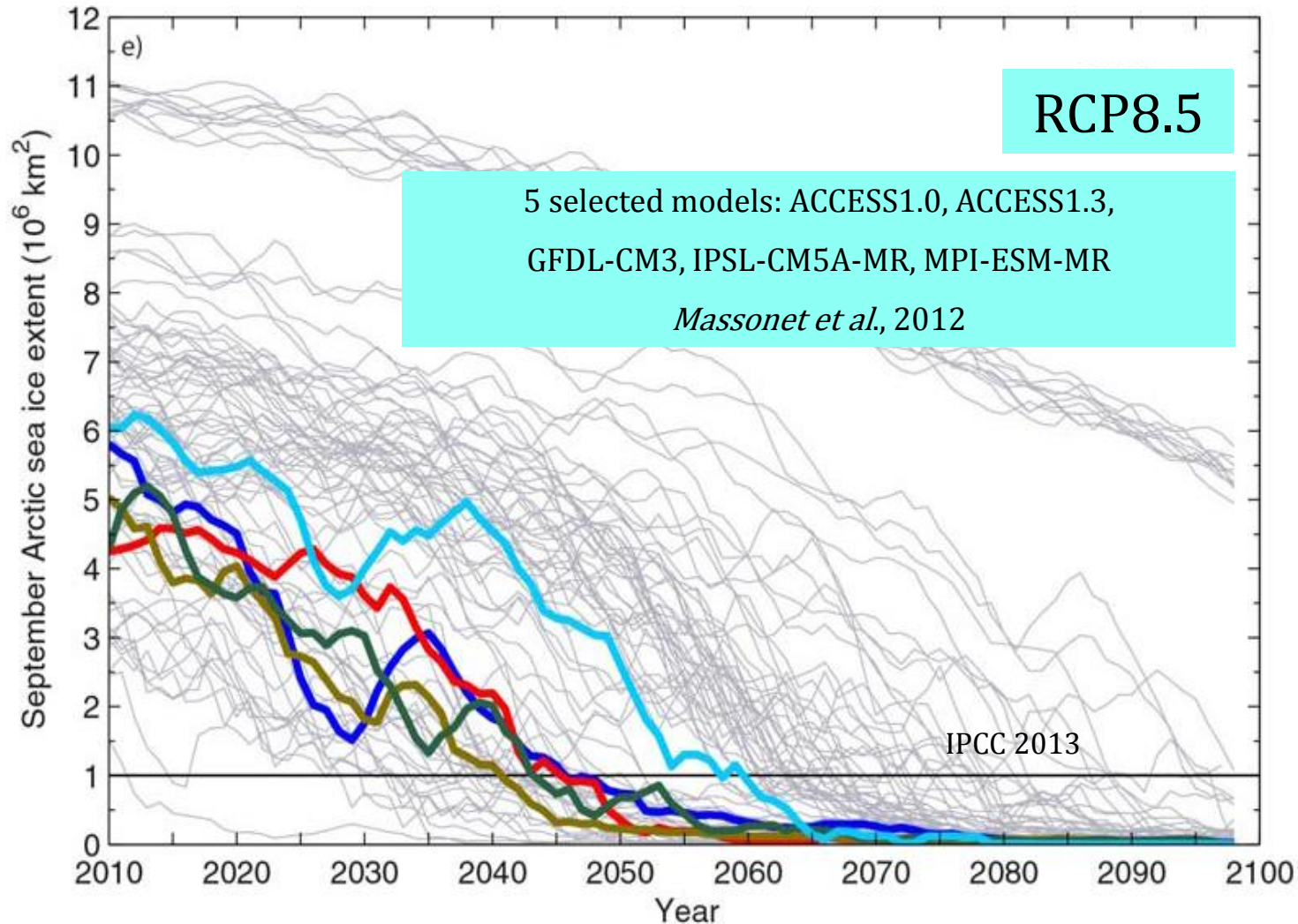
## Results of CMIP5 models (IPCC 2013)



Changes are relative to reference period 1986-2005



# When can a nearly sea ice-free summer be expected in the Arctic ?



# What are the most pronounced changes observed in Arctic sea ice in the last decades ?

Sea ice variable	Change	Observed trend
Ice extent	Decrease	- 3.8 % per decade
Multiyear extent	Decrease	-13.5 % per decade
Ice thickness	Decrease	- 15 % per decade
Ice drift	Increase	+ 0.55 cm/s per decade
Melt season	Increase	+ 5.7 days per decade

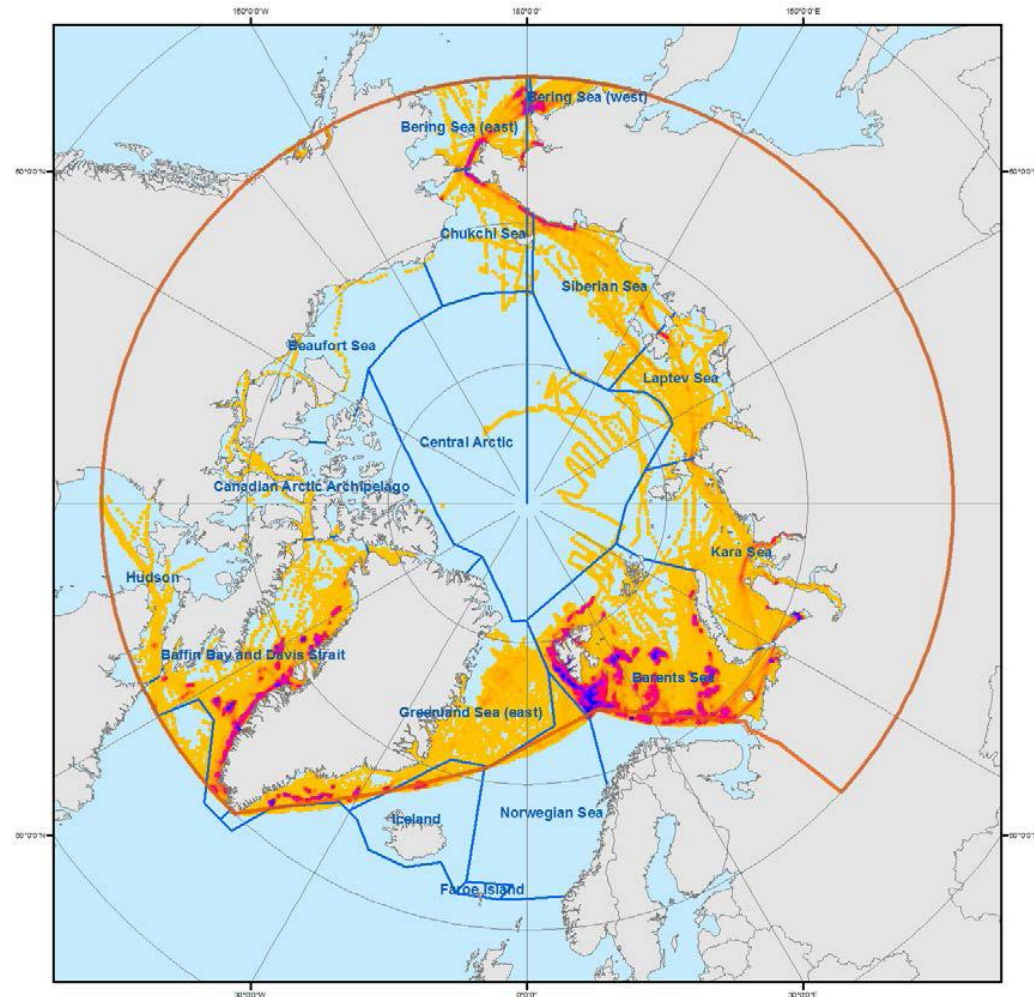




# Arctic Transport Patterns

- Transit traffic along the Northern Sea |
  - 2009: 4
  - 2010: 5
  - 2011: 34
  - 2012: 46
  - 2013: 71
  - Estimates for 2030: 480

<http://www.arctic-lio.com/>



Sources: AMSA report, 2009, DNV report, 2010