



Arctic Alerts 2016 Media Roundtable

Hosted by

Study of Environmental Arctic Change (SEARCH)

July 13, 2016 / 1:00 – 3:00 pm

The National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC

So far, 2016 is revealing **unprecedented changes in the Arctic environment**. Over the past 120 years, as greenhouse gases accumulated in the Earth's atmosphere, the global average temperature increased by 1.4°F. In Alaska and throughout the Arctic, however, the increase was twice the global average. **The Arctic's diminishing sea ice, thawing permafrost, and melting ice sheets and glaciers are amplifying both regional and global climate warming, as well as intensifying the impacts.** Records in air temperature, ice melt, spring snow cover loss, and extreme weather events are interconnected. Current observations of rapid Arctic environmental change continue to illuminate these connections and their societal implications.

SEARCH advances and communicates scientific understanding to help society respond to a rapidly changing Arctic. In this media roundtable, SEARCH highlights recent rapid changes in the Arctic that have global implications.

Tentative agenda

1:00 – 1:30 pm

Introductions

Brendan P. Kelly, Executive Director, SEARCH

Diminishing Arctic sea ice; local and global consequences

Walt Meier (NASA)

Northern Hemisphere snow cover; trends and implications

Dave Robinson (Rutgers University)

Melting ice sheets and rising sea levels

Marco Tedesco (Columbia University)

Thawing permafrost and global climate

Ted Schuur (Northern Arizona University)

Atmospheric response to a warming Arctic

Jennifer Francis (Rutgers University)

1:30 – 3:00 pm *Questions and discussion*

3:00 – 4:30 pm Additional press availability (First Amendment Lounge)