

2013 PAN-ARCTIC OUTLOOK

June Report based on May Data

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1. Extent Projection

September monthly mean: 6 million square kilometers

2. Methods/Techniques: Intuition and educated guess.

3. Rationale

A.) Water south of Bering Strait and around Europe is colder than normal, which suggests surface currents feeding into the arctic will cool the above-normal waters north of the Bering Strait and north of Scandinavia.

B.) Cold spring means northern rivers feeding into the arctic will be colder than they were last year, especially north of Canada and Alaska.

C.) DMI “Temperatures above 80 degrees north” graph shows temperatures persistently below normal, despite above normal water temperatures surrounding the arctic ice.

D.) DMI “Ice extent 30% or higher” graph shows ice extent at highest levels for this date since 2005.

E.) I don’t expect a major arctic storm this summer, and do expect a more zonal flow until blocking resumes in October.

4. Executive Summary

I expected a swift early ice-melt, due to warmth over Greenland and Northeast Canada caused by the spring’s blocking pattern, but expect a slow-down of ice melt that will be surprising to many once the factors I listed above set in.

5. Estimate of Forecast Skill (if available)

Very poor last year, but decent the two preceding years. All my guesses have been too high. Last year I was astonished to see open water appear so early, east of Ellesmere Island, and then late summer arctic gale made mincemeat of my forecast.