

9th August 2017

SIPN-South

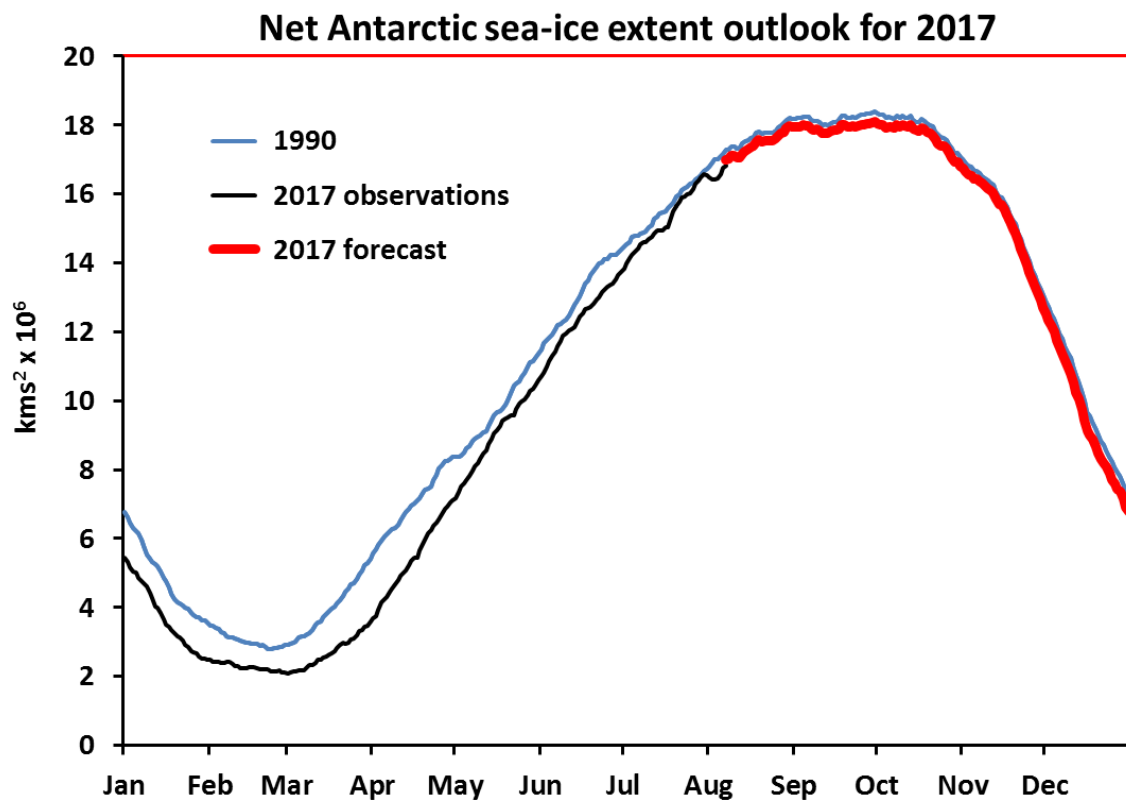
Outlook for Antarctic sea-ice extent September 2017

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Summary

We provide an outlook of the net Antarctic sea-ice extent for September 2017, based on observations up to and including the 7th August 2017. We use a statistical method that matches the pattern of current observations with those from the past.

We obtain a mean-September extent of $17.9 \times 10^6 \text{ kms}^2$ and an annual daily maximum value of $18.1 \times 10^6 \text{ kms}^2$ occurring on the 30 September. Both these figures are slightly higher than those obtained from the outlook initiated in July 2017.



Outlook method

Basic statistical analysis:

1. Match current (past 30-days) pattern of sea –ice extent and growth rate with past observations (1979-2016) for the same time of the year. Note that this is not matching the net-extent, but the pattern of sea ice and growth rate. The best match for past 30 days is 1990 – as it was for the outlook initiated in July.
2. Use best match from (1), along with current conditions (adjusted by climatological standard deviation) to provide the outlook.