

Sea Ice Outlook
2017 August Report
Individual Outlook

Name of contributor or name of contributing organization:

AWI consortium (Kauker et al.)

Is this contribution from a person or group not affiliated with a research organization?

Name and organization for all contributors. Indicate primary contact and total number of people who may have contributed to your Outlook, even if not included on the author list.

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Do you want your June contribution to automatically be included in subsequent reports? (If yes, you may still update your contribution via the Google form.)

What is the type of your Outlook projection?

Heuristic

Starting in 2017 we are accepting both pan-Arctic and pan-Antarctic sea ice extent (either one or both) of the September monthly mean. As in 2016, we are also collecting Alaskan regional sea ice extent. To be consistent with the validating sea ice extent index from NSIDC, if possible, please first compute the average sea ice concentration for the month and then compute the extent as the sum of cell areas > 15%.

a) Pan-Arctic September extent prediction in million square kilometers.

5.06

b) same as in (a) but for pan-Antarctic. If your method differs substantially from that for the Arctic, please enter it as a separate submission.

c) same as in (b) but for the Alaskan region. Please also tell us maximum possible extent if every ocean cell in your region were ice covered.

"Executive summary" of your Outlook contribution (using 300 words or less) describe how and why your contribution was formulated. To the extent possible, use non-technical language.

Sea ice-ocean model ensemble prediction initialised with assimilation of sea ice and ocean observations.

Brief explanation of Outlook method (using 300 words or less).

For the present outlook the coupled ice-ocean model NAOSIM has been forced with atmospheric surface data from January 1948 to August 8th 2017 with a combination of NCEP/NCAR and NCEP-CFSR and NCEP CFSv2). All ensemble model experiments have been started from the same initial conditions on August 8th 2017. The model setup has not changed with respect to the last year. We used atmospheric forcing data from each of the years 2007 to 2016 for the ensemble prediction and thus obtain 10 different realisations of potential sea ice evolution for the summer of 2017. The use of an ensemble allows to estimate probabilities of sea-ice extent predictions for September 2017. A variational assimilation system around NAOSIM has been used to initialize the model using the Alfred Wegener Institute's CryoSat-2 ice thickness product, the University of Bremen's snow depth product, and the OSI SAF ice concentration and sea-surface temperature products. Observations from March and April were used. A bias correction scheme for the CryoSat-2 ice thickness which employs a spatially variable scaling factor could enhance the skill considerably (Kauker et al, 2015, <http://www.the-cryosphere-discuss.net/tc-2015-171/>).

Tell us the dataset used for your initial Sea Ice Concentration (SIC). Include name and date (e.g., "NASA Team, May 2017"). We also encourage you to submit initial fields to the dropbox, see <https://www.arcus.org/sipn/sea-ice-outlook/2017/june/call> in the section on "Submitting Figures and Gridded Data of Full Spatial Fields (Optional) of Forecasts and Initial Conditions" for detailed instructions. Required if sea Ice concentration is used.

OSI SAF EUMETSAT OSI-401 March and April 2017

Dataset of initial Sea Ice Thickness (SIT) used (include name and date):

CryoSat-2 from Alfred-Wegener Institute of March and April 2017

If you use a dynamic model, please specify the name of the model as a whole and each component including version numbers and how the component is initialized:

NAOSIM sea ice - ocean model. Initialized on August 8 2017 from a hindcast run (started 1.1.1980) with assimilation of SIT (AWI), SIC and SST (OSI SAF) and snow depth (Univ Bremen) in March and April 2017. Model biases are compensated by a correction to SIT (estimated from the years 2012 to 2014).

If available from your method for pan-Arctic extent prediction, please provide

a) Uncertainty/probability estimate such as median, ranges, and/or standard deviations (specify what you are providing).

b) Brief explanation/assessment of basis for the uncertainty estimate (1-2 sentences).

Ensemble spread of the SIE through forcing years 2007 to 2016 used by the sea ice - ocean model (from August 8 to end of September).

c) Brief description of any post processing you have done (1-2 sentences).