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Abstract

Sea Ice Change Around Alaska and Impacts on Human Activities

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The Arctic sea-ice cover is rapidly transforming, with sustained northward retreat of the summer ice edge and thinning of the pack ice. The seas north of Alaska have experienced some of the largest changes anywhere in the Arctic. The talk will discuss some of the causes of such change and what this may mean for coastal communities, marine ecosystems and industrial activities. In the context of the International Polar Year 2007-08, examining the important role that local expertise, such as that of Barrow's Inupiat Eskimo population, can play in adapting to the complex of change underway in the Arctic is of particular relevance.

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