

Press Release



50/2020

Arctic sea ice: A look back into the future New study reconstructs development in the last 10,000 years

06.10.2020/Kiel. In mid-September the areal extension of Arctic sea ice reached its annual minimum. Since the beginning of satellite observations in the late 1970s only in 2012 a smaller extent was recorded. An international team of scientists in cooperation with the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel has now investigated the sea ice extent shortly

this area. If warming continues, it will take just a few decades until we see the first summer with a completely ice-free Arctic Ocean", he says.

Since the shelf seas north of Siberia are the most important sea ice factory in the Arctic, warming has the largest effects on sea ice growth in winter just there. The GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre has been involved in investigations of global warming effects in this area for more than 25 years, together with German and Russian partner institutions.

Reference:

de Vernal, A., C. Hillaire-Marcel, C. Le Duc, P. Roberge, C. Brice, J. Matthiessen, R. F. Spielhagen, R. Stein (2020): Natural variability of the Arctic Ocean sea ice during the present interglacial. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS)*, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2008996117>

Links:

www.geomar.de GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

Images:

At www.geomar.de/n7302-e images are available for download.

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