Influence of activations of sea ice motion and upper ocean circulation on recent Arctic climate change

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Sep 25, 2008, 74-50N, 177W

Photo by Koji Shimada

1979-1982

How the warm Pacific Summer Water delivered into the Arctic Basin?

and a more than



Pacific SL







This is principal "Oceanic Beaufort Gyre" established by surface forcing and wave dynamics. It is different from Beaufort High and Beaufort Ice Gyre.







Sumata & Shimada (2007)



Ocean circulation field at 100dbar (dynamic height 100dbar referred to 800dbar)

Key features in 2008:

- (1) Ocean circulation is strengthened associated with strong sea ice motion
- (2) Pattern of ocean circulation is quite different from that of sea ice motion.
 - (3) There are two centers of oceanic Beaufort Gyre at 100dbar deep.

島田 2010 (気象研究ノート)

Ocean circulation at 50 dbar and 150





Sea level does not represent real oceanic Beaufort Gyre

1979-1982

First catastrophic reduction of sea ice during SHEBA period 1997-1998.

Pacific Su

and a straight and

©NASA

Pacific Summer Water







Northward spreading of PSW on the Northwind Ridge (SHEBA1997-1998)



Modal exchange from barotropic (free propagation) mode to baroclinic mode (no propagation-> current) in the presence of finite amplitude of sea floor topography (Northwind Ridge). Sumata and Shimada (2007)



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Annual Sea Ice Minimum





What happened in 1997–1998?





Sea ice concentration anomaly [1998~2003mean] - [1979-1997mean]







Sea ice reduction

Ice melt Less ice formation Outflow through Fram Strait

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Changes in upper oceanic temperature & stored heat



Change of atmospheric temperature was larger than of ocean.

Which was more important for the sea ice?

Change of heat flux from the ocean was much larger than that from atmosphere

"Heat is much more significant parameter than temperature to argue the fate of Arctic sea ice".

Key Word 1: Heat

Photo by National geographic

Is the warming of PSW in the Canada Basin truly caused by changes in the upstream temperature in the northeastern Bering Shelf?





Upper ocean is not directly driven by wind forcing, but by sea ice motion. *torque of sea ice motion is important *coastal boundary condition of sea ice motion is





Ice cream, just picked out from the refrigerator, is difficult to rotate.



10 minutes later, it is easy to rotate!



heavy ice condition near Alaskan coast



Less ice condition near Alaskan coast





• Sea ice concentration anomaly for November through January [(1997 Nov.~2003 Jan.) – (1979~1997 Jan.)]

Shimada et al. (2006)





No significant difference in SLP between 2005 and 2007

Rotation of sea ice motion in the Canada Basin

Minus value means clockwise rotation.







Key word 2: Precondition Condition for instability, catastrophe

Condition for transition from negative feedback system (oscillation) to positive feedback system (evolution)

Photo by Koji Shimada

Warming by the strengthening ocean circulation led the warming by ice-albedo feedback

















Key word 3: Order









