Alaska and Western Canada



Alaska and Western Canada

Seasonal Summary: Winter 2022-2023				
Observations above (+) and below (-) normal				
Temperature Normal 1991-2020	Winter temperatures in Alaska and NW Canada were 0.5°C above the 1991-2020 average.	ERA5 since 1940 Warmest: 2015-16	ERA5 since 1940 Coolest: 1964-65	
Precipitation Normal 1991-2020	Winter precipitation in Alaska and NW Canada 102 percent of 1991-2020 average.	ERA5 since 1940 Wettest: 2021-22	ERA5 since 1940 Driest: 1968-69	
Sea-Ice Since 1979	Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea (after mid-December) completely iced over. Bering Sea Dec-Feb average ice extent was 66 percent of 1991-2020 normal	Maximum extent was 729,000 km ² on Feb 17, 85% of 1991-2020 average maximum extent. Extent closer average in Spring 2023.		







Alaska and Western Canada

December 2022: Anchorage, Alaska after repeated heavy snows. Credit: Alaska Daily News



	OBSERVED EXTREME CLIMATE EVENTS WINTER 2022-23				
Category	Location	Rarity	Impacts associated with event		
Precipitation and Temperature	Alaska	 Early Dec: Widespread rain western Alaska with loss of snowpack parts of Bering Strait, Utqiaġvik +4C Dec 4, highest temperature any data from late October to late April (100 years) Mid-Dec: extreme snowfall Anchorage area (2nd highest two-week total) 	 Western Alaska severe icing from Dec rain Ecosystem impacts Loss of snowpack causing water access problems in a few communities Weeks-long travel hazard in Anchorage area from heavy snowfall 		
Precipitation	Yukon	•New monthly total records in many communities, setting new monthly total records in some communities.	The record setting snowpack in many watersheds across the territory resulted in higher than average freshet flows and lake levels this spring and increases the potential for flooding in many areas.		



Alaska and Western Canada

May 2023: Circle, Alaska Yukon River ice jam flooding. Photo credit: National Weather Service

	Observed extreme climate events Spring 2023				
Category	Location	Rarity	Impacts associated with event		
Flooding	Alaska and Yukon	May: Severe to historic level at some communities	 Homes and community buildings lost Road damage and severe erosion 		
Precipitation	Alaska	 March: Extreme monthly and shorter duration precipitation NW Alaska 	 Infrastructure impacts High costs of repeated snow removal Disaster declaration NW Arctic 		
Temperature	Alaska	• April: Extreme cold central and western Alaska. Nome tied all time record low for the month (-34C, 116 years of observations)	 The persistent cold delayed snow melt and contributed to ice jam flooding Greatly slowed sea ice melt in the northern Bering Sea 		

Alaska and Western Canada

Outlook: Summer 2023				Multi Model Agreement		
		Forecast		High	Moderate	Low
Bering Sea			Above Normal			
	Beaufort Sea		Above Normal			
Temp *	Gulf of Alaska		Above Normal			
	SE Alaska, NW of W	/estern Canada	Above Normal			
	Mainland Alaska and Canada north of 60N		Above Normal	Above Normal		
	Gulf of Alaska		Near normal			
Precip *	Alaska and Wester	n Canada, Beaufort Sea	Near normal			
		Chukchi	Near normal	1		
	Break-up	Beaufort Sea	Near normal	1		
Sea-Ice		Bering Sea / Bering Strait	ŀ	Happening but late		
	Min. Ice Extent September 2023	Chukchi and Beaufort Seas	Below normal	1		
Snow Water	For Northern Alaska Yukon and Western part of the Northwest Territories (NWT)		Near normal	1		
(experimental	Most of Alaska, Cer	ntral NWT	N	No model agreement		
product)	Eastern half of the NWT		Near normal			

Alaska and Western Canada: possible impacts Summer 2023

Economy sector/ Livelihood conditions	Outlook	Impacts associated
Community Infrastructure		
Harvesting Activities on the land and sea-ice	 Delayed start to wildfire season eastern Alaska/NW Canada High early summer rivers levels Alaska/Yukon 	Possible cash income loss Higher risk increased river erosion Lower risk of shipping delays for barge supplied communities
Bering Sea Fisheries	Late (but patchy) sea ice melt and resulting cool sea surface temperatures at least through early summer	Potential for more historically usual ocean ecosystem patterns

Ongoing Impacts of Climate Change

- Increase risk of coastal flooding and thawing permafrost coastal erosion and community infrastructure
- All marine mammals with habitat on sea ice may be more difficult to harvest

Central & Eastern Canadian Arctic

Seasonal Summary: Winter 2022-2023					
	Observations above (+) and below (-) normal				
Temperature Normal 1981-2010	Normal conditions +0.2 °C	Warm December & January	Cold February		
Precipitation Normal 1981-2010 *data from 1985-present	Wetter than normal in eastern Nunavut from around Baker Lake to Pond Inlet, and Inuvik and surrounding areas Drier than normal in western Nunavut Received 36% to 143% of normal Winter precipitation	Wetter Inuvik (4th wettest winter) and Baker Lake (10 th wettest winter)* Great variation in precipitation amounts over region	Drier Cambridge Bay (3 rd driest winter)* Great variation in precipitation amounts over region		
Sea-Ice	Freeze-up: slow freeze-up of ice in Canadian Arctic Archipelago; slightly early initially in Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay before slowing.	March maximum sea-ice extent in the Arctic was 5th lowest in last 45 years. • East Coast of Canada: 6th lowest ice extent since 1969 • Gulf of St. Lawrence: 4th lowest ice extent since 1969			

Daily Mean Temperature: Rankin Inlet

- Much above normal daily mean temperatures in December and most of January
- Below normal end of January and most of February

0.6°C above normal

Central and Eastern Canadian Arctic

Observed extreme climate events WINTER 2022-2023				
Category	Location	Rarity	Impacts associated with event	
Blizzards	Rankin Inlet, Nunavut	 Relatively low blizzard hours 	 Reduced SAR events, reduced societal disruptions 	
Flooding	Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories	Coastal flooding in December	Coastal property damage	
Precipitation	Nunatsiavut	 Below normal precipitation, 5th driest winter on record for Happy Valley-Goose Bay (Nunatsiavut) 	 Little to no snow on sea ice made on-ice travel difficult (Nunatsiavut) 	
Temperature	Nunavut Nunavik	 Warm January, some record high max and min temperatures broken through the Kivalliq (SE Nunavut) End of January - extreme cold, windchill approaching -50 	 Unsteady sea ice conditions led to changes in ice fishing activities and reduced over ice journeys earlier than normal 	
	Nunatsiavut	 5th coldest February on record for Hopedale and Nain, Feb 23-28, 2023, record low min temperatures broken at Nain 		

Winter 2022-2023 Temperature Anomalies

Winter 2022-2023, T anomaly in °C

Previous Winter 2021-2022, T anomaly in °C

In general, normal conditions this year in contrast to Winter 2021-2022

Winter 2022-2023 Precipitation Anomalies

Previous Winter 2021-2022

Winter 2022-2023

In general:

- Deficit in western Nunavut
- Surplus in eastern Nunavut from Baker Lake northwards to Pond Inlet, and Inuvik surrounding areas

Spring 2023 Temperature Anomalies

Spring 2023, T anomaly in °C (observed)

Spring 2023, T anomaly in °C (proxy)

Spring 2023 – highly anomalous - warm

Central and Eastern Canadian Arctic

Outlook: Summer 2023

Multi Model Agreement

	Forecast			High	Moderate	Low
Temp	Nunavut - northern regions				1	
	Nunavut - southern regions and Baffin Island; Baffin Bay				1	
	Hudson Bay, Davis Strait		Above Normal			1
	Western Greenland, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut and Labrador Sea			1		
	Nunavut – southern regions, Nunatsiavut		Equal chance			1
Precip	Nunavut – northern regions, West Greenland		Above Normal			1
	Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, Nunavik		Below Normal			1
		Baffin Bay	Near Normal	✓		
	Break-up	Hudson Bay	Near Normal	1		
Sea-Ice		Labrador Sea	Early	1		
	Min Ice Extent September 2023Canadian Arctic Archipelago		Below normal	1		
Snow Water	Nunavut - northern regions		No model agreement			
Equivalent	Nunavut - southern regions, south Baffin Island		Below Normal	1		

Northern European Node

- Western Nordic
- Eastern Nordic

Arctic Regional Climate Center Network

Western Nordic

Western Nordic

Seasonal Summary: Winter 2022-2023 **Observations above (+) and below (-) normal** Warmest Nov in many weather stations in Temperature -0.2°C (DJF) below Warmest winter was normal for the entire 2009/2010 (+1.7°C) Normal 1991-2020 llceland region. Coldest winter was Winter highly Coldest Dec since 1973 in Iceland in general. ٠ variable, Nov (+2.8), 1992/3 (-2.7 °C) Coldest Dec in 100 years in many places in Dec (-0.6), Jan (-0.8) Iceland. and Feb (+0.9), Mar (-0.7) and Apr (+1.0). Unusually cold winter in Iceland with some spectacular anomalies. Precipitation Winter (DJF) 9% above Wettest winter was In the west of Iceland, precipitation was well Normal 1991-2020 below normal, but near normal in NE and E. normal for the region 2014/15 (+26%) as a whole. NDJFMA was 5% below normal. Driest winter was 2000/1(-22%)Sea-Ice Greenland Sea: Since 1979 Conditions continue to be below normal in the Arctic (March 7th maximum was 5th lowest since 1979) but in Greenland Sea conditions where close to normal at time of the March maximum.

Western Nordic – temperature anomalies

Winter & extended winter anomalies

November & December anomalies

Nov 2022 Temperature Anomaly

Winter (DJF)

Western Nordic - precipitation

- In general drier conditions in parts of Western Nordic.
- NDJ drier and FMA drier to wetter.

December

February

Anomalies for 2022/2023 winter (DJF) and individual months.

For the entire Arctic the maximum sea ice extent (reached in early March) was low, - the 6th lowest in the satellite era.

In the Western Nordic region, sea ice extent east of Greenland the extent was near or above normal.

WESTERN NORDIC - OBSERVED EXTREME CLIMATE EVENTS IN ICELAND - WINTER 2022/SPRING 2023

Category	Location	Rarity	Impacts associated with event
Extreme winds and precipitation	East Iceland, September	Extreme forecast index from the ECWMF forecast showed higher levels than ever.	Damages due to winds were severe in places in the East fjords in september, vegitation, buildings, infrastructure and boats were damaged.
			Storm surge created problems in Eyjafjörður due to prolonged northwest winds and very long fetch.
Extreme winds and precipitation	East Iceland, October	This is the second time in 4 years suchs a storm hits, and after the 2019 storm the return period was estimated ~30 years.	Major impacts were road closures and infrastructure issues such as buildup of ice on power lines.
Precipitation	Iceland, winter	Unusually cold airmasses with baroclinic instability over warmer ocean creating multiple small low-pressure areas -> unusually stable and major precipitation systems.	Precipitation falling in sub-zero temperatures the physical properties of the snow allowed for many days of blowing snow, which kept causing problems and disruptions.
Precipitation	East Iceland, 2731. March	Many avalanches in the East Iceland.	Significant damage but no loss of life. Landslide risk along side slush flooding and avalanche risk.

Western Nordic

Outlook: Summer 2023				Multi	Model Agree	ement
		Forecast		High	Moderate	Low
Northern, southern and continental Greenland		Warmer	1			
Temperature	Iceland		Warmer		1	
	North Atlantic		Warmer	1		
Greenland seas		Colder		1		
Precipitation	North East Greenland		Wetter		1	
	Svalbard		No model agreement			
	Other parts of Greenland, Iceland, Northern Atlantic, Scandinavia		No model agreement		ement	
		Break-up	Late	1		
Sea-Ice	Greenland Sea	Max Ice Extent Sept 2023	Near normal	1		

Eastern Nordic

Eastern Nordic

	Seasonal Summary: Winter 2022/2023 Observations above (+) and below (-) normal					
-	Temperature Normal 1991-2020	NDJFMA: warmer (+0.7 °C) DJF: warmer (+1.6 °C)	Coldest winter: 1979 (-4.4 °C)	Warmest winter: 1937 (+6.5°C)		
Arkhi	Precipitation Normal 1991-2020	NDJ: <mark>drier</mark> FMA: wetter	Driest winter: 1980 (- <mark>32 %</mark>)	Wettest winter: 1981 (+28 %)		
	Sea-Ice Normal 1991-2020	Less sea ice than normal around winter (Nov-Feb), close to norma (Mar-Apr).	Svalbard during the	e first part of the nd of the winter		

	OBSERVED EXTREME CLIMATE EVENTS - WINTER 2022/2023		
Category	Description		
Temperature	Much warmer than normal in January and February, around 3 °C higher than normal averaged over the entire area (ranked as 4th and 9th warmest since 1950)		
Sea ice	Less sea ice than normal around Svalbard in February (ranked as 5th lowest since 1979)		

Barents Sea

• Murman

Trom

SWEDEN

Eastern node: Some weather and climate events during the winter 2022/2023

Sea ice conditions around Svalbard winter 2022/2023

Ice Charts

cryo.met.no

Svalbard Sea Ice Extent 2022-23 700 Current value (30-May-2023): 364,840 km² 600 500 Extent '000 km² 400 300 200 Latest extent (> 10% concentration) 100 Average 1991-2020 112 Sec. 25. 1 Std. Dev. 1991-2020 Min and Max 1991-2020 0 -Jun-2023 Sep-2022 Oct-2022 Jan-2023 Apr-2023 Jul-2023 Aug-2023 Oct-2023 Nov-2022 Sep-2023 **Jec-2022** ⁻eb-2023 Mar-2023 May-2023

Date

Sea ice conditions around Svalbard winter 2022/2023

Eastern Nordic

Temp

Outlook: Summer 2023

Multi Model Agreement

		Forecast		High	Moderate	Low
	Northern Svalk	bard	No model agreement			
	Eastern Barent	s Sea	Warmer	1		
Temperature	Southern Svalbard, Western Barents Sea, Murmansk, White Sea, Northern Scandinavia, Norwegian Sea		Warmer		1	1
	Southern Scandinavia, Northern North Sea		Warmer		1	
Precipitation	Svalbard, Bare Scandinavia	nts Sea, Murmansk, White Sea, Northern	No model agreement			
	Southern Scandinavia, Northern North Sea		Drier			1
	5	Break-up	Near normal	1		
Sea-Ice	Barents Sea	Minimum ice extent i Sept 2023	Near normal		1	
Snow Water Equivalent (experimental product)	Eastern Svalbard, Novaya Zemlya		Above normal			1

Eurasian Node

- Western Siberian
- Eastern Siberian
- Chukchi & Bering

Arctic Regional Climate Center Network

Western Siberia

Western Siberia

Seasonal Summary: Fall 2022 / Winter 2022-2023

	Observations above (+) and below (-) normal						
Temperature Normal 1991-2020	NDJ: 0.88°C FMA: + <mark>2.43°C</mark> (FEB +6.72°C (rank 4), MAR +2.31°C)	Coldest years were: 1968 (NDJ) and 1966 (FMA)	Warmest years were: 1936 (NDJ) and 2020 (FMA)				
Precipitation Normal 1991-2020	NDJ: Slightly drier FMA: Wetter	Wettest year was 2002 (122.6%)	Driest year was 1946 (72.4 %)				
Sea-Ice Since 1979	Kara Sea: late freeze-up, march maxim	um sea-ice extent					

Observed extreme climate events – Winter 2022-2023					
Category	Duration	Rarity	Impacts associated with event		
Precipitation			In February and March, heavy precipitation was observed throughout		
in February	in February 2 month Unusual the territory, new daily precipitation records were set, for example,				
and March	and March Salekhard had the heaviest snowfalls since 1934.				
			Flights were regularly delayed at the airports of Salekhard, Novy		
			Uregoy and Noyabrsk		

Noyabrsk after snowstorm 06.03.2023

Photo by:/vk.com/typicall_gubkinskiy

https://yamal-media.ru/

Second Decade of March 2023 in Yamalo-Nenets (Observations, 11 stations)

- At all of the stations air temperatures were above the norm (4-8°C) and thaws were recorded (from 2 to 7 days per decade);
- At 3 stations 2 norms of precipitation fell

Western Siberia

Datemis dea			Temp	Pspt		
Outlook: Summer 2023				Multi Model Agreemer		
		Forecast		High	Moderate	Low
Temp	Western Kara Sea		Warmer	1		
	All the other regio	ns	Warmer			1
Precip	North of Kara Sea		Wetter			1
	All the other regions		No m	No model agreement		
	Break-up	Kara Sea	Early	~		
Sea-Ice	Min Ice Extent September 2023	Kara Sea	Below normal		1	
Snow Water Equivalent (experimental product)	Novaya Zemlya Isla of Kara sea	ands, coastal areas	Above normal	~		
	In the South of Yar	nal	Near or below normal		1	

Outlook

Economy sector

Western Siberia

Impacts associated with Outlook for Summer 2023

Transport	Warm water in northern rivers >> later start of winter roads in autumn	High air temperatures lead to higher water temperatures in northern rivers. Because of this, the rivers are later covered with ice in autumn. The dates for the start of winter roads will getting later. Such problems are expected on the Ob` and Yenisei rivers (as also observed in 2022)	53 53
Transport & lifehood	Floods	large amounts of snow accumulation indicates a high risk of floods for north rivers (Ob` and Enisei)	
Navigation	Early start	Shipping in the Northwest Passage from west to east is expected to start earlier than normal with safe and easy ice conditions for independent navigation	Ханты Sno

Impacts

Snow cover anomalies (Cm), observations April 30, 2023

Eastern Siberia

5	Seasonal Summary: Fall 2021 / Winter 2022-2023					
	Observations above (+) and below (-) normal				
Temperature Normal 1991-2020	NDJ: -1.81°C FMA: + 0.32°C (JAN -5.47°C)	Coldest years were: 2023 (NDJ) and 1966 (FMA)	Warmest years were: 1924 (NDJ) and 1920 (FMA)			
Precipitation Normal 1991-2020	NDJ: Normal FMA: Wetter	Wettest year was 1988 (125,2%)	Driest year as 1967 (78,4%)			
Sea-Ice Since 1979	Laptev Sea: near normal freeze-up, ma	rch maximum sea-ice extent				

Observed extreme climate events – Winter 2022-2023				
Category	Duration	Impacts associated with event		
Extreme cold weather	1-2 week December, January	 Cold waves in the north Yakutia (December 10-16 and January 14-20). Minimum temperatures reached -6062°C. During these periods, schools were closed for face-to-face attendance; On January 6-20, cold weather was observed in the north of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, min t -5056°C. 		

Eastern Siberia

Temp

Pspt

Outlook: Summer 2023				Multi Model Agreement		
		Forecast		High	Moderate	Low
Тетр	Southern Lap	tev sea and East of Taymyr	Warmer			1
	Northern Lap	tev sea and continental regions	Warmer		✓	
Precip	All territory		No model agreement			
		Break-up	Early			✓
Sea-Ice	Laptev Sea	W SeaMin Ice ExtentBelow normalSeptember 2023Below normal		1		
Snow Water	East of Sakha	, archipelago Severnaya Zemlya	Below normal		1	
(experimental product)	West of Sakh	a region	Above normal	1		

Eastern Siberia

Impacts associated with Outlook for Summer 2023

Outlook	Economy sector/ Livelihood conditions	Impacts associated
High Air Temperatures	Coastal Erosion	High temperatures may lead to continued permafrost degradation and coastal erosion
	Health/Wildlife	Hot waves
Early start	Shipping	Shipping across the Northern Sea Route is expected to be start earlier than normal with safe and easy ice conditions
Calm hydrological conditions	Lifehood	small amounts of snow in late spring suggest no problems with floods

Chukchi and Bering

Chukchi and Bering

Seasonal Summary: Fall 2022 / Winter 2022-2023							
	Observations above (+) and below (-) normal						
Temperature	NDJ: +1.18°C	Coldest years were:	Warmest years were:				
Normal 1991-2020	FMA: + 0.08°C	1994 (NDJ) and 1902 (FMA)	1925 (NDJ) and 1926 (FMA)				
	(DEC +3.05°C)						
Precipitation	NDJ: Wetter	Wettest year was	Driest year was				
Normal 1991-2020	FMA: Slightly drier to wetter	1954 (139,6%)	1982 (60,2%)				
Sea-Ice	East Siberian Sea and Chukchi Sea: late freeze-	·up;					
Since 1979	Bering Sea early freeze-up;						
	Okhotsk Sea normal freeze-up						
	March maximum sea-ice extent						

Observed extreme climate events – Winter 2022-2023				
Category	Impacts associated with event			
Earlier break-up NSR	Early start of navigation in Anadyr. Start May 18, 2023 (in 2022 May 31, in 2020 June 16). This is the only "gateway" for the supply of products and manufactured goods. In March 2023, due to a lack of fuel, the sale of gasoline to the residents of Chukotka was stopped before the start of navigation (fuel supplies to the region are carried out only by sea)			

Chukchi and Bering

Pspt

North

Outlook: Summer 2023

Multi Model Agreement

		Forecast		High	Moderate	Low
	Kolyma, west and	d east of Chukotka,			1	
Тетр	Bering Sea		Warmer	1		
	Central Chukotka r	egion and Eastern Siberian Sea				~
Precip	All territory		No model agreement			
	Break-up	East Siberian Sea	Early			-
See lee		Chukchi Sea	Near normal		✓	
Sea-ice		Bering Sea	Already Occurred			
	Min Ice Extent	East Siberian Sea	Below normal		1	
	September 2023 Chukchi Sea		Below normal	1		
Snow Water Equivalent (exp.product)	All coastal regions of Chuktotka		Mostly above normal			

Chukchi and Bering

Impacts associated with Outlook for Summer 2023

Economy sector/ Livelihood conditions	Impacts associated
Fishing	Warm weather and, accordingly, high water temperatures in the Bering Sea may contribute to the growth of pollock production in the northwest of the Bering Sea. The Navarino region of the Bering Sea is the second most important region of the specialized pollock fishery in Russia
Life hood	More comfortable bioclimatic conditions

Central Arctic

Seasonal Summary: Fall 2022 / Winter 2022-2023

Observations above (+) and below (-) normal

Temperature	In NDJ 2022-2023 mostly positive temperature anomaly (2,5)					
Normal 1961-1990	observed. Months FMA showed negative anomaly in Siberian part					
	(-2), and positive anomaly in Canadian part (2)					
Precipitation	NDJ: slightly wetter	Wettest year was	Driest year was			
Normal 1961-1990	FMA: slightly wetter	1989 (+27%)	1998 (-16%)			
Sea-Ice	Maximum winter ice extent, 7 th in row, ~14.9 mln km2 (~15,2 in					
Since 1979	2022, 14th in row) was reached 4-5 March 2023, which is close in time to climatic date and later by 2 weeks than previous year.					

Outlook: Summer 2023

Multi Model Agreement

			_			
Forecast		High	Moderate	Low		
Тетр	Norther parts of Bea East Siberian Sea	ufort and Chukchi,			1	
	North pole, Laptev a	nd Kara Seas			1	
Precip	Canadian and US half of Central Arctic				1	
	European and Eurasian half		No model agreement			
Sea-Ice	Break-up	Ice covered, no forecast				

Ice thickness

The peculiarity of this year: the old ice (second-year ice) preserved in the western part of Laptev Sea (such event almost have not observed during last years)

 Fast ice area is lower then the multiyear norm or close to norm (in general lower then in 2022 and 2021)

General estimation of ice conditions (combination a of such criteria as ice thickness, fast ice area and so on):
 close to norm for the most of Siberian seas parts, except
 SW Kara (lighter then norm) and E ESS (harder then nom)

Ice thickness

Western polar stations measurements show the decrease of ice thickness in comparison to multiyear average values (observation series since 1930s-1940s) to 14-35 cm, but close to mean values of last 20 years.

Eastern polar stations measurements show the increase of ice thickness or the values close to multiyear values.

Ice formation began more intensively, the presence of residual ice contributed to that (this was observed for the first time in the last five years) mean

Other events in Eurasian and Central Arctic:

*

75°N∙

the platform «Severniy Polus» continues to drift

**

ॐ

Short expedition to Franz Joseph Land

