

Sea ice changes evidenced in the both polar regions

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Sea ice in the Arctic has recorded decreasing trend of area and thickness, and significant decrease was happened in 2012. Sea ice area in 2016 was 2nd lowest record. After seasonal minimum, ice recovering speed was low and lowest ice covered area has recorded until now.

On the other hand, sea ice area in the Southern Ocean recorded maximum in Autumn of 2014, however, next year, in July 2015, the ice covered area quite the expand even the middle of freezing season. namely, the sea ice area became the minimum year of the record. As the reduced areal condition has been continued since then, the total sea ice coverage, the sum of Arctic and Southern Ocean showed drastic drop in 2016.

Discussions on climate change and prediction such as IPCC, the future decline of Arctic sea ice is a well defined concern, large variability of sea ice around Antarctica and uncertainty of future prediction are concern. This presentation introduces recent large variation of sea ice in polar regions aiming to provide available information for discussions on big project.

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