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Projecting into the Future: the Canadian Arctic Environment, Tomorrow to 2100

Barber, David G.; Holland, David; Maslowski, Wieslaw;
Flato, Gregory; Hanesiak, John; Saucier, François;
Snelgrove, Ken; Tang, Charles

Pienitz, R., Lemay, M., Michaud, J., Blasco, K. and Veillette, J. (Eds), Impacts of Environmental Change in the Canadian Coastal Arctic: A Compendium of Research Conducted During ArcticNet Phase I (2004-2008), Volume 2, 256pp. ArcticNet inc., Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/49781>

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4.1 Projecting into the Future: the Canadian Arctic Environment, Tomorrow to 2100

Summary

Project Leader(s)

Barber, David G.

Model projections, our best means of estimating future weather and sea ice conditions, suggest, should the present observed warming continue, that as early as 2050 an ice-free arctic can be expected at the summer minimum (Flato and Boer, 2001). This projection, evaluated in light of changes observed by northerners over the past three decades, has fuelled an increasing interest in polar science and research studies to be conducted during International Polar Year. In project 4.1 the goal is not to reproduce previous investigations, but rather to improve on the credibility and utility of Arctic climate model results by: 1) employing novel means of evaluating model performance over the ArcticNet focus regions, and 2) developing means to integrate the arctic modelling community with process scientists, northern residents, and decision makers (at all levels of government from hamlet to hemispheric). Project 4.1 will focus on expanding existing partnerships and integrating labs with proven excellence in modeling into the broad focus areas of ArcticNet. The project will focus on four regional scale models: Baffin Bay (Tang), Beaufort Sea (Maslowski), Canadian Archipelago (Holland), and Hudson Bay (Saucier). These models are high-resolution coupled ocean-sea ice-atmosphere models that will examine marine and coastal processes to investigate how changes in the sea ice regime may affect people. In addition, two hemispheric/regional scale modeling efforts will also be supported in project 4.1: a) statistical downscaling of the Canadian Centre for Climate Modeling and Analysis (CCCMA) General Circulation Model (GCM) to drive a regional scale model of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago (UVic) and b) the MM5 regional scale model to examine climate surface coupling of terrestrial, coastal and sea ice regions (Hanesiak and Barber). These larger scale models will be used to examine the context of regional climate change relative to hemispheric and global scale changes under various climate change scenarios. Selected outputs from the model datasets will be archived and made available to the broader ArcticNet community.

People

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Environment Canada - Meteorological Service of Canada
The National Science Foundation
New York University
Canada Economic Development
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Publications

Articles Published in Refereed Publications

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Sou, T., Flato, G., 2005, Modelling the Flow and Variability of Ice through the Canadian Archipelago, 2005 ArcticNet Annual Conference Proceedings, 97, Published

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Defossez, M., Saucier, F.J., Myers, P.G., and Caya, D., 2005, Observation and simulation of deep water renewal in Foxe Basin, 2005 ArcticNet Annual Conference Proceedings/ 2005 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, San Francisco, 48, Published

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