

Coordination and Data Management of the International Arctic Buoy Programme (IABP)

Ignatius G. Rigor
1013 NE 40th Street
Polar Science Center, Applied Physics Laboratory
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98105
Phone: (206) 685-2571 Fax: (206) 543-3521 Email: igr@apl.washington.edu
Grant #: N00014-98-1-0698
<http://IABP.apl.washington.edu/>

LONG-TERM GOALS

To maintain a research quality database of direct measurements and analyzed fields of surface air temperature (SAT), sea level pressure (SLP), ice motion and other geophysical quantities in the Arctic Basin using drifting buoys.

OBJECTIVES

To coordinate resources to maintain a network of drifting buoys in the Arctic Basin that measure SLP, SAT and other geophysical quantities. To maintain a research quality database of these observations.

To study possible improvements in the analyzed geophysical fields. The data collected meet meteorological, climatological, and oceanographic requirements for both research and operational needs. Figure 1 shows the positions of buoys in October 1999, with the sea ice concentration map obtained from the National Center for Environmental Prediction underlaid.

APPROACH

Coordination of the IABP falls into the categories of information, resource management, and meeting planning. Information is primarily distributed via a monthly buoy position charts and by one-to-one correspondence. More general information is available in a published brochure. Resource management is focused on matching buoy hardware and deployment opportunities to the requirements of maintaining the buoy network.

Data management consists of analyzing the available buoy data and producing data sets of ice motion, SLP, and SAT for research use. These data sets are described in annual reports, and are archived at the World Data Center, but primary distribution of the data sets has been through the Polar Science Center (PSC) via anonymous ftp. These data and other research products of the IABP are available on the World Wide Web at <http://iabp.apl.washington.edu/>.

WORK COMPLETED

Our recent efforts to improve the IABP databases have been directed towards producing a new SAT analysis which combines data from the buoys with data from land stations using the objective analysis procedure, optimal interpolation. This new SAT analysis is documented in a paper that has been

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

1. REPORT DATE 30 SEP 1999		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-1999 to 00-00-1999	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Coordination and Data Management of the International Arctic Buoy Programme (IABP)				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of Washington, Applied Physics Laboratory, 1013 NE 40th Street, Seattle, WA, 98105				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a REPORT unclassified	b ABSTRACT unclassified	c THIS PAGE unclassified			

accepted to the Journal of Climate (Rigor, et al., in press). The data has been incorporated into a Global SAT climatology (Jones, et al 1998).

RESULTS

Using this SAT dataset, variations in SAT were studied. We show that there was a 2°C/decade warming over the eastern Arctic Ocean as well as a lengthening of the melt season of the sea ice from 1979 – 1997 (Figure 2). We show that these variations in SAT are related to the Arctic Oscillation (Thompson and Wallace, 1998), which accounts for more than 50% of the trends in SAT over much of the Arctic region.

IMPACT/APPLICATIONS

The buoy data meet meteorological, climatological and oceanographic requirements for both research and operational components internationally, and thus the buoy program has gained widespread support. High latitude countries use the data to forecast weather. The data are essential in monitoring climate, assessing the environment, validating model simulations of atmospheric temperature and pressure and ice drift. Specifically, operational weather prediction programs in the circumpolar countries benefit from the surface pressure and temperature data that the network provides. The archived data have been used to study ice motion and dynamics in the Basin. The pressure data are used to estimate the mean surface wind, which can drive sea ice models, and for input into climate change studies.

Recent research using the IABP databases includes back and forward trajectory analysis to study the origins and fate of samples taken from the sea ice. Given the current location of a piece of ice, using the IABP databases, we can trace its probable history, and predict its future deposition. Results of these studies have been published or presented in collaboration with various colleagues.

The data from the IABP has been instrumental in documenting climate change in the Arctic. Results on decadal scale variability show the Arctic Basin to be a center for extraordinarily large change. Using IABP data, Walsh et al (1996) compared two eight-year records, 1979-86 and 1989-94, and found a 4 mb difference between the means of these two periods. Rigor, et al. (in press) studied the inter-annual trends in SAT (Figure 2) and the length of the melt season over the Arctic Ocean, and showed that these variations are related to the Arctic Oscillation and the changes in circulation.

TRANSITIONS

Changes of in SLP and SAT have been studied by Walsh et al (1996) and Rigor (1998). A study of the corresponding changes in sea ice motion is in order.

RELATED PROJECTS

1 – Using the buoy data, the interannual variability in the transport pathways of sea ice produced in the Siberian Seas is being quantified in collaboration with Stephanie Pfirman (Columbia University) and Roger Colony (U. Alaska Fairbanks).

REFERENCES

Thompson, D. W. J., and J. M. Wallace, The Arctic Oscillation signature in the wintertime geopotential height and temperature fields, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, v. 25, no. 9, pp 1297-1300, 1998.

Walsh, J. E., W. L. Chapman, and T. L. Shy, Recent Decrease of Sea Level Pressure in the Central Arctic, *J. Climate*, v. 9, no. 2, pp. 480-485, February 1996.

PUBLICATIONS

Rigor, I., R. Colony, and S. Martin, Variations in surface air temperatures over the Arctic Ocean from 1979 to 1997, *J. Climate*, in press.

Jones, P.D., M. New, D.E. Parker, S. Martin, and I.G. Rigor, Surface air temperature and its changes over the past 150 years, *Rev. of Geophysics*, v. 37, no. 2, pp. 173 - 199, 1999.

Pfirman, S.L, I. Rigor, and R. Colony, Interannual Variability in the Fate and Impact of Sea Ice Exported from the Siberian Seas, *J. Geophys. Res.*, submitted, 1999.

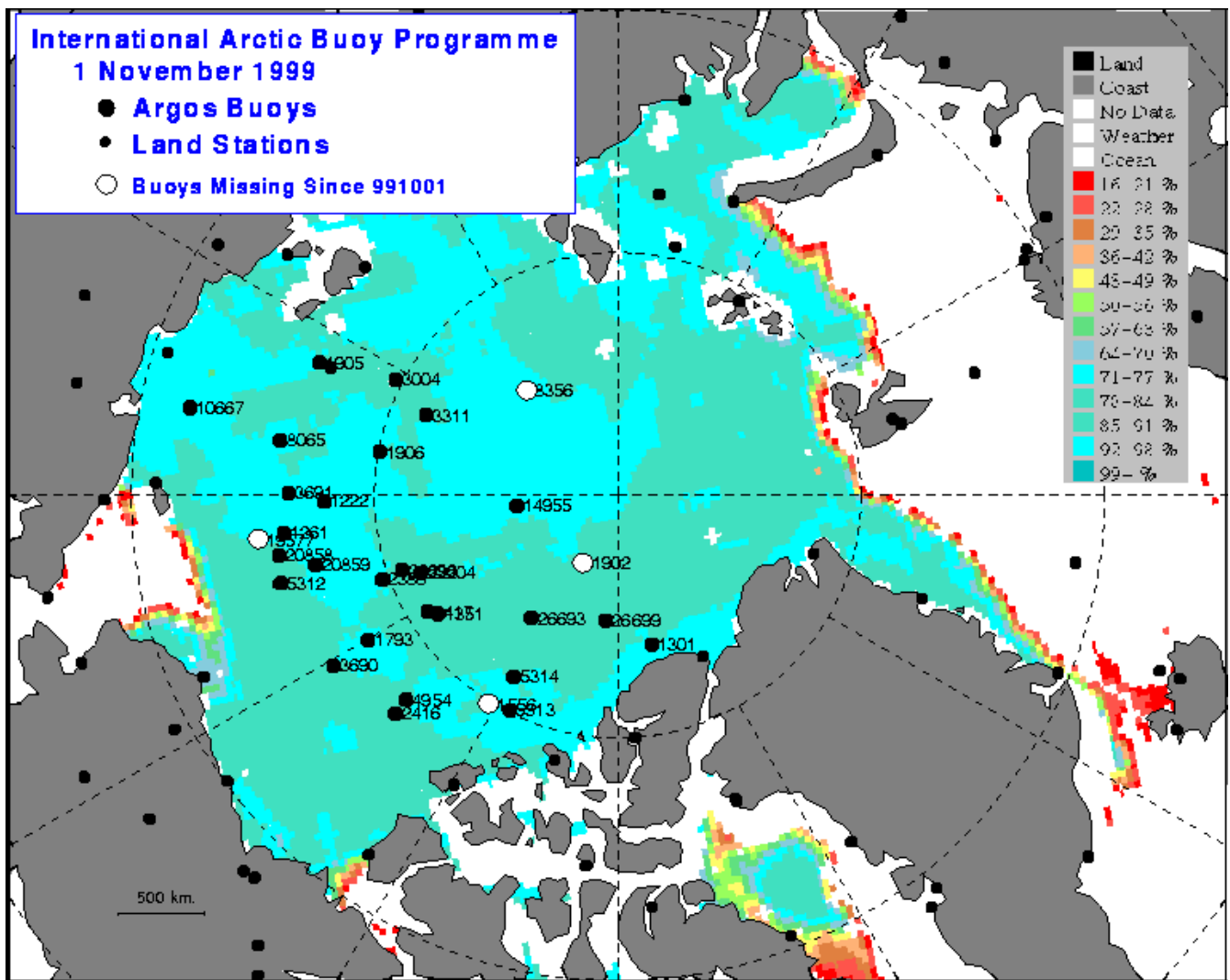


Figure 1. Position of buoys on November 1, 1999 is shown by the black dots. The NCEP sea ice concentrations analysis is also shown.

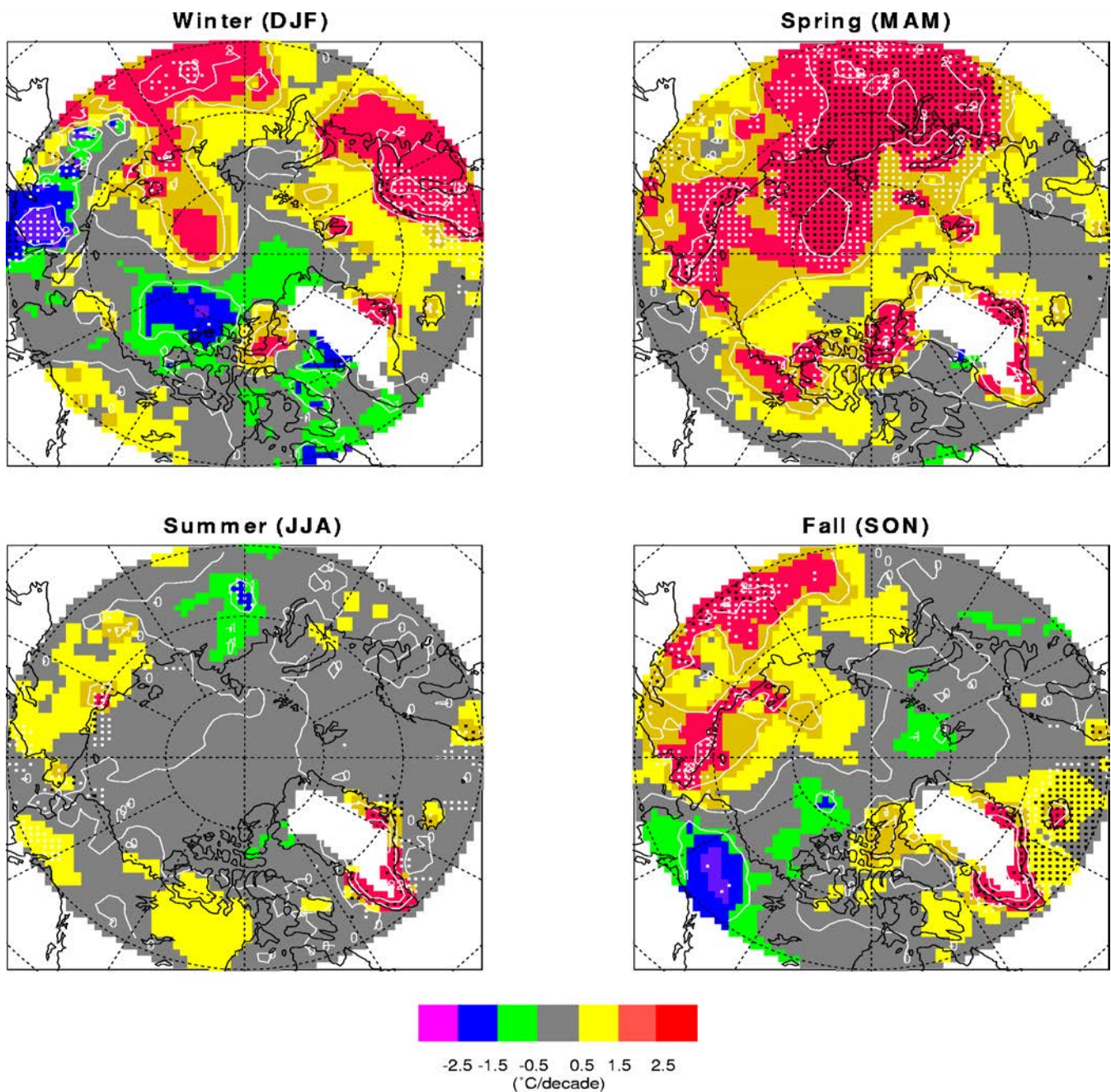


Figure 2. Trends in surface air temperature from 1979 – 1997 estimated from the IABP/POLES surface air temperature analysis. Trends in grid cells that are significant at the 95% level are marked with small white dots; trends that are significant at the 99% level are marked with small black dots. A trend of $+1^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ is found during winter in the eastern Arctic Ocean, but a trend of $-1^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ is found in the western Arctic Ocean. During spring, almost the entire Arctic shows significant warming trends. In the eastern Arctic Ocean this warming is as much as $2^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$.