

Recent Changes in Polar Ice Sheets and Sea Ice

Kenneth Jezek [jezek.1@osu.edu], Byrd Polar Research Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Prior to the mid 1990's, the polar ice sheets and sea ice were believed to be slowly varying components of Earth's natural systems. Over roughly the past decade, this view has dramatically altered, largely as a consequence of spaceborne observations that captured the steady retreat of arctic sea ice, the collapse of Antarctic ice shelves, and substantial thinning of parts of the interior ice sheets in coastal regions of Greenland and Antarctica. In this presentation, I will review some of these observations and discuss how the changes may be caused by both external, climate driven forces and internal changes in ice dynamics.