Exposure of Arctic coastal settlements to coastal erosion and permafrost warming

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12 Key Points:

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13	•	By 2100, nearly one quarter of Arctic coastal settlements will be impacted by coastal
14		erosion
15	•	Permafrost warming will affect 65 percent of present infrastructures, potentially en-
16		hancing ground subsidence

 Immediate adaptation strategies are essential to protect Arctic and communities and infrastructure from these environmental changes

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19 Abstract

This study assesses the vulnerability of Arctic coastal settlements and infrastructures 20 to coastal erosion and permafrost warming. We enhanced the Arctic Coastal Infrastructure 21 dataset (SACHI) to include road types, airstrips, and artificial water reservoirs. Analysis 22 of coastline change rates from 2000-2020, permafrost ground temperature and active layer 23 thickness changes from the ESA Permafrost Climate Change Initiative identified at-risk 24 settlements for 2030, 2050, and 2100. Our study incorporates a thorough validation process 25 for each dataset utilized, ensuring the verification and accuracy of the data. Our findings 26 27 are concerning: by 2100, 23% of Arctic coastal settlements will be impacted by coastal erosion Based on linear trends, permafrost ground temperature will rise by 8°C and active 28 layer thickness will increase by 0.9 m. 65% of all present infrastructures/settlements will 29 be affected by permafrost warming between $5-15^{\circ}$ C and 35% from active layer thickening 30 of 1-5 meter. This the first study to identify settlements at risk from coastal erosion and 31 warming permafrost along Arctic and permafrost-dominated coasts at a regional scale for the 32 northern hemisphere. We provide an estimation of the total number of coastal communities 33 and associated infrastructures being directly endangered by coastal erosion until 2100. Our 34 results highlight that adaptation to current and future environmental changes is needed now 35 in order to counteract a deterioration of living conditions in permafrost coastal settlements. 36

³⁷ Plain Language Summary

This study examines the risks to Arctic coastal areas and infrastructure, such as roads 38 and buildings, from increasing coastal erosion and permafrost warming. Analyzing coastline 39 changes, permafrost temperatures, and the thickness of the thawing layer from 2000 to 40 2020, we identified the areas most at risk by 2030, 2050, and 2100. Our research finds 41 that by 2100, about 23% of Arctic coastal settlements may face infrastructure damage due 42 to coastal erosion. Additionally, permafrost is likely to warm by 8°C, and its top thawing 43 layer could thicken by 0.9 meters, potentially affecting 65% of existing infrastructure and 44 settlements with enhanced ground instability. This is the first large-scale study assessing 45 coastal erosion and permafrost warming risks along Arctic and permafrost-rich coasts across 46 the northern hemisphere. We estimate that a significant number of coastal communities 47 and their infrastructures are at risk until 2100. These findings highlight the urgent need for 48 adaptation strategies to mitigate environmental changes and protect the living conditions 49 in Arctic permafrost coastal areas. 50

51 **1** Introduction

In a context of recent and rapid warming of the Arctic region, oceanic and terrestrial 52 environments are experiencing rapid changes. Modeled projections are confirming a signif-53 icant increase of these changes by 2100 (IPCC, 2022), impacting the biosphere and Arctic 54 and permafrost living communities. A major change occurring within the Arctic Ocean is 55 the rapid decline of sea-ice extent and thickness due to global warming (Stroeve & Notz, 56 2018; Meredith et al., 2019). The summer sea-ice extent is expected to decline by 12.6%57 per decade and the open-water season to lengthen from 63 to 90 days by 2100 (A. Crawford 58 et al., 2021), increasing the exposure time of the Arctic coast to dynamic marine conditions 59 and storm impacts (Overeem et al., 2011; A. D. Crawford et al., 2022). By 2100, the global 60 sea level is predicted to rise between 0.3 to 1.1 meters (Oppenheimer et al., 2019) due to 61 oceanic thermal expansion, glaciers, and ice-sheets melting (Oppenheimer et al., 2019; Box 62 et al., 2022), which can be also observed in the Arctic Ocean (Rose et al., 2019). Rising 63 relative and absolute sea levels in combination with increasingly severe storms, are espe-64 cially impacting communities being placed in low-lying coastal areas and exposed to coastal 65 erosion and flooding events (Irrgang et al., 2022). 66

Terrestrial permafrost is degrading in response to increasing mean air temperature 67 which transfers to rising ground temperatures and more precipitation (Vasiliev et al., 2020; 68 Smith et al., 2022). In the Northern Hemisphere (NH), permafrost ground temperatures 69 (GT) have been increasing on average by about 1°C since 1997 (Bartsch et al., 2023). 70 Its warming contributes to the deepening of the active layer thickness (ALT) enhancing 71 thermokarst processes where ground-ice thawing generates lake and thaw-pond formation, 72 lake drainage, ground subsidence and shoreline destabilization (Smith et al., 2022; Hjort 73 et al., 2022). At the interface between land and sea, the permafrost coastline and local 74 communities are subject to various pressures. Arctic permafrost coasts are among the fastest 75 eroding coasts of the globe and are registering extreme erosion rates locally exceeding 40 76 m/yr (Malenfant et al., 2022). The average pan-arctic coastal retreat rate was estimated at 77 0.5 m/yr from Lantuit et al. (2012) and is expected to double before the end of the century 78 (Nielsen et al., 2022). Erosion is a natural process but was observed to accelerate in various 79 regions during last decades (B. M. Jones et al., 2018; Irrgang et al., 2018; Isaev et al., 80 2019; Whalen et al., 2022; Tanguy, Whalen, Prates, & Vieira, 2023). High retreat rates are 81 mainly occurring where unlithified but ice-bound tundra cliffs are exposed to waves during 82 the sea-ice free season. The Beaufort coast is experiencing one of highest mean retreat rates 83 of the Arctic with 1.1 m/yr (Overduin et al., 2014) and the highest rates are related to 84 block failures generated by the combination of ground-ice thawing and sapping from wave 85 action at the cliff-base (Cunliffe et al., 2019; Thomas et al., 2020). Low-lying areas are 86 especially vulnerable to coastal erosion and flooding, which are important issues for coastal 87 communities since they are impacting livelihoods and infrastructure (Radosavljevic et al., 88 2016; Tanguy, Whalen, Prates, Pina, et al., 2023). Various coastal settlements have been 89 majorly impacted by coastal erosion, storm surges and flooding such as Shishmaref in Alaska 90 and Tuktoyaktuk in Canada (Marino & Lazrus, 2015; Whalen et al., 2022). Under such 91 conditions, the stability of roads, airstrips, buildings, oil tanks and pipelines is becoming an 92 important economic and environmental issue and poses engineering challenges for coastal 93 communities (Buzard et al., 2021; Hjort et al., 2022; D. A. Streletskiy et al., 2019a). 94

Satellite data can be potentially used to implement a circumarctic monitoring scheme. 95 The Sentinel-1/2 derived Arctic Coastal Human Impact dataset (SACHI; Bartsch et al. 96 (2021)) shows increasing human presence and industrial activity linked to oil/gas exploita-97 tion and mining along the Arctic. This dataset considered three types of human impact as 98 visible from space: linear transport infrastructure (roads and railways), buildings and other 99 constructions (e.g. bridges), and other impacted areas (gravel pads, open pit mining areas, 100 etc.) and was limited to a 100 km fringe from the Arctic and permafrost coastline. In the 101 latter classification, airstrips were not distinguished individually and were included in the 102 "other impacted area" class, and different road construction types (gravel versus tarmac) 103 were not considered. Initial analyses showed the potential of satellite data to separate road 104 types (Bartsch, Pointner, et al., 2020). Artificial water bodies were also not included al-105 though water surfaces can be easily detected with satellite data. These features are built for 106 water supply but also from the oil and mining industry, potentially promoting contaminants 107 accumulations and local pollution issues (Glotov et al., 2018). The classification of different 108 types of road, airstrips and the addition of water reservoirs is essential not only for a better 109 characterization of human impact zones, but also for potential risk assessments including 110 the socio-economic values of the various infrastructures. 111

Permafrost coastline evolution is commonly assessed using historical aerial photography 112 combined with high-resolution satellite imagery, or airborne data. The variety of scales, 113 investigated time periods and study sites extends makes it difficult to compare regions and 114 to get a comprehensive picture of pan-arctic coastal dynamics. The Arctic Coastal Dynamic 115 Database (ACD) from Lantuit et al. (2012) provided a first compilation of shoreline change 116 data, filling observation gaps with expert estimates. Landsat satellite imagery is a valuable 117 data source due to its free availability, and large spatio-temporal coverage. Widely used for 118 land-cover changes studies, it can also be used to assess coastline evolution. However, the 119 30 m spatial resolution limits the detection of small changes (Xu, 2018). Nitze et al. (2017) 120

provided an efficient machine-learning based method using Landsat-trends to detect lake
dynamics at a regional scale. It builds on a probability measure for land to water and water
to land conversion. Bartsch, Ley, et al. (2020) demonstrate the utility of an adaptation of
this approach for coastline change identification.

Coastal infrastructures can be threatened by coastal erosion, moreover, GT and ALT 125 conditions are also changing within the last decades, which contribute to additional poten-126 tial infrastructure damages via ground subsidence and hydrological changes. Time series of 127 mean annual GT and ALT are available from a combination of satellite data (land-surface 128 129 temperature) and reanalyses data through modelling at approximately 1 km nominal resolution for 1997 to 2019 (Obu et al., 2021a, 2021b; Westermann et al., 2015). Increasing 130 temperatures have been identified based on these datasets for the Northern Hemisphere 131 (Bartsch et al., 2023), and are pronounced along permafrost coastal regions (Miner et al., 132 2022) including sites with comparably high coastal erosion rates (Bartsch, Ley, et al., 2020). 133

In this study we (1) provide an update of the SACHI pan-arctic infrastructures dataset 134 using a new classification including road types, airstrips and artificial water reservoirs, (2) 135 estimate coastal dynamics and erosion rates along coastal settlements based on land-cover 136 change detection using the approach of Bartsch, Ley, et al. (2020) for the coastline change 137 assessment, (3) identify coastal settlements exposed to the risk of coastal erosion and/or 138 permafrost GT and ALT increase over short-, mid- and long-term periods (2030, 2050, 2100), 139 and (4) evaluate the accuracy of these different satellite derived datasets using various very-140 high resolution and in-situ validation data at key sites along permafrost-dominated coast. 141

¹⁴² 2 Study Area

Our analysis is covering the coast bordering the Arctic Ocean, in addition, we extended 143 our study area to the south, to include the largest part of NH permafrost-dominated coast-144 lines. The infrastructures analysis considers the similar extent as the SACHI dataset, defined 145 as a 100 km buffer along Arctic and permafrost-dominated coasts, allowing to include set-146 tlements located within estuaries and deltas. The SACHI dataset extents from northwest 147 Alaska through the northern coast of the American continent including the Canadian Arctic 148 Archipelago to the Hudson Bay until Newfoundland. Greenland, Svalbard and East Scandi-149 navia are included as well as the entire Russian coast (Fig. 1). This area represents 62 000 150 km^2 and includes a total of 408 settlements, with 292 being directly located at the coast. 151 These settlements are defined as areas with concentrated infrastructure, like for example 152 hamlets, towns, mining or military bases. 153

The coastline dynamics dataset extent is more restricted due to the lack of sufficient Landsat acquisitions and due to the large presence of sea-ice along highest coastal latitudes (e.g Canadian Archipelago), making the analysis inaccurate. The dataset excludes western Scandinavia, northern parts of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, the Hudson Bay and Newfoundland (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Overview of analysed areas. The SACHI 100 km coastal zone (black; Bartsch et al. (2021)) with included settlements (white dots) and the extent of Landsat derived coastal dynamics (red). Permafrost zones are derived fromObu et al. (2021c) and background data from GSHHG and CleanTOPO 2

159 **3 Data**

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3.1 Infrastructure dataset: Sentinel-1/2

As for the first version of the SACHI dataset, this work uses a combination of Sentinel-1 (Synthetic Aperture Radar-SAR) and Sentinel-2 (multi-spectral-optical) for the detection of human footprints along Arctic and permafrost-dominated coasts, using Gradient Boosting Machine (GBM) and Deep Learning (Keras) methods. In total 2424 granules at 100 by 100 km extent acquired from 2016 to 2020 were used in the analysis. More details on data and framework are described in Bartsch, Pointner, et al. (2020) and Bartsch et al. (2021).

¹⁶⁷ 3.2 Coastline dynamics dataset: Landsat-7/8

Coastline change rates were retrieved using satellite data from Landsat 7 and 8 data from the TM, ETM+ and OLI sensors, also covering NH permafrost-dominated coasts. The study period ranges between 2000 and 2020 in order to represent recent coastal changes, also due to sparse data acquisition before 2000 in Siberia and Northern Alaska. Some areas were excluded from the analysis due to tiles with sparse availability or noise issues. We applied ¹⁷³ a filtering of images available between July and August with cloud covers below 70%. The ¹⁷⁴ used Landsat bands have a spatial resolution of 30 m: Blue, Green, Red, Near-Infrared ¹⁷⁵ (NIR), Shortwave Infrared 1 (SWIR1), and Shortwave Infrared 2 (SWIR2).

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3.3 Permafrost ground temperature and active layer thickness

Permafrost trends for GT and ALT were built based on a subset for the 2000-2020 177 period using the datasets from the European Space Agency's (ESA) climate change initiative 178 (CCI) permafrost project (Obu et al., 2021b, 2021a). The datasets are based on MODIS 179 land surface temperature merged with down-scaled and bias-corrected ERA5 reanalysis near-180 surface air temperature data. The outputs consists of raster layers with approximately 1 km 181 nominal spatial resolution. This dataset was previously combined with the SACHI dataset 182 from Bartsch et al. (2021). Comprehensive validation information is available within the 183 documentation (Heim et al., 2021), but specifically active layer thickness data availability 184 was limited and coastal region specific evaluation is unavailable. 185

3.4 Validation data

The updated SACHI dataset went through a validation process with comparison against 187 very-high resolution imagery such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) orthomosaics and 188 Pléaides^(C) satellites scenes (CNES/Airbus), acquired at eight validation sites along the 189 Beaufort, Yukon, Amundsen Gulf coasts (Komakuk, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Bathurst, 190 Cape Parry, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok; see Fig. 2). Vectorized infras-191 tructure data from field survey and aerial imagery were used in Greenland settlements, in 192 Svalbard, and in Russia (Ehrich et al., 2019; Ingeman-Nielsen & Vakulenko, 2018). In total, 193 21 locations were used for infrastructure validation. A dedicated survey of road types was 194 carried out in Longyearbyen, Barentsburg and Pyramiden, in Svalbard, in 2021. 195

Coastline change rates were validated at four sites using local measurements derived from aerial imagery, or very-high resolution (VHR) satellite imagery corresponding to a timeperiod between 2000 and 2020. The validation imagery have a spatial resolution ranging from 0.5 to 1.25 m. The coastlines were manually digitized and their positional accuracy was calculated based on their spatial resolution and georeferencing quality, in order to evaluate the coastline change rate uncertainty (Table 4).

Finally, the ESA Permafrost Climate Change Initiative (Permafrost_cci) Active Layer 202 Thickness product was compared to in-situ thaw depth data: T-MOSAiC 2021-myThaw 203 (Martin et al., 2023) which provided seasonal thaw depth measured along transects dis-204 tributed in eight Arctic sites, located in Siberia, Svalbard, Alaska, Greenland and Canada 205 (Boike et al., 2021). Additional records have been compiled based on the Circumarctic Ac-206 tive Layer Measurements (CALM; D. Streletskiy and Shiklomanov (2021)) network as part 207 of the Permafrost_cci documentation (Heim et al., 2021). The validation site are represented 208 in Fig. 2. 209

Feature	Data source type	Data format	Site	Region	Time period	n° sites	Source
	UAV orthomosaic	raster	Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Komakuk	Yukon, Candian Beaufort Sea coast, Amundsen Gulf	2018, 2019	с,	IGOT-ULisboa
	Pléiades scenes (mutlispectral-pansharpened)	raster	Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok, Sachs Harbour, Cape Parry, Barthurst	Canadian Beaufort Sea coast, Amundsen Gulf	2020, 2021	9	Pléiades© CNES, 2020, 2021, Airbus DS
outor of the other	Quickbird & WorldView II	shapefile	Chesterfield Inlet	Nunavut (Canada)	2019	-	Ehrich et al. (2019)
dsu ucume	Quickbird & WorldView II	shapefile	Gas-Sale, Kathanga	Taimyr, Yamal (Russia)	2019	2	Ehrich et al. (2019)
	Quickbird & WorldView II	shapefile	Atqasuk, Nuiqsut, Unalakleet, Brevig Mission, Prudhoe Bay	Alaska	2019	5	Ehrich et al. (2019)
	cadastral	shapefile	Ilulissat, Kangerlussuaq, Oqaatsut, Qeqertarsuaq	Western Greenland	2018	4	Ingeman-Nielsen and Vakulenko (2018)
	cadastral	shapefile	Longyearbyen	Svalbard	2018	-	Lu et al. (2018)
	road type survey	database	Longyearbyen	Svalbard	2019	-	this study
	Maxar WV2 (pansharpened) Maxar Ikonos (panchromatic)	shapefile	Barter Island	Alaskan Beaufort Sea coast	2000-2020	-	Gibbs et al. (2020)
bastline mamice	Aerial photos (panchromatic) Pléiades (multispectral-pansharpened)	shapefile	Mackenzie Delta	Canadian Beaufort Sea coast	2000-2018		Solomon (2005) Pléiades© CNES, 2018, Airbus DS
	Maxar Ikonos (panchromatic) Pléiades (multispectral-pansharpened)	shapefile	Point Lonely Air Station	Alaskan North Slope	2000-2018		Google Earth©
	Maxar Ikonos (panchromatic) Pléiades (multispectral-pansharpened)	shapefile	Newtok	Bethel Census (Alaska)	2005-2019	1	Google Earth©
ALT	in-situ ALT measurements	database	Bayelva (2), Kevo Waisejaeggi, Samoylov, Toolik Lake, Siksik Creek, Cambridge Bay, Zakenberg (2)	Alaskan North Slope, Canada, Greenland, Svalbard, Nordic Region, Central Siberia, Nunavut	2021	œ	T-MOSAIC MyThaw Boike et al. (2021) CALM D. Streletskiy and Shiklomanov (

ion, see Fig.	
sites locat	
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Validatic	
Table 1.	



Figure 2. Validation sites for infrastructures, coastline change rates and active layer thickness. Background data: GSHHG; Cleantopo2 (ocean bottom).

210 4 Methods

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4.1 General approach

This work provides an update of the published Sentinel-1/2 derived Arctic Coastal 212 Human Impact dataset (SACHI) with the inclusion of new classes such as asphalt, dirt 213 and undefined roads, airstrips and artificial water reservoirs, using a combination of Deep 214 Learning (DL) and Machine Learning (ML) methods. Areas of erosion and accretion are 215 derived from Landsat change probabilities for the period 2000-2020. The retrieved coastline 216 change rates were combined with the infrastructure dataset in order to evaluate settlements 217 exposure to coastal erosion for short-, mid- and long-term (2030, 2050, 2100). In addition, 218 GT and ALT trends are considered for the evaluation of permafrost thaw exposure. Each 219 dataset was compared to validation data described in Table 1, in order to evaluate their 220 accuracy. The SACHI update considers settlements and infrastructure within the 100 km 221 buffer zone of the coastline. New settlements and associated information was added to the 222 settlement database. The fusion of coastline change rates and permafrost properties with 223 the infrastructure dataset allows for the vulnerability assessment of coastal settlements. The 224 overall workflow is shown in Fig. 3. 225



Figure 3. Detailed analysis workflow.

4.2 SACHI update and validation

The scheme uses Deep Learning (DL; (U-Net convolutional neural network architecture 227 using the deep learning framework Keras) and pixel based Machine Learning (Gradient 228 Boosting machines - GBM) techniques. The DL component uses Sentinel-2 and the GBM 229 component Sentinel-1 and -2. The satellite data and retrieval scheme used in this study 230 is described in Bartsch, Pointner, et al. (2020) and Bartsch et al. (2021). In both cases, 231 DL and GBM, super-resolution processing was applied to the 20 m bands of Sentinel-2 in 232 order to obtain a 10 m nominal resolution dataset for all used bands as input. Atmospheric 233 234 correction was applied.

The DL component has been extended through the inclusion of additional classes con-235 sisting of three road types (asphalt, dirt, undefined) and airstrips/airports. The calibration 236 dataset for all classes has been revised in order to account for inaccuracies in the Open-237 StreetMap dataset which was used initially. The GBM component also provides a water 238 class by using the pixel based approach. Results for the water class have been separated and 239 added to the database when in proximity to settlements. These water bodies were manually 240 revised and only artificial water bodies (e.g. reservoirs) within settlements kept. This typi-241 cally includes rectangular or circle-like objects as well as lakes enclosed by open pit mining 242 activities. A k-means post-processing on road features (using the Sentinel-1/2 bands) was 243 applied to evaluate the possibility to distinguish gravel from asphalt roads. The accuracy 244 assessment of the SACHI dataset was done by the computation of confusion matrices and 245 producer, user, and overall accuracy (in %) of the dataset. The producer accuracy represents 246 the percentage objects correctly identified by the modeled dataset. The user accuracy tells 247 the percentage of well predicted objects by the dataset (Llano, 2022). In order to validate 248 object positioning, we compared the new SACHI version to the validation data from UAV 249 orthomosaic, aerial imagery, catastral data and in-situ measurements (Table 1). 250

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4.3 Permafrost Coastline Dynamics retrieval and validation

Following the pre-processing method of Nitze et al. (2017), the Landsat time-series 252 were used for pixel calculations of probabilities of erosion and accretion (change from land 253 to water and visa versa) as well as no change, for the time period 2000 to 2020. A thresh-254 old for separation of change areas was determined in Bartsch, Ley, et al. (2020). A 50% 255 probability value was found applicable and has been also applied in the present study. The 256 resulting raster information was converted to vector polygons. To facilitate circumpolar 257 implementation several post-processing steps have been introduced. The Landsat results 258 were limited within a 1 km buffer along the coast in order to limit further analyses to 259 coastline related changes, while considering lagoons, deltas and estuaries. Manual quality 260 control was performed to detect and remove mis-classification errors induced by coastal lake 261 change, snow, sea-ice, land-fast ice, tidal changes and infrastructure removal/construction 262 (examples shown in Fig. 4). 263



Figure 4. Examples of mis-classification errors as seen with the polygons outside of the coastal zone in the raw dataset and needing manual checking and removal. These errors can be induced by sea-ice (a), snow presence (b), lake change (c), or infrastructures (d). The blue polygons show accretion and the red erosion. Background map data sources: Esri©, USGS.

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4.3.1 Coastline change rates retrieval

A common approach to determine the rate of shoreline change is to use the Digital 265 Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS) developed by USGS which uses time series of vector 266 shoreline positions to calculates rate-of-change statistics at regular spaced perpendicular 267 transects along a coast (Thieler et al., 2009). This method is effective when using manually 268 delineated coastlines, but is not suitable for large automatically extracted datasets. In our 269 case, the nature of the polygonal geometry of the derived change areas allows for a simplified 270 estimation of the average rate of coastline change derived for each polygon. These polygons 271 are in general elongated features, parallel to the coastline. The polygon length and area were 272 calculated. The mean width (average coastline change) was calculated assuming an idealized 273 rectangular representation of the change area. Annual rates of change were subsequently 274 derived. To evaluate the accuracy of this method, we also applied the DSAS workflow to 275 the polygons in test areas by converting the polygons to lines and splitting the shape into 276 a seaward side and a landward side line, corresponding to the 2000 and 2020 coastline in 277 the case of erosion, and vice-versa for accretion. This strategy requires additional manual 278

editing of the polygons and was also applied to validate the overall quality of the Landsat
probabilities, extending the validation of the coastline position in Bartsch, Pointner, et al.
(2020) to more sites.

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4.3.2 Coastline position uncertainty

Calculating the uncertainty linked to coastline positions is necessary in order to evaluate the reliability of the coastline change rates. Equation (1) provides the coastline change rate uncertainty (U) which was calculated using the coastline position uncertainty (U_{CP}) for each coastline, divided by the number of years of the analysed time period (t), (Tanguy, Whalen, Prates, & Vieira, 2023):

$$U = \sqrt{(U_{CP1}^2 + U_{CP2}^2)/(t_2 - t_1)} \tag{1}$$

The coastline position uncertainty is incorporating the image pixel resolution (m) and the georeferencing error, RMSE (m). The polygons which were retrieved from the Landsat change detection analyses show changes which occurred within a 20-year time-span (2000-2020). The landward and seaward polygon boundaries were define as the respective coastlines for the year 2000 and 2020. The uncertainty was also calculated for coastline derived from validation data (Table 4).

4.3.3 Validation of coastline change rates

Coastline change rates obtained from the Landsat polygons were compared with rates 296 obtained with the DSAS method using validation shorelines. The difference between rates 297 obtained from validation data and from Landsat polygons were calculated for each site, 298 determining the accuracy of the Landsat derived coastline change rates. The End Point 299 Rate (EPR, Thieler et al. (2009)), expressing erosion by negative and accretion by positive 300 values, was used to compare the coastline change rates from the different datasets. In 301 addition, automatic Landsat polygon rates were compared to he DSAS calculated rates for 302 polygons, in order to evaluate the accuracy of this method. 303

4.4 Permafrost properties evaluation

For the validation of ALT available from Obu et al. (2021a), we compared the end-of-305 season ALT (Permafrost_cci) for a time span of five years from 2015 to 2019 for each of the 306 T-MOSAiC sites (in-situ data, Boike et al. (2021); Martin et al. (2023)). Each grid cell of 307 the Permafrost_cci dataset contains one ALT value for each year with a spatial resolution 308 of 0.926 km. Buffers of 1 km, 5 km and 10 km radius were implemented around each of 309 the T-MOSAiC sites/transects in which the modeled ALT was combined. Due to the close 310 proximity of the transects at Bayelva and Zackenberg, we defined a single 1 km, 5 km and 311 10 km radius around these sites. 312

313 5 Results

5.1 Infrastructure mapping

315 5.1.1 SACHI accuracy assessment

The dataset accuracy was evaluated by comparison with validation data provided from very high resolution data (i 1 m), ranging from UAV, satellite and aerial imagery and cadastral data over several settlements (Table 1). The agreement with the 10 m based classification result is 67% with the best detection of 80% for airstrips and other artificial areas such as bare-ground patches, gravel pads, open pit and mining areas (Table 2). Roads show an overall accuracy of 58% and the post-processing results for road types reveal a good

accuracy for the detection of asphalt roads (76%), but only around 40% on average for dirt 322 roads. Buildings are accurately detected in 57% and the minimum building size detectable is 323 100 m², as determined with the UAVs survey at Paulatuk and Tuktokaktuk. Figure 5 gives 324 a good visual example of the infrastructure detection detail of the dataset at Tuktoyaktuk. 325 Comparing the dataset with the road survey (in-situ 2021) in Svalbard, reveal the good 326 detection of roads below 10 m width. In fact the dataset was able to detect road widths 327 from 2.7 to 12 m. For the road type survey in Svalbard (asphalt and gravel/dirt) : 75% or 328 the roads samples are detected by the dataset showing mean width of 5.7m. However, only 329 34% were correctly classified. Among these, 40% asphalt roads were correctly classified with 330 mean width of 6.3 m, and up to 21% regarding gravel/dirt roads showing a mean width 4.9. 331 28% of the road width survey samples were not detected. 332

 Table 2.
 Updated SACHI dataset accuracy (10m nominal resolution versus ; 1m). Producer, User

 and Overall accuracy values were extracted from computed confusion matrices at each validation

 site.

Derien	V-1:		Infrastr	uctures de Produce	etection ac r & (User)	curacy %
Region	validation site	roa	ds		others fe	eatures
		asphalt	dirt	buildings	airstrip	other artificial area
	Atqasuk	-	71 (95)	-	-	-
	Nuiqsut	-	86(63)	-	-	-
Alacka	Unalakleet	74(27)	82(80)	-	-	-
Alaska	Breving Mission	-	19(60)	-	-	-
	Chesterfield	-	23(30)	-	-	-
	Pruhoe Bay	100(10)	61(50)	72(60)	100(100)	67(100)
Buggin	Gasale	-	20(25)	-	-	-
Russia	Kathanga	100(5)	24(75)	-	-	-
	Ilulissat	-	-	42 (60)	100 (93)	90 (83)
West Creenland	Kangeq	-	-	64(90)	23(80)	64 (90)
west Greemand	Oqaatsut	-	-	30(30)	-	96(55)
	Qeqertarsuaq	-	-	76(55)	100(100)	88 (95)
Svalbard	Longyearbyen	31 (45) 47 (16)		-	-	-
	Tuktoyaktuk	-	72 (73)	50 (79)	100 (95)	83 (75)
	Komakuk	-	100	-	84(100)	-
Considion Aratia	Paulatuk	-	40(33)	47(5)	-	72 (60)
	Cape Parry	-	-	100(44)	17(100)	70(81)
	Sachs Harbour	-	1(8)	6(12)	-	60 (66)
	Ulukhaktok	-	49 (80)	-	58(89)	71 (86)
Overall accuracy	67	76	39	57	80	81

333

5.1.2 Updated SACHI dataset

In total, almost 1450 km^2 were mapped in the updated SACHI version, adding 17% 334 more information (Table 3). Artificial water reservoirs were added, accounting for 6902 335 supplementary features or 138 km^2 and roads have been sub-classified into three different 336 types. Dirt roads represent 50% of the total detected roads and asphalt roads 22%. In 337 total, 408 settlements were attributed to the infrastructures extent within the analysis area, 338 however, only 292 are directly located at the coast. The majority are traditional communities 339 living from fishing, hunting, and herding activity (53%). Industrial settlements for mining 340 activity or gas/oil extraction represent 20% while the remaining settlements represent other 341 uses such as tourism or military, research or weather stations (based on settlement centre 342 data as in Bartsch et al. (2021)). Figure 5 shows a comparison between the first and 343 updated SACHI version, and with validation data at Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. We note that 344

the first version overestimated the extent of areas of buildings and other constructions. The updated version shows significant improvements in the mapping of airstrips, buildings and

other constructions with the distinction of individual objects. Artificial water reservoirs are

now also included in the dataset.

Class		first SAC	HI version	updated S.	ACHI version
Class		n° objects	area (km^2)	n° objects	area (km^2)
	asphalt			293,964	123
Roads	dirt	428,872	643	511,930	278
	undefined	-		223,701	157
Buildings and other constructions		219,052	199	212,147	122
	airstrips			2,149	6
Other artificial areas	artificial water reservoirs	264,732	371	6,902	138
	other artificial areas	-		225,319	625
Total		912,656	1213	1,476,112	1449

Table 3. Updated SACHI dataset

Figure 5. Examples of SACHI versions (a) first (Bartsch et al., 2021), and (b) updated, (c) validation data from the 2019 UAV orthomosaic at Tuktoyaktuk (Canadian Beaufort coast). Background map data sources: Pléiades© CNES, 2018, Airbus DS.



³⁴⁹ 5.2 Coastline changes and exposed settlements

350

5.2.1 Coastline changes accuracy assessment

The coastline change rate uncertainty for the Landsat retrieved rates amounts to 2 351 m/yr (Table 4). The results reveal that on the four validation sites, the coastline change 352 rates between validation and Landsat data can differ from -7.9 to 0.35 m/yr, where positives 353 values represents an overestimation of erosion from the Landsat data and where negatives 354 values represents an underestimation of erosion (Table 5). The comparison between rates 355 calculated with the DSAS extension and the polygon approach shows a very good fit along 356 Barter Island and along the Mackenzie Delta front. Newtok shows a higher difference (-3.4 357 and -3.7 m/yr) because the retreat has been poorly captured along the mudflat area fronting 358 the settlement, eastward (Fig. 7b). Moreover the validation data was acquired for a shorter 359 time-period than the Landsat data (see Table 1). The Point Lonely site shows the highest 360 difference compared to the validation data, with a large underestimation of the erosion by 361 7.9 m/yr. This is due to the fact that the Landsat data did not well capture the landward 362 barrier beach migration, as shown in Fig. 6. However, the blufftop retreat was well captured. 363 An additional comparison was made between the Landsat rates using the simplified polygon 364 rate retrieval and the DSAS method. The results show that the automatic method for rate 365 calculation for the Landsat polygons is very accurate and shows an overall underestimation 366 of 0.3 m/yr compared to the DSAS transect based method (last row of Table 5). Regarding 367 these validation sites, we can say that the Landsat polygon rates tends to underestimate the 368 coastline change rates, however, Fig. 6 and 7 show examples of the good fit of the coastline 369 position and calculated change rates of the Landsat derived data. 370

Table 4. Characteristics and errors related to imagery used for validation of the coastline delineation. RMSE stands for "Root Mean Square Error" The RMSE was not considered for the Landsat data since the images are issued from the same source.

Validation data	Acquisition date	Pixel size (m)	Mean RMSE (m)	Coastline position uncertainty (m)	Coverage	Coastline change rate uncertainty (m/yr)
Pléiades (multi-spectral, pan-sharpened)	2018	0.5	0.35	0.6	Mackenzie Delta Front	0.14
Aeriai photography (panchromatic)	2000	1.25	2	2.4		
Maxar WV2 (pan-sharpened)	2020	0.5	1	1.1	Bartar Island	0.26
Maxar Ikonos (panchromatic)	2000	0.8	5	5.1	Darter Island	0.20
Pléiades (multi-spectral, pan-sharpened)	2018	0.5	0.35	0.6	Point Lonaly	0.28
Maxar Ikonos (panchromatic)	2000	0.8	5	5.1	I onit Donery	0.20
Pléiades (multi-spectral, pan-sharpened)	2019	0.5	0.35	0.6	Nemtals	0.26
Maxar Ikonos (panchromatic)	2005	0.8	5	5.1	NEWLOK	0.50
Landsat-7/8	2020	30	-	30	Anotic and normafrost coasts	9
Landsat-7/8	2000	30	-	30	Arctic and permairost coasts	2

 Table 5.
 Inter-comparison between rate calculation methods for validation and Landsat derived

 data using the DSAS workflow and the polygon geometry method for change rate calculations.

		Barter Island	Mackenzie Delta Front	Newtok	Point Lonely Air Station
	Represented period	2000-2020	2000-2018	2005 - 2019	2000 - 2018
Validation Data	DSAS mean change rate (m/yr)	-3.01	-4	-12.9	-15.8
	Uncertainty (m/yr)	+/- 0.26	+/- 0.14	+/-0.36	+/- 0.28
	Polygons mean change rate (m/yr)	-3.36	-3.54	-9.2	-7.9
Landsat derived data	DSAS mean change rate (m/yr)	-3.63	-4.1	-9.5	-8.02
	Uncertainty (m/yr)	+/- 2	+/- 2	+/- 2	+/- 2
	Validation - Landsat Polygon rates (m/yr)	0.35	-0.46	-3.7	-7.9
Difference	Validation - Landsat DSAS rates (m/yr)	0.62	0.1	-3.4	-7.78
	Landsat Polygon - Landsat DSAS rates $\rm (m/yr)$	0.27	0.56	0.3	0.12

5.2.2 Settlements exposed to coastal erosion

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Over the time period 2000-2020, significant coastline position changes were detected along 292 settlements located directly at the coast. These changes represent a total of 476 km of coastline length showing an average change rate of -0.8 m/yr, where erosion is dominating 70% of the investigated coast. Accretion is located along mobile coastal forms such as barriers islands, beaches and spits (Table 6). Settlements and infrastructures potentially affected by coastal erosion by 2030, 2050 and 2100 were identified based on a linear extrapolation of erosion rates, based on the 2000-2020 time-period (Appendix A2)

According to this extrapolation, 16% of the coastal settlements will be subject to in-379 frastructure damage or loss due to coastline retreat in 2030 and up to 23% in 2100. Along 380 these specific settlements, the average erosion rate is about -3.2 m/yr. The difference in the 381 amount of affected settlements arises from the fact, that some settlements are built a bit 382 more inland and will only get affected later. By 2100 the total surface area of infrastructures 383 (as detected with the 10 m resolution) potentially at risk from by coastal erosion equals to 384 17.8 km², including bare-ground areas (see Appendix A1). The Alaskan coast stands out, 385 with 25 settlements exposed to coastal erosion by 2100, showing average erosion of 3.6 m/yr. 386 In Russia, the majority of exposed settlements is located along the Chukchi Peninsula (12), 387 and Central Siberia coast (20, Laptev and Kara Sea). In Svalbard, Longyearbyen, Barents-388 burg, and Svea are suspected to be affected by coastal erosion by 2100. In Canada, the 389 settlements of Tuktoyaktuk, Stokes Point and Kugluktuk were identified at risk. In Green-390 land, no settlements were estimated at risk from coastal erosion. Note that the majority of 391 the Greenland coastline consists of solid rock and erosion is limited to unconsolidated cliffs 392 (Luetzenburg et al., 2023). Due to ice recent ice loss, deltas shows a prograding trend in 393 Greenland (Bendixen et al., 2017). Moreover some areas are experiencing glacial isostatic 394 rebound. Coastline change rates below 2 m/yr were not considered in the study due to their 395 non-significance defined by the Landsat coastline change rate uncertainty (U). 396

Table 6. Coastline dynamics at settlement vicinity for the period 2000-2020

				erosion		ŧ	accretion	
	n° of settlements	$\begin{array}{c} {\rm mean \ change \ rate} \\ {\rm (m/yr)} \end{array}$	mean rate (m/yr)	max. rate (m/yr)	length (km)	mean rate (m/yr)	max. rate (m/yr)	length (km)
Total coastal settlements	292	-0.8	-2.9	-20.4	336	3.2	12.7	140
Exposed settlements in 2100	69	-1.8	-3.2	-20.4	150	2.9	4.5	20

Very high erosion rates up to 19 m/yr are found along the Alaskan Beaufort coast 397 at Point Lonely Air Station (190 km eastward of Prudhoe Bay; Fig. 6). The back-shore 398 of this area is characterized by tundra dissected by ice-wedge polygons, where erosion is 399 characterised by block failure along the bluff. To the east, the coastline is characterized 400 by an enclosed lagoon of 2 km length and 0.7 km width which is facing the airstrip. As 401 a continuation of the fast erosion of the tundra cliffs, the lagoon's barrier beach was also 402 moving very rapidly towards the mainland in the last 20 years. A major coastline retreat 403 phase occurred during the last decade, after 2009, as seen on Figure 6. The retrieved data 404 from Landsat trends show that the bluff-top retreat has been well captured in this area. 405 However, we note a clear rupture in the retrieved change area at the level of the barrier 406 beach enclosing a coastal lagoon, where its retreat has not been well captured (Fig. 6). 407 These specific coastal land-forms are prone to rapid changes during storm events, potentially 408 impacting their width. It is possible that the barrier beach became so narrow during its 409 retreat phase, that it was not detected in the Landsat data, so that it was not possible 410 to distinguish between the coastal lagoon and open ocean. Moreover, the turbidity of the 411 lagoon waters could have influenced the Landsat pixel classification. 412



Figure 6. High erosion and infrastructure loss at Point Lonely Air Station. The imagery is from July 2009. The red overlapping area represents erosion area retrieved from Landsat trends. We note a very good fit with the shorelines of 2000 and 2018 along the bluff, however the barrier beach migration was not well captured. The coastlines positions were derived from VHR satellite imagery corresponding to Ikonos©-2000 (0.8 m spatial resolution); WorldView-1-2009 (0.5 m) and Pléiades© CNES/Airbus-2018 (0.5 m). Background map data source: Google, ©2009 Maxar Technologies.

Considering linear erosion rates, we estimate that infrastructure of a total of 45 set-413 tlements will get affected by coastal erosion by 2030 and 69 settlements by 2100. These 414 settlements are mainly associated with residential areas with traditional food-harvesting 415 activities (45%) and 33% with gas/oil and mining industry. Other affected settlements are 416 abandoned or are military or weather stations. Coastline change rates estimated at Barter 417 Island show a good fit with validation data and reveal significant retreat averaging 3.4 m/yr418 in front of the bluff-top (visible as red overlapping areas in Fig. 7a). Some accretion area 419 is present along the barrier island and spits (northwest) and a beach (600 m length) at the 420 northeast sector of the island. It seems to grow at a rate of 4.2 m/yr. The coastline position 421 estimated in 2100 shows a potential loss of infrastructures due to coastal erosion such as the 422 front road of the island and a part of the radar station of Kaktovik (Fig. 7a). Along the 423 Bering sea, the traditional settlement of Newtok (Fig. 7b) is also a good example of high 424 erosion rates, which will cause a loss of the majority of the infrastructures if no relocation 425 plan is implemented. This is evident in the projected coastline positions for the mid- and 426 long-term (Fig. 7b). The projected coastline positions may underestimate areas at risk 427 (from the airstrip towards the east) as seen with the difference between the red overlapping 428 area and the validation coastlines. Although our projections are conservative, they do show 429 the loss of infrastructure over the mid- and long term periods. 430



Figure 7. Example of results with merged infrastructure and coastline dynamics datasets, showing potential loss of infrastructures at a) Kaktovik (U.S. Beaufort Sea) and at b) Newtok (U.S. Bering Sea). At Barter Island (a), the front road and the radar station may be affected in the long-term. At Newtok, averaging 9.2 m/yr, coastal erosion has already destroyed infrastructures. In case erosion continues at such a great pace, the majority of the settlement is expected disappear by 2100 (purple line). The coastline positions were derived from VHR satellite imagery corresponding to Ikonos©-2005 (0.8 m spatial resolution) and Pléiades© CNES/Airbus-2019 (0.5 m). Maps Data: a) ESRI; b) Google, ©2019 CNES / Airbus.

5.3 Warming permafrost and exposed settlements

5.3.1 Active Layer Thickness validation

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The comparison between the T-MOSAiC 2021 myThaw dataset (Martin et al., 2023) 433 and the Permafrost_cci ALT is displayed in Appendix A5. Due to the lack of Permafrost_cci 434 model results for 2020 and 2021 we compared different time periods (Permafrost_cci end-435 of-season ALT: 2015 to 2019, T-MOSAiC: all ALT measurements from 2021). The Per-436 mafrost_cci ALT and the measured ALT data agreed well for the following stations: Samoylov 437 (Siberia, Russia; A5c). Toolik Lake (Alaska, USA; A5d) and the Zackenberg "wet" transect 438 (Greenland; A5g). Differences between the modeled and measured data can be explained 439 with the nature of the T-MOSAiC measurements which are obtained throughout the whole 440 summer whereas the Permafrost_cci ALT is the end-of-season value. Hence, the seasonal 441 evolution of the ALT is not captured by the modeled dataset. We found major disagreements 442 for the following sites: (both) Bayelva transects (Svalbard, Norway; A5a), Kevo Vaisejaeggi 443 (Finland; A5b), Siksik Creek (Trail Valley Creek, Canada; A5e), Cambridge Bay (Canada; 444 A5f) and the Zackenberg "dry" transect (Greenland; A5g). 445

The two T-MOSAiC sites in Svalbard showed a high spatial variability despite their 446 proximity (about 500 m). The median ALT (1.2 m and 0.8 m respectively) was best repre-447 sented within the Permafrost_cci ALT dataset in the 10 km radius around the T-MOSAiC 448 sites as the outliers of the box-plot are in range of the measured ALT (A5a). Both sites 449 were located within one grid cell. This outlined one of the challenges as the different site 450 specifics (i.e. soil properties, snow cover, vegetation height, water level) led to very dif-451 ferent ALT which are not reproduced by the model as the spatial resolution is too coarse 452 (0.926 km). The same issue applies to the Zackenberg transects as the T-MOSAiC ALT 453 measured at the "dry" transect extended the ALT measured at the "wet" transect and the 454 Permafrost_cci ALT shown in A5g). For the T-MOSAiC sites Kevo Vaisejaeggi and Siksik 455 456 Creek, the Permafrost_cci ALT was at least twice as high as the measured values (A5b,e).

It was vice versa for the T-MOSAiC sites at Cambridge Bay (A5f) were the measured ALT is almost three times the modeled ALT.

A comparison between the T-MOSAiC, CALM and Permafrost_cci ALT (10 km radius) 459 sites is illustrated in Appendix A6a-g. In Svalbard (A6a), we found a larger difference 460 between the median ALT for the Permafrost_CCI ALT and the CALM than for the other 461 study sites. The median Permafrost_cci ALT was 0.31 m compared to 1.56 m for the 462 CALM site within 60 km radius and 1.01 m and 0.95 m for the sites located within 120 463 km. In Kevo, Finland, (A6b), the Permafrost_cci ALT showed higher variability than the 464 465 T-MOSAiC and CALM sites. The T-MOSAiC sites generally showed lower thaw depths than both Permafrost_cci ALT and the CALM sites in Kevo and in Siksik Creek (A6b,d). 466 In Samoylov (A6c), the Permafrost_cci ALT and CALM site within 60 km showed the same 467 median thaw depth (0.51 m) whereas the thaw depths at the T-MOSAiC site (median 468 0.36 m) was more similar to the CALM sites at a radius of 120 km (median thaw depths 469 0.35 m and 0.41 m). The T-MOSAiC dataset from Toolik lake in Alaska (A6e) showed 470 higher variability than both the Permafrost_CCI ALT and CALM datasets and the median 471 thaw depths for the T-MOSAiC dataset agreed better with all the CALM sites compared 472 to the Permafrost_CCI ALT dataset. Since no CALM site was located within 400 km of 473 the T-MOSAiC site in Cambridge Bay (A6f), only the comparison to the Permafrost_CCI 474 ALT is shown. The median thaw depth of the T-MOSAiC dataset at this site was 0.52475 m higher compared to the thaw depth of the Permafrost_cci ALT dataset. In Zackenberg, 476 the T-MOSAiC "dry" dataset was more similar to the CALM dataset whereas the "wet" 477 T-MOSAiC dataset was more similar to the Permafrost_cci ALT dataset. 478



Figure 8. The 1 km (yellow), 5 km (red) and 10 km (blue) radius for the T-MOSAiC site Bayelva which were defined to crop the Permafrost_cci ALT data sets from 2015 to 2019. The (grayscale) color bar for the Permafrost_cci ALT is from 0.01 to 10 m.

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5.3.2 Projection of permafrost conditions and exposed settlements

The results of the Permafrost_cci time-series shows that since the last 20 years, the GT of northern permafrost dominated coasts is warming at a global average rate of +0.10°C/yr (Fig. 8a (white box) with maximum values up to +0.25°C/yr). We note a high variability between coastal regions, with Svalbard and Siberian coasts showing GT trends above global average. The Central Siberian coast shows the highest average GT change of +0.16°C/yr, however, the highest rates (above 0.20°C/yr) are found for the Canadian Arctic, Greenland, Svalbard and Western Siberian coasts.

Looking at the ALT, the model shows less variability (Fig. 8b). The global average change rate is about +0.01 m/yr (white box), with maximum rates up to +0.09 m/yr(Hudson Bay area). The highest average ALT rate is found along the European Plain coast (0.03 m/yr). Note that the model also represents decreasing GT for the Canadian Arctic and Greenland coasts with minimum values down to and -0.15°C/yr . The ALT shows minimum values from -0.04 to -0.07 m/yr along the coasts of Alaska, Hudson Bay, Greenland and
 Western Siberia.



Figure 9. Annual trends for ground temperatures (at 2 meters depth) and active layer thickness per regions. The extent considered corresponds to the SACHI limits (100 km coastal zone). The trends were calculated over the 2000-2020 period using the datasets of Obu et al. (2021b) and Obu et al. (2021a).

By 2100, the average coastal permafrost GT is expected to increase by 8°C and the ALT by 0.9 m. The trend projections for 2100 suggest extreme GT warming above 9°C all along the Russian coast as well as along the Beaufort Sea coast, the mouth of the Amundsen Gulf and Eastern Greenland (Appendix A4, A3).

Among the total infrastructures mapped, 65% are located on ground estimated to warm between 5 to 15°C by 2100, representing 65% of the settlements, and 35% of the identified exposed settlement area are expected to experience ALT increase between 1 to 5 m by 2100.

For the settlements identified to be exposed to infrastructure damage from coastal 501 erosion by 2100, the ALT is expected to increase by an average of 1.5 m and GT by 9.7°C 502 by 2100. The majority (60%) of settlements are located on ground temperature increase 503 at 2 m depth ranging from 4 to 12° C and ALT increase from 0.5 to 2 m/yr (Fig. 9). The 504 highest GT increase (+17.8°C) was estimated at the settlement of Valkumey (East Siberian 505 Sea) and the highest ALT increase (+6.14 m) at Shaktoolik city (Bering strait). In 2019, 506 the ALT was estimated at 0.9 m for at exposed settlements. The highest ALT was found at 507 an Alaskan exposed settlement in 2019 (1.8 m) and could potentially reach up to 2.3 m in 508 2100. Settlements in Canada, Svalbard and Russia show ALT less than 1 m depth in 2019. 509 ALT is expected to more than double by the end of the century. Canada shows the lowest 510 average ALT in 2019, due to the northern location of exposed settlements (Fig. 10) 511



Figure 10. Associated ground temperature and active layer thickness change at identified settlements at risk from coastal erosion by 2100.



Figure 11. Active Layer Thickness (ALT) and extrapolation for different time-periods. ALT was estimated at infrastructure extent of settlements at risk from coastal erosion and averaged per region.

512 6 Discussion

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6.1 Infrastructure identification

In this study, our focus was on analyses of settlements and infrastructure occurring along permafrost-dominated coastal areas. The new SACHI dataset provides improved information on infrastructure occurrence in the Arctic, particularly for roads, airstrips and artificial areas. Due to the limitation to 10 m nominal resolution, 33% of individual human

related features were not captured across the validation sites. Specifically road and building 518 detection is challenging. The amount of detectable buildings is controlled by the resolution 519 and the quality of the Sentinel-2 data (multi-spectral), which limits the detection of small 520 constructions, and object mis-classification can occur with the presence of snow patches, 521 rock outcrops, landfills, construction debris and large driftwood accumulations along the 522 shore. Asphalt roads are scarcely present in the Arctic and along permafrost coasts, since 523 the majority of roads are made of dirt or gravel which is easier and cheaper to construct and 524 maintain. In some settlements, roads are made of concrete blocks, falling in the undefined 525 category. Although the Sentinel-2 imagery has been processed for atmospheric corrections 526 (aerosol optical thickness and water vapour), clouds are still influencing the data quality and 527 can lead to mis-classification in addition to calibration and training data issues. The DL and 528 GBM algorithms were trained on specific areas, however, the heterogeneity of geographic 529 regions across the Arctic and along permafrost coasts may influence the performance of the 530 algorithms. It could be shown that Sentinel-2 allows to capture also roads below 10 m width 531 in some cases. Individual building detection needs to be improved with DL and GBM using 532 VHR optical images. However their processing remains challenging at regional scale. The 533 Sentinel-1 SAR images were used for the GBM processing. Distortion, noise, and incidence 534 angle inherent to SAR images may affect image quality and result in detection issues of 535 spatial features (Kumar, 2021). Moreover, air and ground temperatures are critical param-536 eters influencing back-scatter values (Bergstedt et al., 2018). However, the assessment shows 537 that the 10 m spatial resolution allows consistently identifying human impacted areas such 538 as very small settlements with few houses, which need to be considered in risk assessment 539 studies across the entire Arctic. However, our results remains conservative in the estimation 540 of potential risks on communities and infrastructures. 541

6.2 Coastline changes

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The use of consistent Landsat time-series for the detection of coastline changes within 543 20 years shows to be efficient to provide estimations of average coastline rates on a regional 544 to pan-Arctic scale. Although the results agree with validation data, it is important to 545 note that coastline changes below 2 m/yr were not considered in the analysis since they 546 were below the detection threshold. This results in an underestimation of coastal changes, 547 since the majority of permafrost-dominated coast is estimated to erode at a pace of up 548 to two meters per year and areas of accretion are comparatively scarce (B. Jones et al., 549 2020; Irrgang et al., 2022). According to the results, the prevailing mechanism of coastline 550 changes in the vicinity of settlements is erosion. Accumulation was detected relatively rarely. 551 Moreover, local and regional studies based on the analysis of VHR imagery, coastline erosion 552 has been accelerating in recent years in various areas of the Arctic (Tanguy, Whalen, Prates, 553 & Vieira, 2023; Whalen et al., 2022) revealing potential economic risks (Ogorodov et al., 554 2020). The assessment of coastline changes at the regional scale, as well as the detection 555 of inter-annual variability of coastline changes remains a challenge when using open-access 556 satellite data. Compared to transect-based analyses (DSAS), our study estimates only 557 average rates within changing areas, and does not consider regular transects spacing such as 558 in the DSAS framework. Moreover a shoreline reference is not consistently defined with this 559 method. In fact, the Landsat trends detect change from water to land and land to water 560 and do not consistently allow to distinguish between the retreat of a bluff-top or a waterline 561 and visual checking is necessary to evaluate if erosion is associated to bluff-top retreat such 562 as along the Beaufort coast, or due to sediment migration as along barrier islands and spits. 563 Tanguy, Whalen, Prates, and Vieira (2023) have shown differences in coastline change rates 564 measurement up to 20% when considering blufftop/vegetation line or waterline between as a 565 shoreline reference. For the purposes of coastal risk assessment along permafrost coasts with 566 the projection of future coastline position, it is necessary to characterize retreat of the bluff-567 top line rather than migration of mobile deposition sedimentary features such as beaches, 568 spits and barrier islands. Note that other factors, such as sea level rise, depression flooding 569 or thermokarst lake breaching can induce future rapid and extensive coastline retreat and 570

were not considered in the present study for the projected coastline position. The projected coastline position does not consider potential erosion acceleration or flooded areas which can significantly influence inland water progression.

574 6.3 Permafrost thaw

The GT and ALT Permafrost_CCI products have been validated with various in-situ 575 measurements. However, the datasets reveal regional biases associated with the spatial 576 resolution (near 1 km) of the modeled datasets which do not capture land-cover spatial 577 variability at a finer scale. Ground stratigraphy and snow cover are significant controlling 578 factors for ALT. The currently used ground stratigraphies in the Permafrost_cci modelling 579 are derived from land-cover classification (Westermann et al., 2015; Palmtag et al., 2022) and 580 do not consistently represent real ground conditions. Hence, significant errors are expected 581 where bedrock is actually represented as moisture-rich ground. Thus, the characterization 582 of change using relative values is more adapted than the use of absolute values. However, 583 note that this study is not considering actual ALT and that its increase may not be always 584 synonym of increasing vulnerability and subsidence risk. Since the study area extends 585 over the arctic region and considers permafrost dominated coasts, some areas may show 586 deep active layer thickness where its increasing trend is less relevant for risk assessment. 587 Increasing ALT might be relevant in areas characterized by shallow ALT, such as higher 588 latitudes Arctic settlements where subsidence and infrastructure instabilities can be caused 589 by abrupt that depth. Permafrost temperature trends can be also used as a proxy to assess 590 areas with risk of thaw subsidence. The experimental study by Wagner et al. (2018) has 591 shown the significant effect of increasing GT with permafrost thaw, by the deepening of 592 the permafrost table and subsidence. Based on an area of 143 m^2 , and 1.5 m soil depth, 593 their results reveal a linear relationship between GT increase and subsidence where an 594 augmentation of 13 °C results in ALT increase of 1 m and subsidence of 10 cm. Projections 595 for GT reveal that 27% of the studied area (100 km coastal fringe) will potentially face 596 changing GT of above 10 °C by 2100, coinciding with 34% of the total mapped infrastructures 597 area, which could potentially be affected by subsidence and infrastructure damage. 598

Studies have shown that summer surface deformation is derivable over low-land per-599 mafrost regions from Sentinel-1 SAR. In the area of Point Lonely Air Station ground surface 600 displacement ranged between 2-6 cm in the summer 2017. However, long time series and in-601 situ data are lacking to confirm the recorded subsidence within the InSAR pixel scale(Strozzi 602 et al., 2018). Assessment of risk areas associated to increasing ALT would need to consider 603 the actual ALT. Moreover, increase of GT and ALT may lead to enhanced thermokarst pro-604 cess, with the alteration of permafrost land-forms that could significantly affect the Arctic 605 hydrology (Grosse et al., 2013; Liljedahl et al., 2016; Tanguy, Whalen, Prates, Pina, et al., 606 2023). Furthermore, permafrost thaw alters Arctic hydrology (Grosse et al., 2013; Liljedahl et al., 2016; Tanguy, Whalen, Prates, Pina, et al., 2023) and enhances thermo-hydrological 608 erosion, which may lead to dispersion of contaminants from toxic leakage of buried wastes 609 and landfill at industrial sites (Langer et al., 2023). 610

611

6.4 Exposed infrastructures and settlements to coastal erosion

The combined analysis of the coastline change dataset and the updated SACHI dataset 612 allows the identification of settlements at risk from coastal erosion, from short- to long-613 term periods (2030, 2050, 2100). In some locations, the results are coherent with local 614 measurements, such as the study of Nicu et al. (2021), which investigated coastline changes 615 and potential impacts on the cultural heritage site of Hiorthhamn in Svalbard (78°14'50" 616 617 N, 15°42'30" E). Our pan-Arctic approach was able to identify 52 coastal settlements in Alaska (within study area extent), with 25 settlements being exposed to coastal erosion by 618 2100. The results agree for 11 settlements, also identified by the study of Buzard et al. 619 (2021) with identification of 14 additional settlements mostly located along the Beaufort 620 Sea coast. However, note that the magnitude of coastline change considered can affect the 621

detection of exposed settlements. Note that some communities are also affected by river migration hazards which are important in delta regions. Moreover, the present study does not consider future external factors which may increase or reduce erosion rates (sea level rise, subsidence, beach accretion). Hence, our approach does not replace local detailed analyses which remains necessary at individual settlements, for the identification of coastal risks.

For the first time, our dataset allows for a pan-Arctic estimation of the amount of 627 settlements being exposed to oncoming and future coastal erosion, warming permafrost 628 temperatures and active layer thickening. However, the very likely intensification of drivers 629 630 of coastal erosion, such as storm surges and lengthening of the open water season, were not incorporated in our analyses. Thus, it is likely that our results present a rather conservative 631 estimation of the total number of coastal settlements being affected by coastal erosion in the 632 future. The assessment of infrastructure damage and associated costs within coastal areas 633 needs to be assessed in order to quantify economic consequences (D. A. Streletskiy et al., 634 2019b; Buzard et al., 2021; Ogorodov et al., 2023). 635

636 7 Conclusions

Our study has demonstrated the effectiveness of remote sensing techniques in assessing 637 the evolution of arctic and permafrost coastlines over the last 20 years. The results show 638 that erosion dominates along coastal settlement areas (70%), with retreat rates of up to 19 639 m/yr. Extrapolation of the coastline position for 2100 reveals that 23% of coastal settlements 640 will be affected by coastal erosion, with a total estimated infrastructure loss/damage area 641 of 18 km². The majority of identified exposed settlements are localized along Alaskan 642 and Siberian coasts. Simultaneously, ground temperature has shown a significant warming 643 trend, and the active layer is thickening. By 2100, it is estimated that ground temperatures 644 of the permafrost coastal zone will have risen by 8°C and the active layer by 0.9 m. These 645 changes in ground conditions are subject to enhanced permafrost degradation, damaging 646 infrastructure and populations' livelihoods. Indeed, 65% of infrastructures are built in areas 647 where ground temperatures are expected to rise between 5 and 15° C, and 35% over active 648 layer thickness increase between 1 to 5 meters. These trends indicate a potential increase 649 in ground subsidence, flooding hazards and changes in hydrological systems. To minimize 650 the risks and costs faced by coastal permafrost communities, coastline management and 651 adaptation strategies need to be adopted rapidly. 652

In a context of changing permafrost conditions, this work provides relevant information at the pan-Arctic scale for the identification of settlements and infrastructures at risk by the end of the century. This is an important first step towards developing mitigation strategies and thus reducing the vulnerability of Arctic settlements to future coastal hazards.

⁶⁵⁷ Appendix A Additional maps, figure and tables.



Figure A1. Rapid coastal erosion threatening coastal infrastructures at Utqiagvik (Barrow, Alaska) after a storm during the summer 2023. A road portion was destroyed and we note the presence of a red tank and remaining big-bags down the bluff. Blufftop failure is occuring as seen on inset (b). Image credit: Ben Jones



Figure A2. Settlements potentially exposed to coastal erosion. Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data 2016 to 2022.



Figure A3. Ground temperature change in by 2100 based in trends derived from Permafrost_cci data (Obu et al., 2021b). The hexagons are width and height is 50 km and the ground temperatures trend for the period 1999-2020 were averaged within the hexagons.



Figure A4. Active Layer Thickness change by 2100, within the 100 km zone from the coast.



Figure A5. Comparison of the T-MOSAiC 2021 myThaw dataset with the output from the ESA Permafrost Climate Change Initiative (Obu et al., 2021a) end-of season ALT product from 2015 to 2019 for all eight sites. The Permafrost_CCI ALT output was read out for a 1 km, 5 km and 10 km radius around each of the eight T-MOSAiC stations, except for the two Bayelva sites (a) and the two Zackenberg transects (g) where one model ALT output was generated due to close proximity of the site locations.



Figure A6. Comparison of the T-MOSAiC 2021 myThaw dataset (Martin et al., 2023) with the output from the ESA Permafrost Climate Change Initiative (Obu et al., 2021a) end-of season ALT product from 2015 to 2019 for all eight sites and the CALM ALT data (Heim et al., 2021). The Permafrost_cci ALT output was investigated for a 10 km radius around each of the eight T-MOSAiC stations (Fig. 8, except for the two Bayelva sites (a) and the two Zackenberg transects (g) where one model ALT output was generated due to close proximity of the site locations (green box-plots). The purple box-plots contain the end-of-season ALT data obtained at the CALM sites in a 60 km radius around the T-MOSAiC sites. The pink box-plots contain the end-of-season ALT data obtained at the CALM sites in a 120 km radius around the T-MOSAiC sites.

Table A1. Summary table of the updated SACHI dataset, showing potential future infrastructure loss by coastal erosion, and estimated permafrost warming at infrastructure extent.

					Infrastruc	tures			Infra	structur	te loss	Perm	afrost	change	at infr	astructi	Ires
			roads (k	m)		oth	$er (km^2)$		from e	oastal e	erosion	GT ir	Icrease	(.C)	ALT i	ncrease	(m)
Coastal region	n° of settlements	dirt	asphalt	undefined	buildings	airstrip	water reservoir	other artificial area	2030	(km^2) 2050	2100	2030	2050	2100	2030	2050	2100
Alaska (U.S)	88	4127	2248	800	6	1.4	7	62	1,9	2,6	4,8	0.99	2.97	7.93	0.1	0.31	0.83
Canada	87	5822	1623	3352	38	1.4	82	109	0,08	0,8	0,1	0.4	0.73	1.18	0.04	0.13	0.34
Greenland (Denmark)	74		ı	ı	×	0.3	0.2	36		ı		0.1	0.31	0.83	0.03	0.09	0.25
Svalbard (Norway)	5	106	119	10676	3.8	0.2	0.09	4	0,4	0,4		1.19	3.58	9.54	0.04	0.12	0.32
Russia	154	18055	9413	32	62	eo.	47	412	8,8	9,5	10	1.04	3.12	8.32	0.12	0.37	0.98
Total (permafrost dominated coasts)	408	28110	13403	14860	120.8	6.3	136.29	623	11	12	17,8	0.90	2.70	7.20	0.10	0.31	0.83

⁶⁵⁸ Open Research Section

The data that support the findings of this study will be openly available following an embargo at Zenodo. This study and associated datasets were designed for scientific purposes only and should not be taken as professional engineering advice.

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