

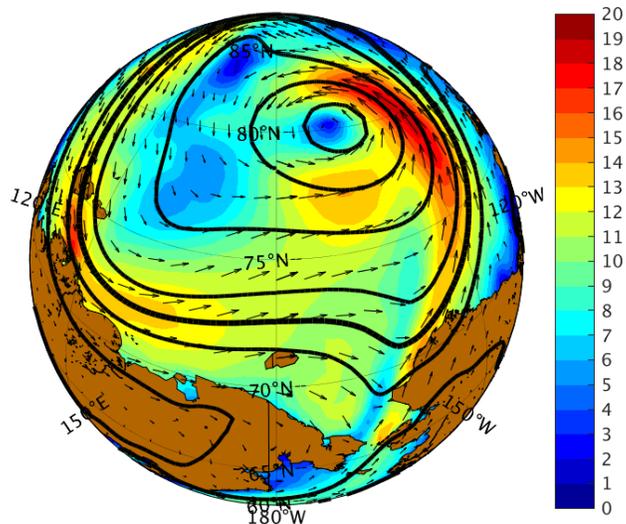
# Arctic Cyclones and the Influence on Short-Term Changes in Sea Ice



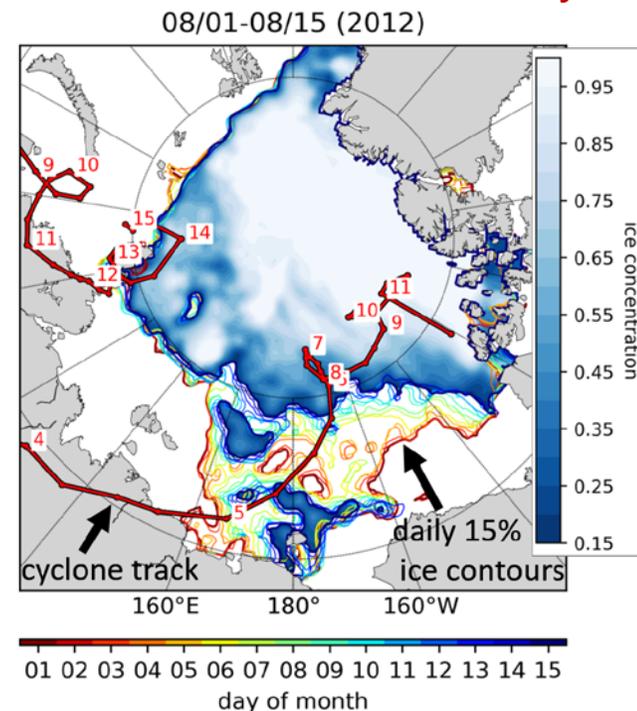
James Doyle<sup>1</sup>, P. Finocchio<sup>1</sup>, D. Stern<sup>2</sup>, N. Barton<sup>1</sup>, M. Fearon<sup>3</sup>, W. Komaromi<sup>1</sup>, E.J. Metzger<sup>4</sup>, D. Ryglicki<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Monterey, CA, <sup>2</sup>National Research Council, <sup>3</sup>UCAR, <sup>4</sup>U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Stennis, MS

- Do Arctic cyclones typically accelerate sea-ice loss during the summer melt season?
- Office of Naval Research (ONR) initiative focused on understanding the influence of Arctic cyclones on sea ice loss and to identify sources of sea ice predictability in the Arctic.
- Coupled Navy ESPC model and ERA-5 reanalyses are used to explore Arctic cyclones and sea ice

Strong Arctic cyclone in August 2012 that significantly reduced the Arctic sea-ice extent and volume over the course of 5-10 days.



ERA 10-m WSPD (m/s), 06 Aug 2012, 00 UTC  
Arctic Cyclones are synoptic-scale baroclinic waves



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## Coupled Navy ESPC Model (Aug. 2012 Cyclone)

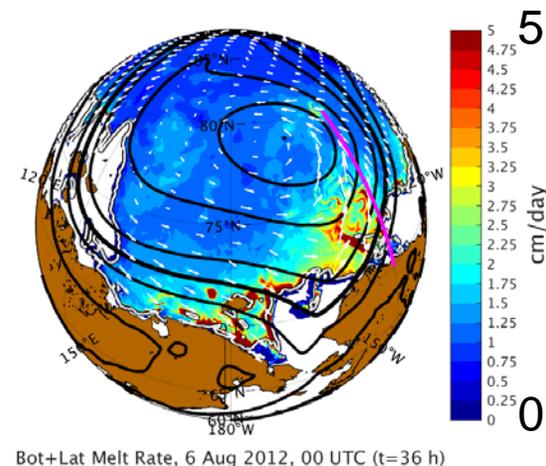
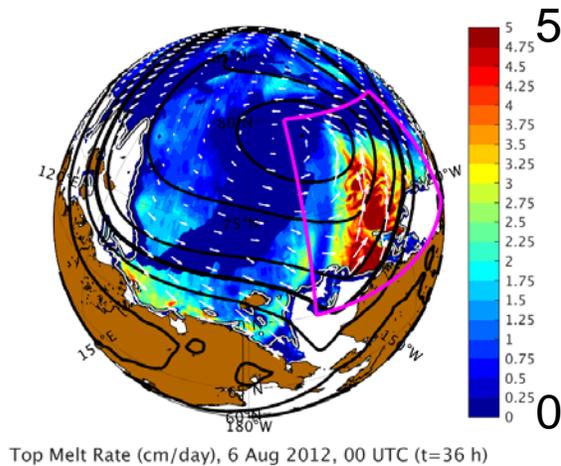
- Enhanced surface melting in occurs in the warm sector (strong winds) of the cyclone.
- Sea ice melt is enhanced by the cyclone through turbulent mixing of warm water from below, and sensible heating from above.

## ERA-5 Reanalysis (20 Years)

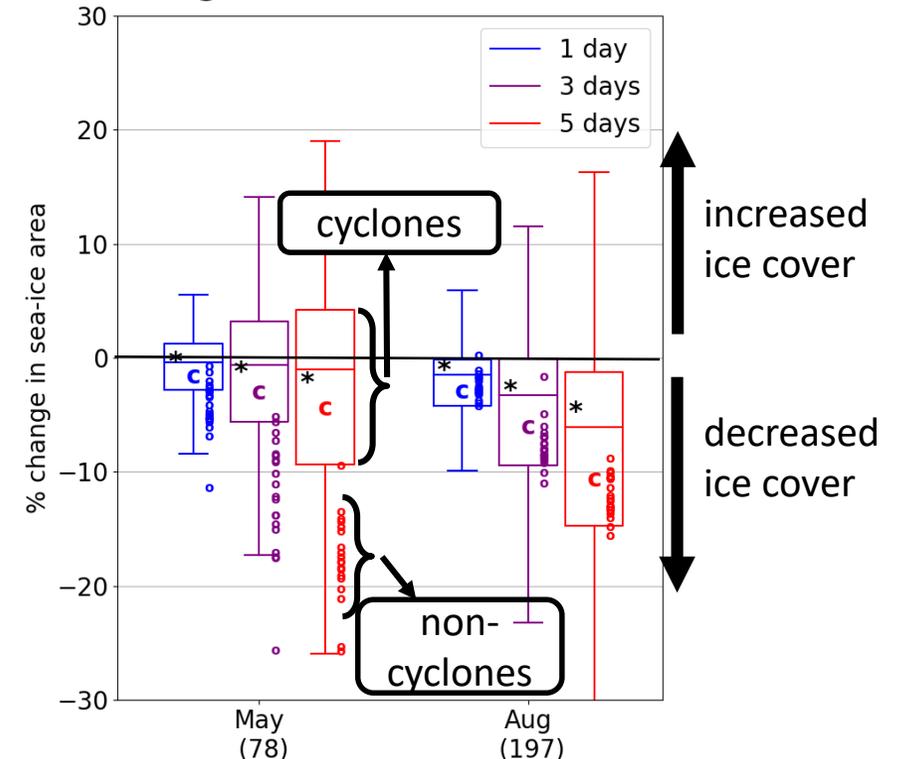
- May-June cyclones have less short-term loss of local sea-ice cover than non-cyclones due to cyclone clouds that reduce solar radiation.
- Strong mid-summer cyclones enhance sea ice melt, but most cyclones do not.

Surface Melting

Ice Bottom Melting



Change in Sea-Ice Cover



# Arctic Cyclones and the Influence on Short-Term Changes in Sea Ice

## Summary

### **Melting of sea ice is substantially enhanced by the intense cyclone in Aug. 2012**

- Melting occurs through turbulent mixing of warm water from below, and sensible heating from above.

### **Based on a large sample of Arctic summer cyclones located near the sea-ice edge using ERA-5**

- May-June cyclones slow ice loss by reducing shortwave radiation; Strong cyclones enhance ice loss.

### **Impact of summer Arctic cyclones on sea-ice loss remains complex and uncertain, due to offsetting physical effects, representativeness, and model and remote-sensing errors/uncertainties**

### **Arctic cyclones are an important and complex component of sea ice variability and likely have important implications across time scales from sub-seasonal to seasonal to climate.**

- A greater understanding of Arctic cyclones will help to better prepare indigenous communities for current environmental conditions, and future impacts of cyclones as sea ice thins.

**Contact Information:** James D. Doyle ([james.doyle@nrlmry.navy.mil](mailto:james.doyle@nrlmry.navy.mil))

### **References**

- Stern et al. 2020 *Geophysical Research Letters*, 47, e2019GL085580.
- Finocchio et al. 2020: *Geophysical Research Letters*, 47, e2020GL088338.