Scientists Counter Latest Arctic 'Record' Warmth Claims as 'Pseudoscience' –

Comprehensive Arctic Data Round Up – October 17, 2008

Marc Morano

Claim: Paper claims Arctic Temps Peak in November – Claims Arctic offers 'early warning signs' - McClatchy Newspapers – October 16, 2008

Excerpt: Temperatures in the Arctic last fall hit an all-time high - more than 9 degrees Fahrenheit (5 degrees Centigrade) above normal - and remain almost as high this year, an international team of scientists reported Thursday. "The year 2007 was the warmest year on record in the Arctic," said Jackie Richter-Menge, a climate expert at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H, and editor of the latest annual Arctic Report Card. "These are dynamic and dramatic times in the Arctic," she said. "The outlook isn't good." Arctic temperatures naturally peak in October and November, after sea ice shrinks during the summer. Scientists say these changes in the Arctic are early warning signs of what may be coming for the rest of the world's climate.

Arctic Reality Check: Why isn't the cooling Antarctic considered 'an indicator of what might happen to the rest of the world?'

By Climate Scientist Dr. Ben Herman, past director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics and former Head of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Arizona is a member of both the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth's Executive Committee and the Committee on Global Change.

Herman Excerpt: First of all, the Arctic sea ice is at its minimum in September, not October or November as the scientists in the McClatchy article states. As Arctic ice experts, they certainly should have known this. Another point is that the Arctic temperatures do not "naturally peak in October or November". They peak in mid August generally. Also the article states that since the world's climates are interconnected, what happens in the Arctic may be an indicator of what will happen in the rest of the world. How about what happens in the Antarctic then? Since its ice area has been increasing, is this also an indicator of what might happen in the rest of the world? (See: Vast majority of Antarctica has cooled over the past 50 years and ice coverage has grown to record levels -

Reality Check # 2***: 'This is pseudoscience'*** - By German scientist Ernst-Georg Beck, a biologist Rebuts Arctic Reports – October 17, 2008

Excerpt: The annual report issued by researchers at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other experts is the latest to paint a dire picture of the impact of climate change in the Arctic. […] The real averaged temperatures of the whole Arctic circle (70-90 N) can be found in the same data base used by NOAA (CRU, Phil

Jones): The graph shows a strong Arctic warming during 1918 and 1960, stronger than today with a rise of about + 4°C up to 1938. Referencing only a rise since 1960 we got the illusion of a dramatic rise in modern times. Conclusion: The news item:“ Arctic air temperatures climb to record levels“ is selective science and wrong because the Arctic Ocean (covering an area of more than 50% of the Arctic circle) has been left unconsidered. The NOAA study summarizes: „5°C record levels in temperature in autumn“, presents the averaged temperatures only on land stations and discusses melting sea ice as a cause! This is pseudoscience. In contrast the current Arctic warming mimics the 1920s-1940s event, as a recent study from the Ohio State University reveals. The scientists recognized from using weather station records, maps and photos from the past century that temperatures in Greenland had warmed in the 1920s at rates equivalent to the recent past.

Get the facts on Arctic ice conditions below:

Latest Arctic Info: Updated October 17, 2008

Update: Arctic sea ice now 28.7% higher than this date last year - still climbing – October 15, 2008

Excerpt: A difference of: 1,576,563 square kilometers, now in fairness, 2008 was a leap year, so to avoid that criticism, the value of 6,857,188 square kilometers can be used which is the 10/13/08 value, for a difference of 1,369,532 sq km. Still not too shabby at 24.9 %. The one day gain between 10/13/08 and 10/14/08 of 3.8% is also quite impressive. […] Watch the red line as it progresses. So far we are back to above 2005 levels, and 28.7% (or 24.9% depending on how you want to look at it) ahead of last year at this time. That’s quite a jump, basically a 3x gain, since the minimum of 9% over 2007 set on September 16th. Read about that here. Go nature! There is no mention of this on the National Snow and Ice Data Center sea ice news webpage, which has been trumpeting every loss and low for the past two years…not a peep. You’d think this would be big news. Perhaps the embarrassment of not having an ice free north pole in 2008, which was sparked by press comments made by Dr. Mark Serreze there and speculation on their own website, has made them unresponsive in this case.

Alert: National Ice Center says satellites interpreting Arctic ice as open water! - By Andrew Revkin - NY Times Dot Earth Blog - September 6, 2008

Excerpt: And one of the groups focusing most closely on possible Arctic shipping lanes, the National Ice Center operated by the Navy and Commerce Department, says flatly that the satellites are misreading conditions in many spots and that there is too much ice in a critical spot along the Russian coast (highlighted in the smaller image above) to allow anything but ice-hardened ships to get through. In an e-mail message Wednesday, Sean R. Helfrich, a scientist at the ice center, said that ponds of meltwater pooling on sea ice could fool certain satellite-borne instruments into interpreting ice as open water, “suggesting areas that have substantial ice cover as being sea-ice free.” The highlighted area is probably still impassible ice, including large amounts of thick old floes, he said. I

sent the note to an array of sea-ice experts, and many, including Mark Serreze at the National Snow and Ice Data Center, concurred.

National Weather Service: ***SEA ICE ADVISORY*** FOR ARCTIC WATERS AS WATER TEMPS DROP 8° IN 2008 – September 22, 2008

Excerpt: SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURES ALONG THE ALASKA CHUKCHI AND BEAUFORT SEA COASTS ARE 2 TO 8 DEGREES CELSIUS COLDER THIS YEAR THAN AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR. [...] SIGNIFICANT ICE WILL BEGIN DEVELOPING ALONG THE ALASKA COAST NORTH OF 70N WITHIN THE NEXT 10 TO 14 DAYS.

Global COOLING Continues: 2008 So Far 'the Coolest since 2000' - Says World Meteorological Organization – 'First half of 2008 the coolest since 2000'

Excerpt: - The first half of 2008 was the coolest for at least five years, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Wednesday. The whole year will almost certainly be cooler than recent years, although temperatures remain above the historical average. […] The global mean temperature to end-July was 0.28 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 average, the UK-based MetOffice Hadley Centre for climate change research said on Wednesday. That would make the first half of 2008 the coolest since 2000. […] Chillier weather this year is partly because of a global weather pattern called La Nina that follows a periodic warming effect called El Nino. "We can expect with high probability this year will be cooler than the previous five years," said Omar Baddour, responsible for climate data and monitoring at the WMO. "Definitely the La Nina should have had an effect, how much we cannot say." "Up to July 2008, this year has been cooler than the previous five years at least. It still looks like it's warmer than average," added Baddour.

Recent Peer-Reviewed Studies Debunk Arctic Ice Melt Fears

[Note # 1 : It is not surprising that Arctic Ice is at its second lowest level since 1979, given multiple non-warming related "record" shrinkage last year. The ice recovered somewhat from its low level in 2007.

See sampling of recent studies below debunking alarm over arctic ice:

1) Arctic ice INCREASES by nearly a half million square miles over same time period in 2007 - July 18, 2008 – (LINK)

2) New Peer-Reviewed Study Shows Arctic COOLING Over last 1500 years! - Feb 5, 2008 - Published in Climate Dynamics on 30 January 2008 (LINK)

3) New analysis finds Arctic ice reduction may be due to undersea volcanoes – June 26, 2008 - (LINK)

4) New Report finds global sea ice GROWING: 'World sea ice in April 2008 reached levels that were 'unprecedented' for the month of April in over 25 years.' (LINK)]

Numerous Peer-Reviewed Studies Show Natural Causes of Arctic Warming and Ice Reduction - Jan. 2008 – Below are the natural causes of Arctic Warming from our Jan. 2008 U.S. Senate Polar Bear Report.

Excerpt: A NASA study published in the peer-reviewed journal Geophysical Research Letters on October 4, 2007 found "unusual winds" in the Arctic blew "older thicker" ice to warmer southern waters. - A November 2007 peer-reviewed study in the journal Nature found natural cause for rapid Arctic warming. - A January 2008 study in the peer-reviewed journal Science found North Atlantic warming tied to natural variability. - A November 2007 peer-reviewed study conducted by a team of NASA and university experts found cyclical changes in ocean currents impacting the Arctic. - NASA Study Blames Natural High Pressure Leading to More Sunny Days for Arctic Ice Reduction. - A July 2007 analysis of peer-reviewed literature thoroughly debunks fears of Greenland and the Arctic melting and predictions of a frightening sea level rise.

Arctic Research Scientist Explains Natural Climate factors impacting Arctic Ice ***- Igor Polyakov at the University of Fairbanks, Alaska***

Excerpt: October 2007: "One prominent researcher, Igor Polyakov at the University of Fairbanks, Alaska, points out that pulses of unusually warm water have been entering the Arctic Ocean from the Atlantic, which several years later are seen in the ocean north of Siberia. These pulses of water are helping to heat the upper Arctic Ocean, contributing to summer ice melt and helping to reduce winter ice growth. Another scientist, Koji Shimada of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, reports evidence of changes in ocean circulation in the Pacific side of the Arctic Ocean. Through a complex interaction with declining sea ice, warm water entering the Arctic Ocean through Bering Strait in summer is being shunted from the Alaskan coast into the Arctic Ocean, where it fosters further ice loss. Many questions still remain to be answered, but these changes in ocean circulation may be important keys for understanding the observed loss of Arctic sea ice."

UK Scientist details Natural causes of Arctic ice changes – By UK Professor Emeritus of Biogeography Philip Stott of the University of London

Excerpt: In the media, we hear a great deal about 'global warming', melting ice, and bereft polar bears and penguins. But, as you can guess, things are not quite so straightforward. Indeed, some scientists believe that the decline in the Arctic ice must be put down to regional and local events, and not to world average changes. Possible factors include warm water intrusions from the Pacific Ocean, and more recently from the Atlantic Ocean; undersea volcanic activity, particularly on the Gakkel Ridge, where a

major eruption took place in 1999; and, albedo alterations brought about by soot pollution and the spread of tundra shrubs. Interestingly, similar Arctic 'warmings' have taken place before, and are recorded for the 1800s, for the 1930s, and for the 1950s. Current warming in Greenland does not appear to have reached the levels of these earlier events. Moreover, recent work has shown that particulate pollution from mid-latitudes can aggravate warming in the Arctic. […] Yet, with global cooling now seemingly underway, the media appear to be even more desperate than usual to continue to hype up 'global warming', so expect lots more about the Arctic decline, drowning polar bears, and melting 'tipping points' to keep us plebs in thrall. You should, however, take it all with a pinch of oceanic salt. The reality is a great deal more subtle and far more complex, and I suspect that, in truth, we have very little notion of what is actually happening.

Not Global Warming: Winds are Dominant Cause of Greenland and West Antarctic Ice Sheet Losses – October 3, 2008

Two new studies summarised in a news article in Science magazine point to wind-induced circulation changes in the ocean as the dominant cause of the recent ice losses through the glaciers draining both the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, not 'global warming.' The two stuides referred to are: 'Acceleration of Jakobshavn Isbræ triggered by warm subsurface ocean waters' by Holland et al, published in Nature Geoscience. The Abstract states: Observations over the past decades show a rapid acceleration of several outlet glaciers in Greenland and Antarctica1. One of the largest changes is a sudden switch of Jakobshavn Isbræ, a large outlet glacier feeding a deep-ocean fjord on Greenland's west coast, from slow thickening to rapid thinning2 in 1997, associated with a doubling in glacier velocity3. Suggested explanations for the speed-up of Jakobshavn Isbræ include increased lubrication of the ice–bedrock interface as more meltwater has drained to the glacier bed during recent warmer summers4 and weakening and break-up of the floating ice tongue that buttressed the glacier5. Here we present hydrographic data that show a sudden increase in subsurface ocean temperature in 1997 along the entire west coast of Greenland, suggesting that the changes in Jakobshavn Isbræ were instead triggered by the arrival of relatively warm water originating from the Irminger Sea near Iceland. We trace these oceanic changes back to changes in the atmospheric circulation in the North Atlantic region. We conclude that the prediction of future rapid dynamic responses of other outlet glaciers to climate change will require an improved understanding of the effect of changes in regional ocean and atmosphere circulation on the delivery of warm subsurface waters to the periphery of the ice sheets.

Reuters Spins: Global Warming causes 'Antarctic winter ice gets bigger' while Arctic Shrinks due to Global Warming

Excerpt: The amount of sea ice around Antarctica has grown in recent Septembers in what could be an unusual side-effect of global warming, experts said on Friday. In the southern hemisphere winter, when emperor penguins huddle together against the biting cold, ice on the sea around Antarctica has been increasing since the late 1970s, perhaps because climate change means shifts in winds, sea currents or snowfall. At the other end of the planet, Arctic sea ice is now close to matching a September 2007 record low at the

tail end of the northern summer in a threat to the hunting lifestyles of indigenous peoples and creatures such as polar bears. "The Antarctic wintertime ice extent increased...at a rate of 0.6 percent per decade" from 1979-2006, said Donald Cavalieri, a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. At 19 million sq kms (7.34 million sq mile), it is still slightly below records from the early 1970s of 20 million, he said. The average year-round ice extent has risen too.

Some climate sceptics point to the differing trends at the poles as a sign that worries about climate change are exaggerated.

[Note: Reuters appears to have missed this inconvenient study: A February 2007 study reveals Antarctica is not following predicted global warming models ("Antarctic temperatures disagree with climate model predictions") – February 15, 2007 – See: -- Plus for the real story on Antarctica see: U.S. Senate Report: Media Hype on 'Melting' Antarctic Ignores Record Ice Growth – March 27, 2008 – and U.S. Senate Report on Arctic Ice – January 30, 2008 -]

Media Ignores Natural causes of Arctic Ice changes - By Meteorologist Joseph D'Aleo, CCM, AMS Fellow

You knew it was coming. The alarmists and media have been frustrated in their efforts to report global warming evidence as nature has refused to cooperate. Temperatures have been declining for going on 7 years (accelerated this year) even as CO2 increased 3.5%. After a record low arctic ice extent last year, a cold winter brought Total Northern Hemisphere snow and ice cover to record high levels in January and arctic ice back to near normal. Snow and cold were replacing heat and drought in the news. They had to resort to blaming snowmelt and spring rain flooding and spring tornadoes and the annual western wildfires on global warming. […] Natural warming and cooling cycles in the Atlantic and Pacific were the real drivers for the cyclical changes in arctic ice over the centuries (as we have shown most recently here.) […] The drop off this month occurred after a breakdown of the spring and summer pattern which caused shifts in the wind flows that broke up more thin ice than normal even though the air was cold. But the sun is vanishing and the air growing colder and the melting is slowing. See this plot from the University of Illinois Cryosphere which monitors arctic ice. Note the blip up at the end indicating a slowing of the melt short of 2007.

Was There Less Arctic Ice in 1932?

Excerpt: Arctic Becomes an Island for the first time in human history"…really??? On Dec 5, 1932, The New York Times reports the "feat, accomplished for the first time" of circumnavigation of Franz Josef Land (actually, an Arctic archipelago). The same expedition (lead by a Professor N.N. Subkov) was also described in March 1933 in the pages of Nature. Notably, in the words of the NYT, that circumnavigation had been "heretofore regarded as impossible". It actually took just 34 days, from Aug 17. It was

warm enough for the “Eva” and “Liv” islands to be recognized as one, joined by “a low stretch of land” and thereby renamed “Evaliv”. Fast forward to 2008. Cryosphere Today shows two tongues of ice still clinging to Franz Josef Land as of Aug 31. Prof. Subkov would not have been so lucky this time around.

Report: Arctic 'ice level in the 1920's, 30's and early 40's was at a similar low level' of today - September 10th, 2008

Excerpt: The ice level in the 1920's, 30's and early 40's was at a similar low level. The St. Roch went easily through the Northern route of the NW passage which is closed this year and that was in 1944. The HBC had many other boats freely navigating the southern route of the NW Passage.

Gjoa Haven(1930) and Cambridge Bay(1929) pictures showing low ice level. A lot more info in that link. This little boat the Aklavik also made it through the NW Passage in 1937.

Nascopie and Aklavik meet from East and West in 1937. The Nascopie commonly travelled through the passage in the 30's. This evidence is ignored by science, and it shows the conditions in the Arctic in the thirties were similar to today. And then in the late 40's the Arctic froze up and the HBC shut some of their posts due to the increased ice. What is called science has become an embarrassment.

NBC film crew stranded in Arctic on icebreaker 3 weeks ‘inclement weather’ – September 26, 2008 – H/t: Anthony Watts:]

Excerpt: Producer Paul Manson and I, along with cameraman Callan Griffiths and soundman Ben Adam, were sent here on assignment to report on climate change and the Arctic for an upcoming broadcast. […] Our intention was to stay on board for 10 days, shooting video and interviews. Mother Nature, apparently, had other plans. Inclement weather, along with an emergency search and rescue mission, has spoiled all five of our attempts to leave the ship. Getting stuck in the Arctic is not uncommon; getting stuck five times is like punishment. We boarded the Amundsen Thursday, Sept. 4, in Resolute Bay, a small Inuit village, along the Northwest Passage. The plan was to fly off by helicopter at the northern most civilian community in North America, Grise Fjord, and then begin our long journey home. Freezing rain and harsh weather kept our chopper grounded both Monday and Tuesday. The ship kept going and our chance to get off passed. Over the next couple weeks, we would make three more attempts to fly to land. Each one failed due to weather.

NO JOKE! Global warming activists 'stuck' in Arctic ice! See temps drop 'dramatically' during Arctic trek & faces frost bite! – September 3, 2008

Excerpt: Sam is travelling to the North pole on an expedition to highlight climate change and keeping a travel log for Mirror.co.uk. “We’re stuck” - I have slept poorly. The floating ice, while thin, is so prevalent that, throughout the night, it grinds noisily against

the side of the boat in a slightly alarming fashion - imagine someone scraping their nails across an old-fashioned blackboard. The then begins earlier than normal and, unusually, I am not woken by Robbie bounding into my room. Instead the ship's engine roars to life earlier than normal - at around 5.30 - and the MV 'Havsel' begins to judder ominously. I clamber out of bed and scramble up to the bridge - all the ship's crew are there, and they look serious. I look outside and I can see why. The sea is almost entirely congested with ice floes - I would estimate 80% plus of the sea is covered by them. There is a real risk that we could get stuck up here. We have drifted in the night into a much icier area than where we stopped last night. I wake up the team, and everyone groggily makes their way to the bridge. There's a mixed reaction in the team to the prospect of getting stuck up here.

Warming Activist Concedes Mockery of his Cause: 'Spending my days padding in ice-cold water, with a frozen, painful backside, trying to bring to the attention of the world and its leaders the necessity of stopping the world heating up' - September 2, 2008

Excerpt: My split feelings about this news remind me of another paradox of my expedition up here - the fact that I am spending my days padding in ice-cold water, with a frozen, painful backside, trying to bring to the attention of the world and its leaders the necessity of stopping the world heating up.

Arctic Chill: Global warming activists see temps drop 'dramatically' during Arctic trek - Face frost bite! – UK Mirror – September 2, 2008

Excerpt: Sam is travelling to the North pole on an expedition to highlight climate change and keeping a travel log for Mirror.co.uk - Travel this morning was tough. The temperature has dropped dramatically and each time the guys get in the water in is a notch harder. We are starting to see larger chunks of ice, which instead of weaving through, they have to paddle around. The occasional chunk hits the bow of the ship sending small pieces out to the side into the route of travel for our paddlers. One nearly knocked Lewis of his kayak. The water is now below zero and a spill could be quite painful. The moving water by the feet of the guys has started to freeze and this could take a toll on their much needed warmth. I know that Robbie has been struggling with his toes. [...] We are starting to see larger chunks of ice, which instead of weaving through, they have to paddle around. The occasional chunk hits the bow of the ship sending small pieces out to the side into the route of travel for our paddlers. One nearly knocked Lewis of his kayak. The water is now below zero and a spill could be quite painful. The moving water by the feet of the guys has started to freeze and this could take a toll on their much needed warmth. I know that Robbie has been struggling with his toes. [...] The ship is noticeably colder and we are all wearing an extra layer. I have been on deck loading the kayaks and boats back onto the ship. The water soaked ropes seep moisture into your gloves and it saps the heat from my hands fast. I can only imagine what it is like for Lewis and Robbie holding on to a cold paddle with waves crashing over them. The first thing Lewis said when he got back in was 'I can't feel my backside!' .. [Aug 28:] Some may know this place from the book 'The northern lights' by Phillip Pullman, where he calls it, 'The land of the ice bears'. From what I've heard, this name could not be closer to

the truth. The boat we are on has just returned from a trip in the ice and along the way they encountered eighty eight bears.

Oops! Nets Wrong On Warming; Arctic Ice Still There

Excerpt: Wrong again! It must stink being a network global warming alarmist. They just can't seem to get their stories straight. It's only been a couple months when the networks were screaming about Arctic ice disappearing this summer. And, no surprise, they were entirely wrong. By 1.74 million square miles. As Maxwell Smart used to say: "Missed it by that much." Less than three months ago, NBC's Anne Thompson was warning ominously of ice loss. "But this summer, some scientists say that ice could retreat so dramatically that open water covers the North Pole, so much so that you could sail across it." Or not. According to a September 16 National Snow and Ice Data Center [2] (NSIDC) report, such predictions were off. Way off. NSIDC reported ice loss was less than in 2007. "On September 12, 2008, sea ice extent dropped to 4.52 million square kilometers (1.74 million square miles). This appears to have been the lowest point of the year, as sea has now begun its annual cycle of growth in response to autumn cooling," according to the organization.

Arctic scientist says 'global warming has paused'

By Dr. Syun-Ichi Akasofu is a former director of the Geophysical Institute and the International Arctic Research Center, both on the campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Excerpt: The stopping of the rise in global average temperature after 2000-2001 indicates that the hypothesis and prediction made by the IPCC need serious revision. I have been suggesting during the last several years that there are at least two natural components that cause long-term climate changes. The first is the recovery (namely, warming) from the Little Ice Age, which occured approximately 1800-1850. The other is what we call the multi-decadal oscillation. In the recent past, this component had a positive gradient (warming) from 1910 to 1940, a negative gradient (cooling — many Fairbanksans remember the very cold winters in the 1960s) from 1940 to 1975, and then again a positive gradient (warming — many Fairbanksans have enjoyed the comfortable winters of the last few decades or so) from 1975 to about 2000. The multi-decadal oscillation peaked around 2000, and a negative trend began at that time. The second component has a large amplitude and can overwhelm the first, and I believe that this is the reason for the stopping of the temperature rise. Since CO2 has only a positive effect, the new trend indicates that natural changes are greater than the CO2 effect, as I have stated during the last several years.

Time Mag. Sept, 13, 1937: ***'Northwest Passage's navigability was dramatically demonstrated'***

Excerpt: TIME.COM Monday, Sep. 13, 1937 Print Email Share Digg Facebook Mixx Permalink Reprints Related (2 of 2)Last week this new, shorter Northwest Passage's

navigability was dramatically demonstrated as Hudson Bay Company's Eastern Arctic Patrol Nascopie sounded her way through Bellot Strait. Snow shrouded the Arctic dusk as head on through the haze came the bow of another ship. Nascopie's Captain Thomas Smellie's incredulous hail got a booming reply from veteran Arctic Trader Patsy Klingenberg, from the deck of the Schooner Aklavik, eastbound to Baffin Island, and astonished Eskimo cheers from both crews echoed through the rock-bound channel. That night captains of both vessels described from their anchorages to Canadian Broadcasting Co. and NBC audiences their historic meeting. Hopeful for the growing trade of the North were residents and sponsors of Churchill that somehow Northwest Passage II would bring business, help redeem millions of dollars sunk in Canada's most northerly port. *Across the Pole is the Northeast Passage to China along the top of Norway & Russia. Sebastian Cabot initiated its search in 1553. Henry Hudson twice attempted a passage but it was not until 1879 that the route was navigated. Now Russia currently operates 160 freighters on summer schedules in the Northeast Passage's more open but colder waters.

Sad news for promoters of man-made climate fear: 'It looks like there will not be a new record minimum Arctic sea ice extent this year' - September 1, 2008

Excerpt: It looks like there will not be a new record minimum Arctic sea ice extent this year. Much of this summer it looked like there would probably not be a new record minimum, but then late in August there was a sudden drop in sea ice extent according to the NSIDC graph and the 2007 record seemed to be threatened. But, over the past few days, the loss of Arctic sea ice has almost completely leveled off, possibly signaling the ending of the summer melt season.

Climatologist Timothy Ball: ***Arctic Sea Ice: The Media Darling of Climate Change Misrepresentation*** – August 2008

Excerpt: Because we know little about the Arctic (satellite surveillance has only given reliable measurements of Arctic sea ice since 1979), it is very easy to contrast the constantly changing Arctic with the normal expectation of a changeless or incrementally changing environment. […] It is simply incorrect. It is not connected to the warming climate, because since 2000 the world has cooled. […]Because of their machinations, some intentional but most out of a lack of understanding or a political bias, the media have created virtual reality. We have a situation where everything is presented out of context in space and time. Natural events are identified or presented as unnatural. Normal events are identified or presented as abnormal. Speculation about more unnatural or abnormal events is self-fulfilling.

From ***UN IPCC scientist Richard Courtney*** on June 27, 2008 – via email

Excerpt: All the North Polar ice is likely to melt because "the North Pole is covered with extensive first-year ice – ice that formed last autumn and winter". But not all the North Polar ice melted last year (If it had then this year would not be the first ice-free year). And all the ice that melted last year has been replaced by the "extensive first-year ice".

So, the assumption of all the ice melting this year is that all the older ice will melt in addition to the ice that has reformed since last year. Why should it? Where is the additional heat for melting to come from when global temperature has plummeted this year? The item is not merely speculation: it is unfounded scare mongering that flies in the face of reality. No scientist would say what Serreze is asserted to have said (see above). A scientist would wait the next few weeks to see how much ice did melt and would then endeavor to explain it.

National Snow and Ice Data Center admits Arctic ice melts from the *bottom*?

Excerpt: An admission from the alarmists at the National Snow and Ice Data Center: The buoy data have indicated increased amounts of melt on the underside of the ice cover in recent years; bottom melt last year was particularly extreme. ...In recent days, the buoys have indicated sub-freezing temperatures with surface melt coming to an end; however, bottom melt will continue for at least two to three more weeks and the ice extent decline, while slowing, will also continue. Regarding the credibility of the National Snow and Ice Data Center, see their laughable page entitled Accuracy of science in Gore's movie An Inconvenient Truth: TED: I think An Inconvenient Truth does an excellent job of outlining the science behind global warming and the challenges society faces in the coming century because of it. ... Where can I read more scientific reaction to the movie, especially about aspects of the science that you don't cover here? WALT: RealClimate.org, a non-profit, non-governmental site run by scientists, has a good entry on the movie.

Sea Ice in the Arctic Ocean – August 14, 2008 - By Physicist Dr. Syun-Ichi Akasofu, the former director of both University of Alaska Fairbanks' Geophysical Institute and International Arctic Research Center who has twice been named in "1000 Most Cited Scientists."

Excerpt: As mentioned earlier, the present rapid retreat of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean, particularly in 2007, is caused by the inflow of the warm North Atlantic water into the Arctic Ocean and the effects of winds. Figures 12a and 12b show results of the ocean monitoring effort by an international group, led by the International Arctic Research Center. This warm water is melting sea ice from the bottom. The resulting thin ice tends to break up easily by stormy water and is easily forced to flow by winds; nothing can move sea ice (which covers an area of the United States) in the Arctic Ocean, if it is a single plate. This was exactly what happened in the fall of 2007, resulting in a large recession of sea ice toward the Canadian side (some expected further shrinking in 2008, but that is unlikely). It was shown by Polyakov (2006) that this inflow is a quasi-periodic phenomenon, as shown in Figure 12c. Figure 12a: Inflow of warm North Atlantic water into the Arctic Ocean (Polyakov, 2006). 36 Figure 12b: Changes of seawater temperature at two locations in the Arctic Ocean. The warm water from the North Atlantic Ocean is flowing deeply into the Arctic Ocean (Polyakov et al., 2007). Figure 12c: Air temperature and various conditions of the Arctic Ocean between 1895 and 2000 (Polyakov et al., 2008). […] Our conclusion at the present time is that much of the prominent continental Arctic warming and cooling in Greenland during the last half of the last century is due to

natural changes, perhaps to multi-decadal oscillations like the Arctic Oscillation, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, and the El Niño. This trend is shown schematically in Figure 1c as positive and negative fluctuations. If this is indeed the case, the IPCC Report is incorrect again in stating that the warming after 1975 is particularly caused by the greenhouse effect. The steep increase of the temperature after 1975 is likely to be a combined effect of the linear change and the oscillatory change, which had been positive during the recent few decades. In any case, this comparison gave us a new way to use GCM results to identify natural changes of unknown causes. […] Unfortunately, at this time, many studies are focused only on climate change after 1975, because satellite data have become so readily available. A study of climate change based on satellite data is a sort of "instant" climatology. Based on satellite data, it is often reported that climate change is "unprecedented." For example, although there are a number of reports on the condition of ice in Greenland these days, implying unprecedented changes, Chylek et al. (2006, 2007) reported that present changes of the Greenland ice sheet are smaller than changes observed during the 1920-1940 period.

Arctic Scare! AP's Borenstein out of control (again) - Warns of 'Tipping Point' - Quotes James Hansen, Bob Corell & a Greenpeace 'scientist'

Excerpt: More ominous signs Wednesday have scientists saying that a global warming "tipping point" in the Arctic seems to be happening before their eyes: Sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is at its second lowest level in about 30 years. […] Five climate scientists, four of them specialists on the Arctic, told The Associated Press that it is fair to call what is happening in the Arctic a "tipping point." NASA scientist James Hansen, who sounded the alarm about global warming 20 years ago before Congress, said the sea ice melt "is the best current example" of that. […] On top of that, researchers were investigating "alarming" reports in the last few days of the release of methane from long frozen Arctic waters, possibly from the warming of the sea, said Greenpeace climate scientist Bill Hare, who was attending a climate conference in Ghana.

Rebuttal to AP Reporter Seth Borenstein's Shoddy and Incomplete Arctic Article – (No surprise, Borenstein has a woeful climate reporting history – see below)

Note: Associated Press reporter Seth Borenstein pulled out all the gadgets for this comical article on Arctic sea ice dropping to 'record level'. He got to use the phrase "tipping point" , he quoted James Hansen and Greenpeace 'climate scientist' Bill Hare (Greenpeace International describes Hare as it's "Climate Policy Director") Borenstein's citation of Bob Corell as a neutral researcher completely ignores the fact that Corell is an environmental activist who works for Teresa Heinz Kerry's The Heinz Center, (yes the same ones who gave Hansen $250,000 award before Hansen endorsed Teresa Heinz Kerry's husband John Kerry for prez in 2004) Corell was embarrassed in 2007 by a his unsupportable claims about Greenland. Corell's assertion in a September 8, 2007 UK Guardian article that earthquakes triggered by melting ice are increasing in Greenland was rebuffed by University of North Carolina's Jose Rial. Rial is a prominent climatologist/seismologist working on glacial seismic activity in Greenland. Corell's erroneous claim prompted Rial to take the unusual step of writing a letter to the UK

Guardian. "I also know that there is no evidence to suggest that these quakes ‘are happening far faster than ever anticipated' [as Corell claimed,"] wrote Rial in a September 13 letter. Rial criticized the newspaper for presenting a ‘falling-sky' alarmist perspective and added that "it will take years of continued surveying to know whether anything here [in Greenland] is ‘accelerating' towards catastrophe, as the article [featuring Corell] claims." See: Rial’s critique of Corell here]

More Borenstein: AP's Borenstein at it again: ***Claims Greenland ice crack result of AGW despite reporting it is 'normal'*** – [Note: For real story on Greenland and how temperatures there have actually COOLED or stayed the same since the late 1930’s and 40’s before 80% of man-made CO2 was released see here: Latest Scientific Studies Refute Fears of Greenland Melt – July 2007 -]

1) Borenstein claim: In northern Greenland, a part of the Arctic that had seemed immune from global warming, new satellite images show a growing giant crack and an 11-square-mile chunk of ice hemorrhaging off a major glacier, scientists said Thursday.

2) But Borenstein does at least reveal a counter view of the issue in the article: Excerpt: University of Colorado professor Konrad Steffen, who returned from Greenland Wednesday and has studied the Petermann glacier in the past, said that what Box saw is not too different from what he saw in the 1990s: "The crack is not alarming... I would say it is normal."

3) But, Borenstein, cannot let Steffen’s comment that the ice crack is “normal” go unchallenged so he plays the old “consistent with” climate change game.

4) Borenstein: “Scientists don't like to attribute single events to global warming, but often say such events fit a pattern.”

Borenstein’s Long History: AP’s Seth Borenstein has a long history of attempting to promote climate hysteria. [To read more about Borenstein’s woeful reporting see: AP INCORRECTLY CLAIMS SCIENTISTS PRAISE GORE’S MOVIE - - Scientists Counter Computer Model Sea Level Rise Fears - - Media Hype on ‘Melting’ Antarctic Ignores Record Ice Growth]

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