

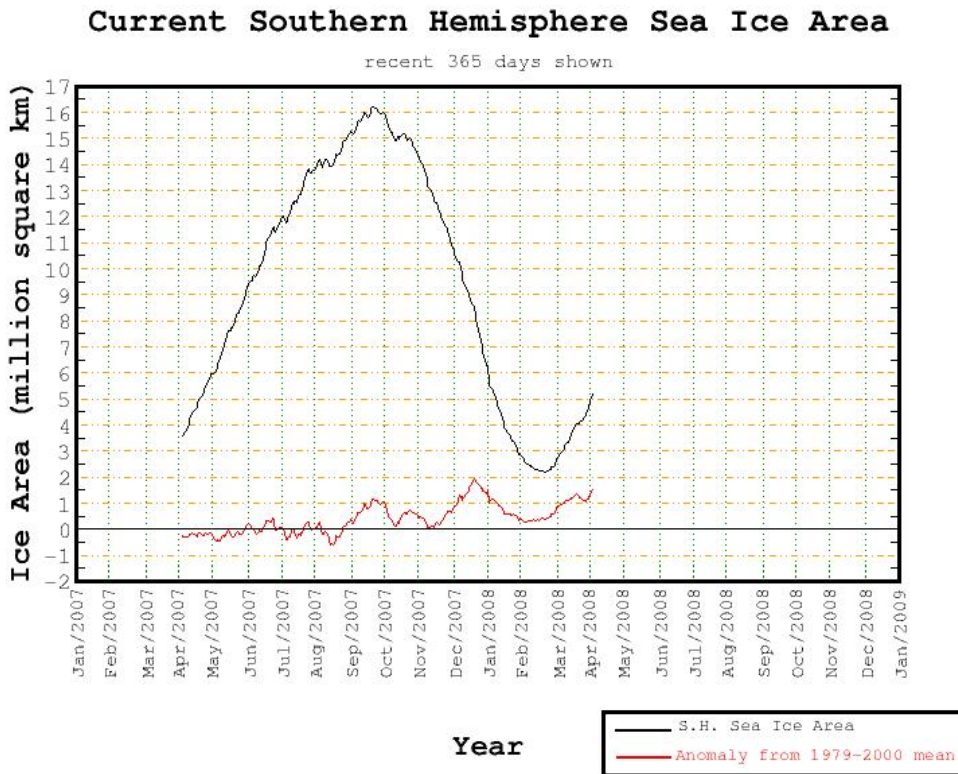
Wilkins Fracture Barely a Blip in the Big Picture as Antarctic Ice Already Second Highest on Record

By Joseph D'Aleo, CCM

Last month reports about the Wilkins Ice Sheet partial fracture were exaggerated in the media with headlines like “Bye-Bye Antarctica”. We posted several blogs in a reality check response [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

This week we posted a story where Roger Pielke Sr. reported on [Climate Science](#) on a paper in EOS that found the melting this past summer was 40% below the average for the past 20 years.

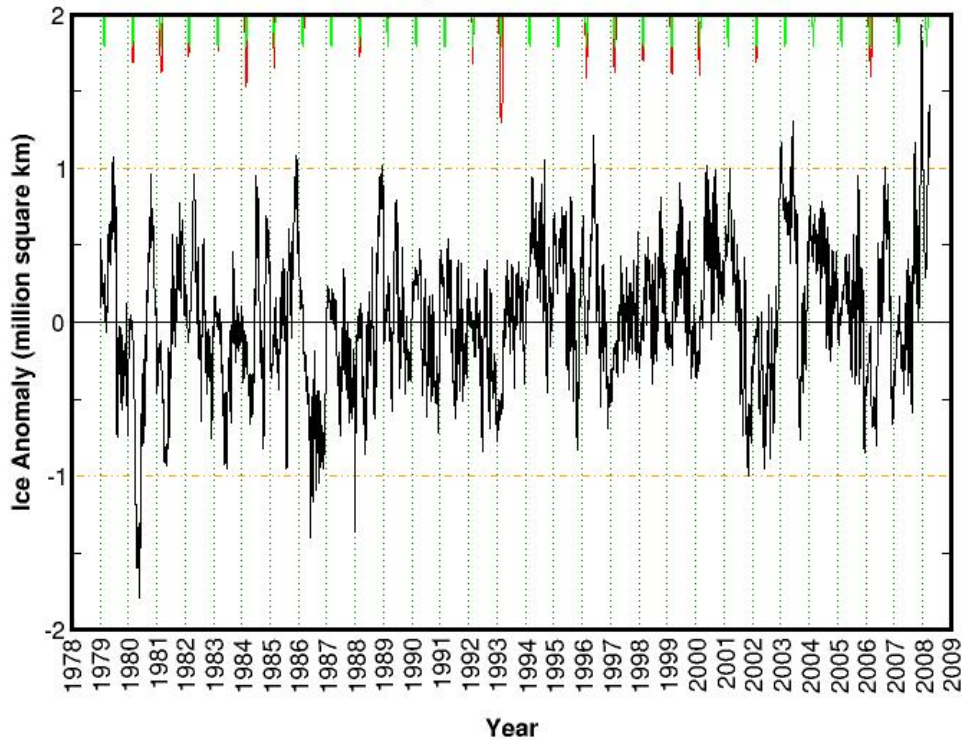
The plot of the total ice extent and anomaly (on the [Cryosphere Today](#) site of the Polar Research Group of the University of Illinois in Champaign Urbana) from the 1979-2000 mean over the last year showed there was hardly a blip in the big picture from the Wilkins incident. It shows we continue to run well ahead of last year by about 2 million square kilometers.



Interestingly the anomaly is already second only to last year in the entire record going back to 1979.

Southern Hemisphere Sea Ice Anomaly

Anomaly from 1979-2000 mean



Because we are just a few weeks into the fall season and have over 5 months to go to the annual peak, it would seem likely we are going to at least challenge the record from last year. You can be sure although the media was quick to jump on the Wilkins break-up, they will conveniently ignore this fact just as they did last year's record.