#### **ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY CONGRESS**

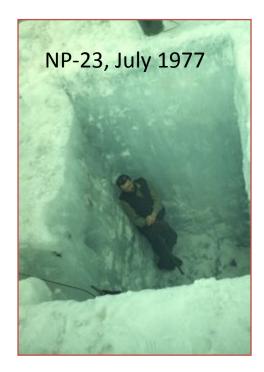
Trondheim, NORWAY, December 2-4, 2014

#### Changes in sea ice ecosystem in the Arctic Ocean observed during a life-time of research at ice stations and ships

Igor A. Melnikov P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, RAS <u>migor39@yandex.ru</u>

> www.igormelnikov.ru www.paicex.ocean.ru

#### MULTI-YEAR ICE versus SEASONAL ICE



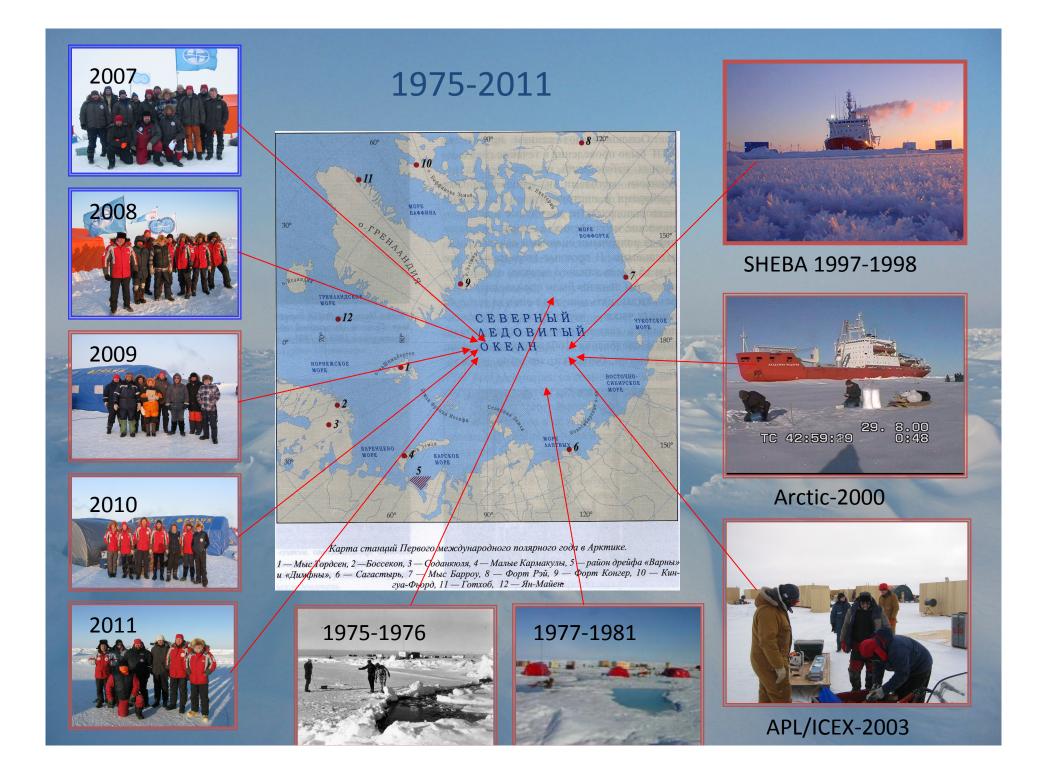
NP-35, April 2005

The pre-melting period: Multi-year ice>80% Seasonal ice<10% Domination up to middle of 90th The melting period: Multi-year ice<10% Seasonal ice>80% Domination since late 90<sup>th</sup>-recent Biology-oriented research in the Central Arctic Ocean since "Fram" up to 70th

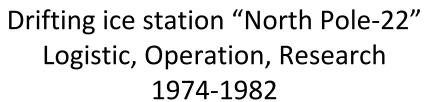
Platform, Year	Observations	Publications
"Fram" 1893-1896	Phyto-zooplankton, sea ice biota	Nansen,1902; Sars, 1900; Gran, 1904
"Nautilus", 1931	Zooplankton	Hardy et al., 1936
"Sadko", 1935-1938	Zooplankton	Gorbunov, 1946, Yashnov, 1940
NP-1, 1937-1938	Phyto-zooplankton, sea ice biota	Shirshov, 1938,1944;Bogorov, 1938; Usachev, 1938-1961
"Sedov", 1937-1938	Zooplankton	Gorbunov, 1946; Bogorov 1946a
I-169, 1941	Zooplankton	Bogorov 1946a
NP-2-5	Zooplankton	Brodsky, 1964; Virketis, 1957; Gur'yanova, 1957
T-3, 1952-1955	Phyto-zooplankton, sea ice biota	Mohr, 1959; Barnard, 1959
T-3, 1957	Primary production, sea ice	Appolonio, 1959
"Alpha", 1957-1958	Primary production, zooplankton	English, 1959, 1961; Johnson, 1963
T-3, 1958	Zooplankton	Grainger, 1965
"Seadragon", 1960	Zooplankton	Grice, 1962
"Arlis-1", 1960-1961	Primary production, sea ice	Appolonio, 1961
"Arlis-2", 1961-1962	Phyto-zooplankton	Hopkins, 1968; Kawamura, 1967; Minoda, 1967,
T-3, 1963-1970	Zooplankton, sea ice biota	Harding, 1966; Hunkins, 1965; Hughes, 1968 et al., Horner, 1976
NP-14-19, 1965-1970	Zooplankton	Pavshtiks, 1970, 1980 et al.

#### Arctic Basin Sea Ice Biota publications before middle of 70th

- Nansen, F. 1906. *Protozoa on the ice floes of the North Polar sea*, Sci. Results Norw. North Polar Exp., 5, 16: 1-22
- Usachev, P.I. 1949. The microflora of polar ice, Acad. Nauk USSR, Trudy Inst. Oceanol., 3: 216-259
- Barnard, J.L. 1959. Epipelagic and under-ice amphipoda of the Central Arctic basin, Geoph. Res. Papers, N 63, Sci. Studies at Fletcher's ice Island T-3, 1952-1955, 1: 115-129
- Horner, R.A. 1976. *Sea ice organisms*, Oceanogr. and Mar. Biol. Annu. Rev. 14, Aberdeen, pp. 167-182
- Нужно найти цитирование М. Дунбара обо мне в жур Арктик























#### Under ice diving for science



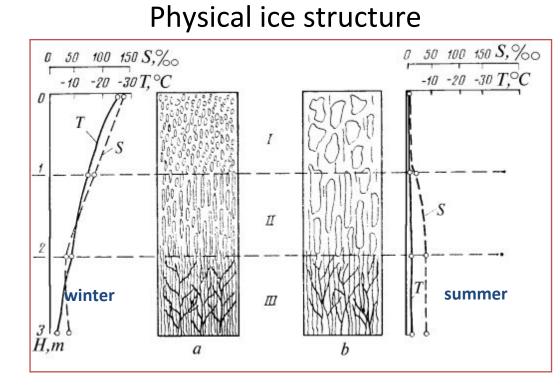
#### Ice core samplings





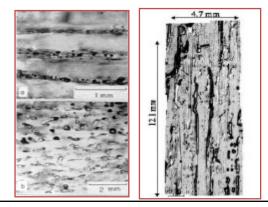


The scheme reflects the winter (a) and summer (b) physical structure of ice according to the temperature in these seasons.



In winter the lower layer is dominated by formations in the form of thin long membranes and brine channels, the middle – by capillaries and partially brine pockets, the upper - mainly by brine cells.

In the summer, when it starts warming up of ice interior the bulk melting intensively covers the upper layers and less noticeable the bottom, where the temperature close to the temperature of the water under the ice.



Vertical section of first-year ice: brine tubes, brine pockets, vapor bubbles, inclusions *From: Light et., 2001, J. Geophys. Res.* 



#### SEA ICE BIOTA UPPER SEA-ICE SURFACE

Snow algae









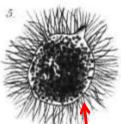




Micro biota of fresh water puddles



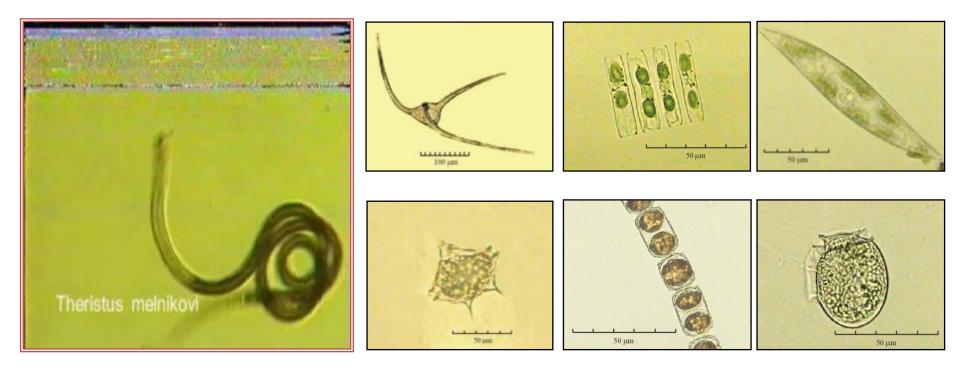




From: Nansen, 1906

Total list of algal species is 26 and 20 of protozoa. Dominants in snow *Chlamydomonas nivalis* Dominants in puddles *Ancylonema nordenskioldii* 

#### SEA ICE BIOTA SEA ICE INTERIOR



Courtesy: Institute of Polar Ecology Kiel University, Germany Cryoflora includes 171 algae species (Bacillariphyta -148, Chlorophyta – 20, Silicoflagellatae – 2, Dynophyta – 1, Cyanophyta – 1).

Cryofauna includes Nematoda, Turbellaria, Acarina, Protozoa, Apherusa glacialis (juv.) and Tisbe furcata (juv.)

# SEA ICE BIOTA SEA ICE/WATER INTERFACE



Photo V. Grichenko

Bottom sea ice surface colonized by cryopelagic algae forming mass aggregations of benthicand plankto-benthic types. Species dominant: *Melosira arctica* and *Chaetoceros karianus*.

Total list of under ice-associated cryopelagic fauna consists of 48 species with domination by amphipods







Photos: B.Bluhm (UAF) and P.Leopold (NPI)

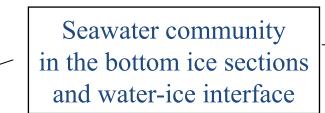


# **Ecological ice structure**

Freshwater community in the upper ice sections and melting sea-ice surface



Two plant communities are related to this structure: the first consisting of diatoms lives in the lower layer, the second consisting mainly of green algae is attributed to the upper layer. Both communities live under different environmental conditions: the upper plant community is exposed to the maximum gradient of temperature and salinity:-20°C to -30°C and more 100‰ in winter and about O°C and 1‰ in summer, respectively. The lower community on the contrary lives under more or less stable conditions of the available temperature and salinity corresponding to those in sea water. This is accompanied by different tolerance of algae towards salinity, fresh water algae developing in the upper layer, marine algae – in the lower layer.



TC 02:58:15 11. 9.00 1:45

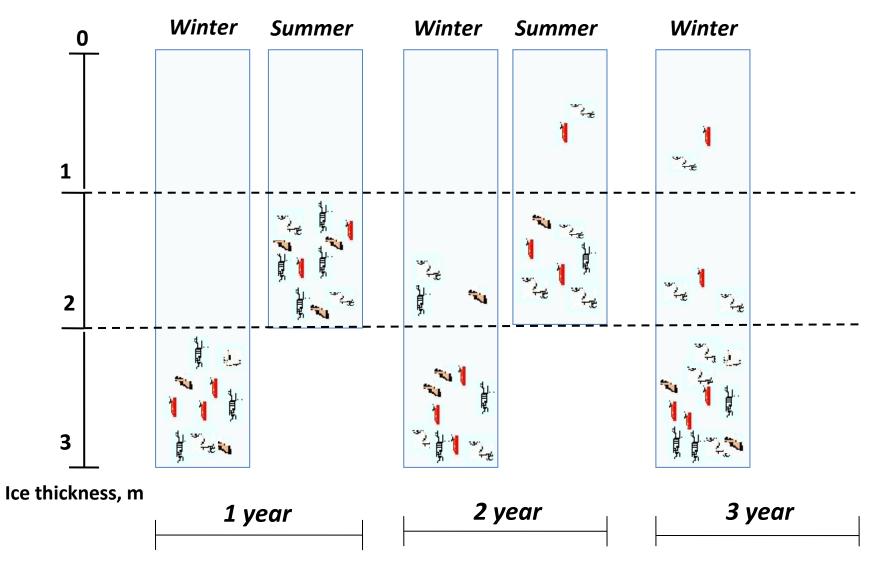
# POC and DOC in multi-year, seasonal ice and under ice sea water during winter and summer period.

(Observations at NP-23, 1977-1978, and NP-22, 1980-1981)

Object	Season	POC, ug/I	DOC, mg/l
Multi-year ice	winter	226 (n=37)	4,4 (n=45)
	summer	427 (n=37)	5,5, (n=36)
Seasonal ice	winter	92 (n=42)	3,3 (n=47)
Sea water, O m	winter	29 (n=10)	3,5 (n=7)
	summer	78 (n=16)	3,1 (n=16)

#### Conclusion:

Organic production produced by the MYI sea ice flora is the main trophic base for all ice-associated biological communities



#### Stability of the vertical structure of the MY ice

# Beaufort Transpolar / Drift Cold ourren Figure 3-29. Surface currents in the Arctic region. Square boxes indicate that the denser inflowing (Atlantic and Pacific) waters are submerging under the Polar Surface Water. The continuation of these flows can be seen in Figure 3-27.

#### Stability of MY in geographical scale of the Arctic Ocean

The zone of Beaufort Gyre; 2. The zone of Transpolar drift; 3. The transitional zone;
The zone of one-year ice production; 5. The zone of outflow of the multi-year ice

#### Conclusions for pre-melting period

1. On the *steady-stable c*limatic level, *the multi-year ice* is the main stable component of the sea-ice cover in the Arctic Ocean which dominates between other age groups in respect to area and volume;

2. Species composition, structure and function of the sea ice biota are steady-stable in time and space in geographical scale of the AO.

The main reason for stability:

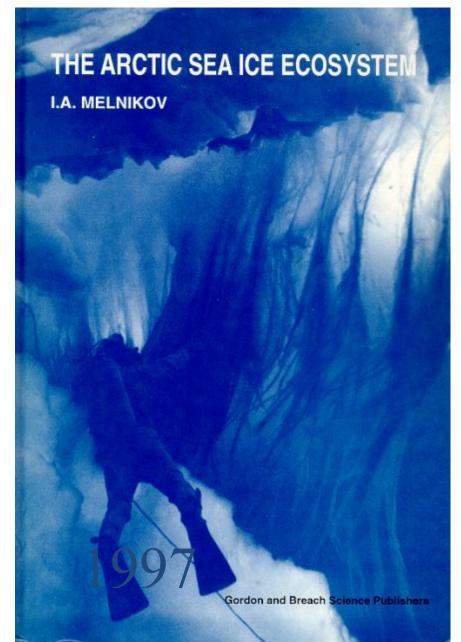
- existence of a thin stratified surface layer protecting the contact of the sea ice with warm Atlantic water;
- mechanism regulating the average equilibrium sea ice thickness;
- peculiarities of the large-scale ice circulation maintaining the equilibrium sea-ice budget



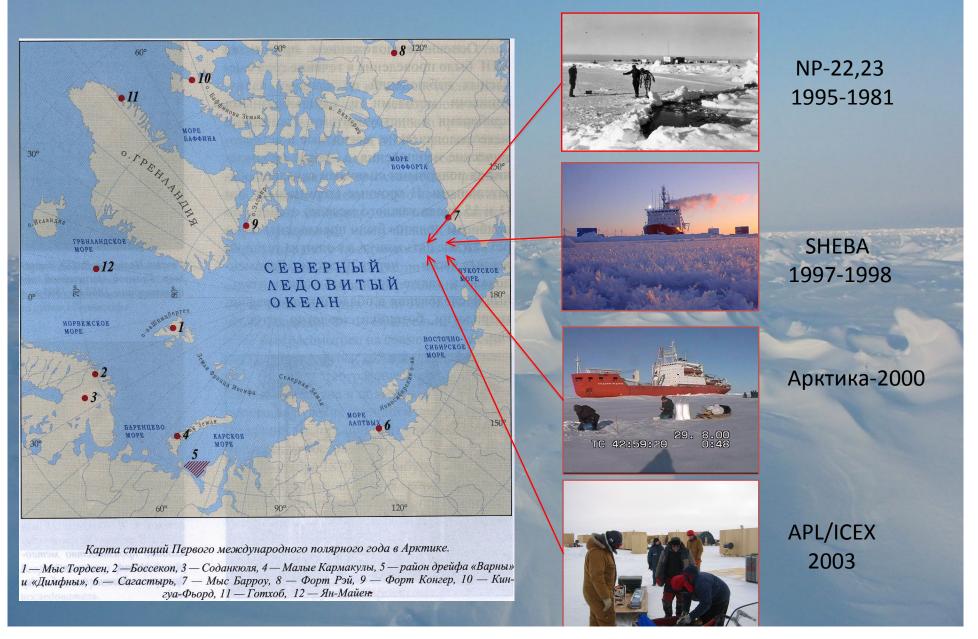
И. А. МЕЛЬНИКОВ

#### ЭКОСИСТЕМА АРКТИЧЕСКОГО МОРСКОГО ЛЬДА





NP-22, 23; SHEBA; ARCTIC-2000, APL/ICEX expeditions in the Canadian Arctic Basin (the same region, 20-years difference in observations, good chance for comparison of data)



## SEA ICE INTERIOR: FLORA

NP-22, 23 1977-1981	TAXA	SHEBA Arctic 2000, APL/ICEX 1997-2003
79	Bacillariophyta	18
1	Dinophyta	5
0	Chrysophyta	1
0	Silicoflagellatae	1
5	Chlorophyta	1
Total: 85	Total species number: 101	Total: 26
	Similarities between species: 8%	

### SEA ICE INTERIOR: FAUNA

NP-22, 23 1977-1981	TAXA	SHEBA Arctic 2000, APL/ICEX 1997-2003	
3	Protozoa	0	
1	Foraminifera	1	
1	Acarina	0	
2	Nematoda	0	
1	Terbellaria	0	
1	Harpacticoida	0	
1	Amphipoda	0	
Total: 10	Total species number: 10	Total: 1	
	Similarities between species: 10%		

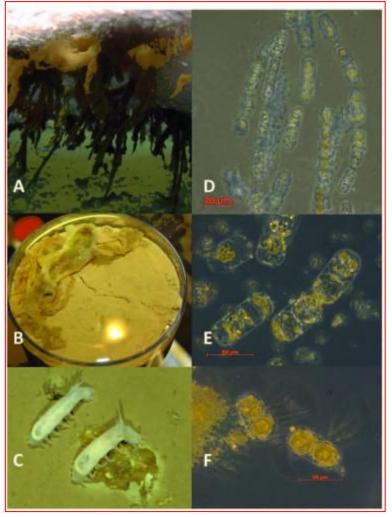
#### *Melosira arctica* under ice and ....on the depth 4400 m in the Central Arctic Ocean



78N and 166W, SHEBA, July 1998



August 2000, 82N и 172E



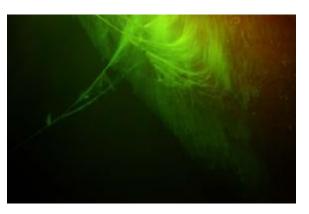
82-89N и 30-130E, «Polar Stern-2012»

Boetius et al., 2013

Brackish-water algae development at the bottom of ice-breaker "Des Grosillier" during SHEBA time in the Arctic Basin



17 September 1998



Aggregations of *U.implexa* on bottom of ice-breaker

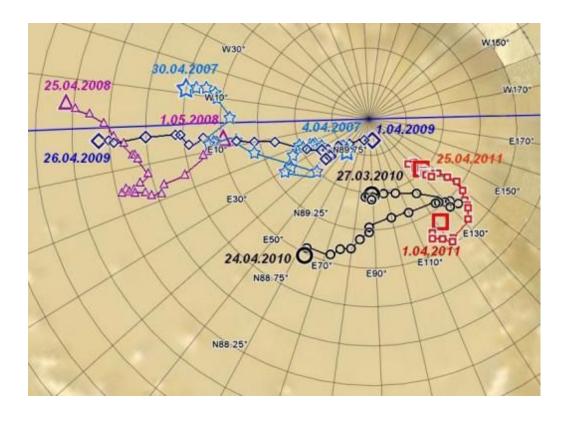




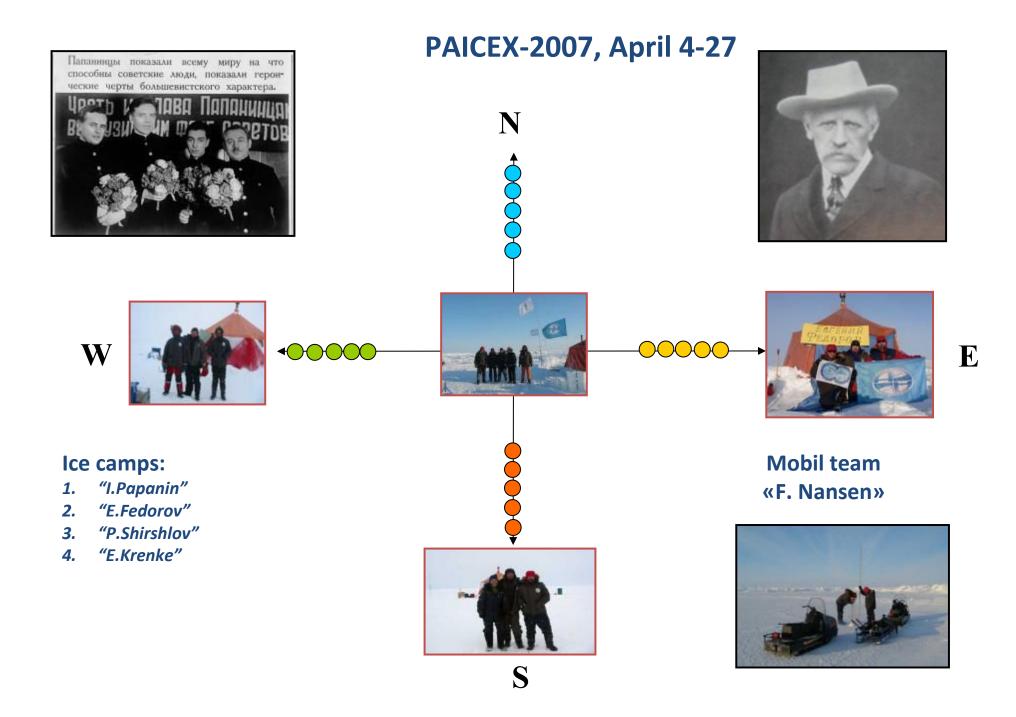
PAICEX 2007-2011

www.paicex.ocean.ru

#### Pan-Arctic Ice Camp Expeditions







#### SEA ICE INTERIOR: FLORA (PAICEX 2007-2011)

ΤΑΧΑ	2007	2008	2009	2010	201 1
Centrophyceae	14	15	8	9	10
Pennatophyceae	38	13	17	10	14
Silicoflagellatae	1	1	1	1	1
Chrysophyceae	3	6	-	-	1
Dinophyta	7	11	5	3	1
Всего	63	46	31	23	27
	0,4	41			
		0,22			
Sorensen's			0,24		
similarity				0, 2	23
index	0,17				

• Species and cells numbers of diatoms are remarkable decreased but, in contrary, *Dinophyta* cists are increased

• Sorensen's similarity index is very low (0,17)

• Only two diatoms - *Fragilariopsis cylindrus* and *Nitzschia frigida*, one *Silicoflagellatae* - *Dictyocha speculum*, and cist - *Dinoflagellatae sp*. were common observed in all collected ice samples



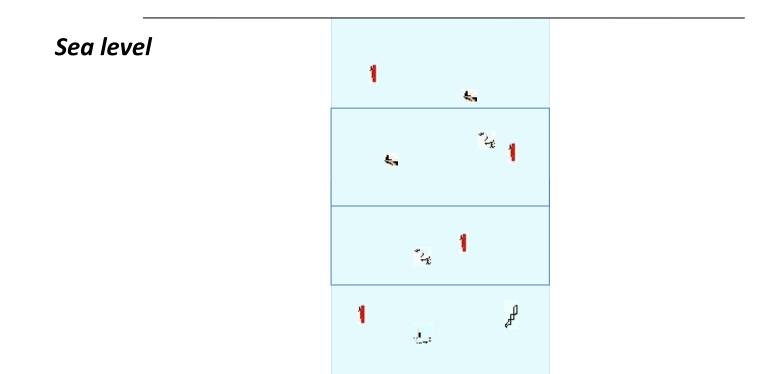


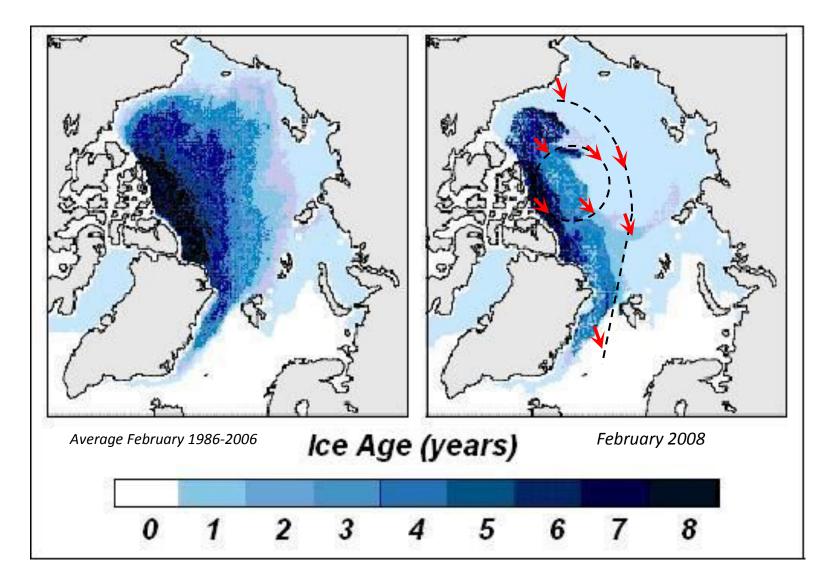
Из постоянных обитателей фауны подо льдом только два вида амфипод Apherusa glacialis и Gammarus wilkitzki в стречались в течение всего периода наблюдений, остальные виды из планктона и самый массовый Oithona similis

#### **CRYOPELAGIC FAUNA**

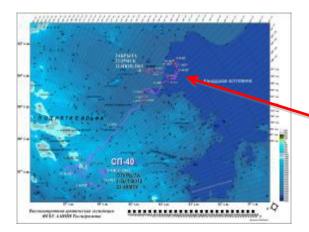
NP-22, 23 1977-1980	Group	PAICEX 2007-2011
1	Foraminifera	0
1	Radiolaria	0
2	Pteropoda	0
1	Polychaeta	0
18	Copepoda	11
1	Ostracoda	1
1	Mysidaceae	0
2	Isopoda	0
14	Amphipoda	2
1	Chaetognatha	1
1	Appendicularia	1
1	Decapoda	0
TOTAL: 48		TOTAL: 16

#### Seasonal ice formation





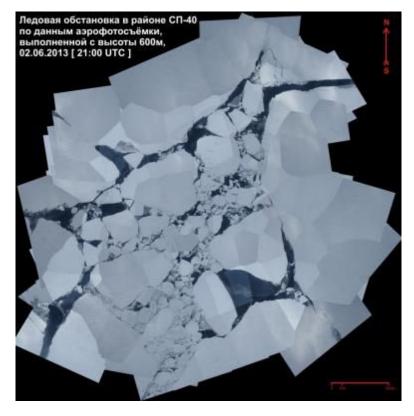
MY ice about 6%, seasonal ice more 90% of the AO sea ice extent. (*Source: <u>http://nsidc.org/data/seaice\_index/n\_plot.html</u>).* 



Ice conditions around drifting ice station NP-40, June 02, 2013, when station was nearby the Alfa ridge in Canada Basin

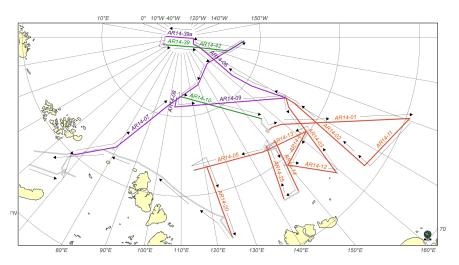
#### Photo made from elevation of 600 m





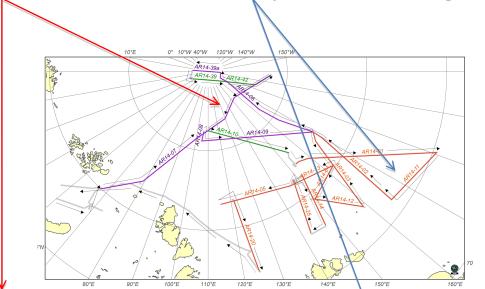
#### Russian "Ak. Fedorov" expedition in the Arctic Ocean August-September 2014

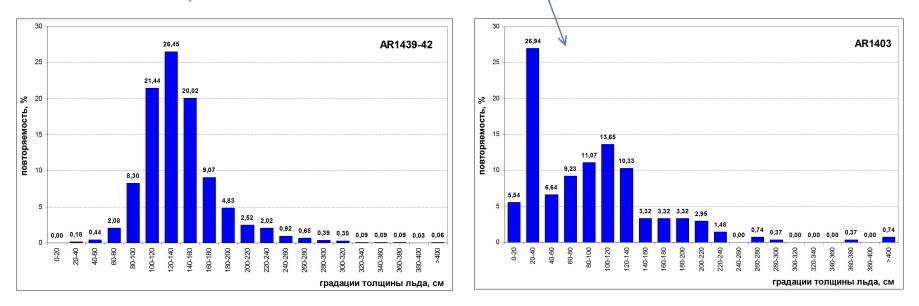






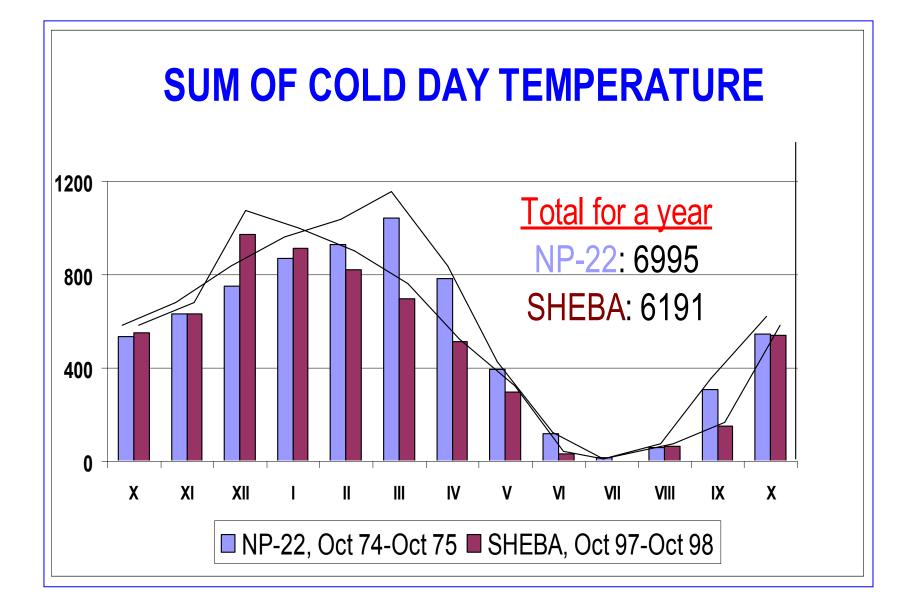
#### Thickness distribution of uniformed sea ice in North (A) and North-East (B) profiles in August-September 2014





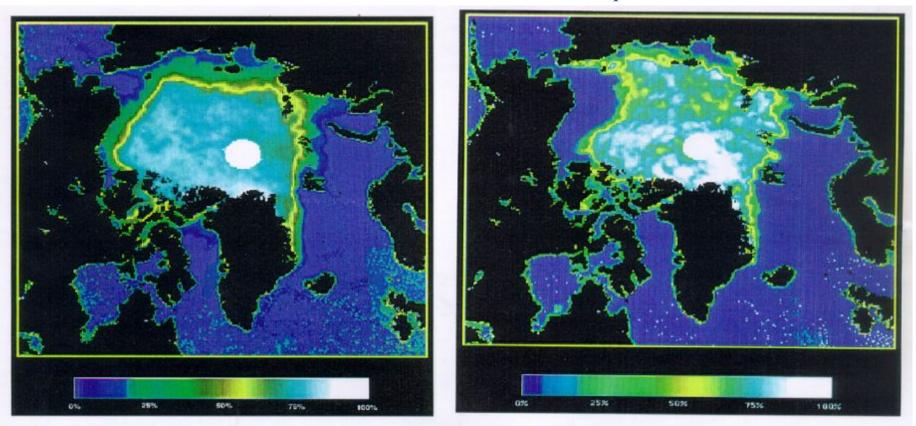
### SUMMARY

In recent Arctic sea-ice cover, two ecological systems coexist: multi-year and seasonal sea ice ecosystems of which the composition and function are different. Due to remarkable decreasing of the first, and simultaneous increasing of the second, it should expect the restoration in biodiversity and primary productivity of the Arctic Ocean. If this trend will remain, the biological peculiarities of the Arctic Ocean will be similar to ones of the Southern Ocean.



Ten-Year Mean for September, 30

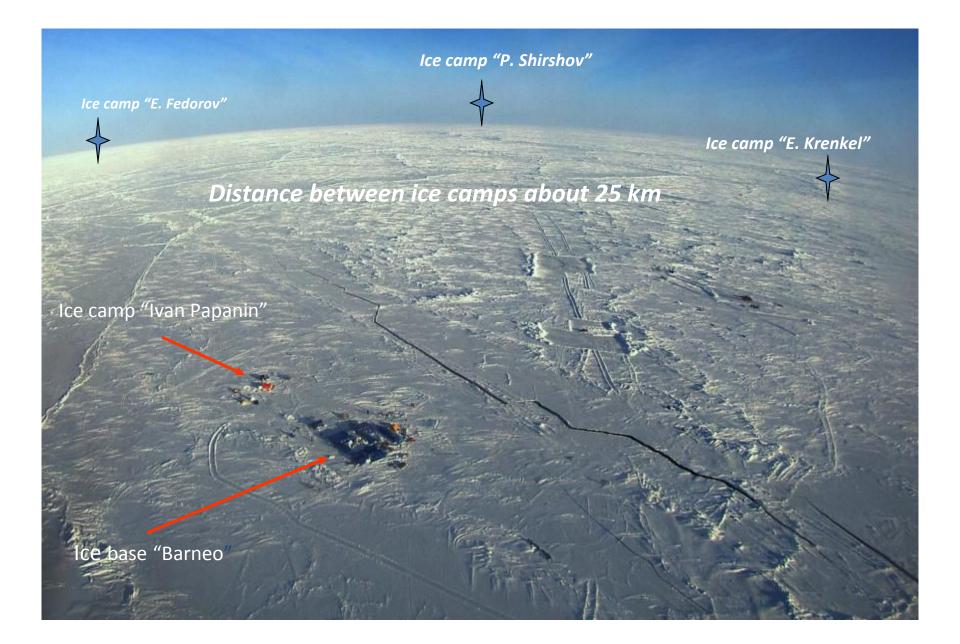
September 30, 1998



Courtesy of W. Chapmen (NASA)

Question: Are the observed changes in sea ice biota composition due to the local change in environmental conditions or these changes wide-spread to the whole AO?

#### PAICEX-2007



## Methodology

#### Field sampling strategy:

- Long-term micro-scale observations on a small area of the sea ice cover during the winter and/or the summer;
- The meso- and macro scale survey reveled uniformity in the distribution of the sea ice characteristics within the geographical boundaries of the AO.

#### Observations:

- Upper ice surface;
- Sea ice itself;
- Water-ice interface.

#### Methodological requirements:

 Using same ice core or water sample for all kind of analyses













## SCUBA under ice sampling



Goal:

- (1) Sampling of cryofauna associated with under ice surface of ice
- (2) Water sampling from ice-water interface.

Preliminary results:

(1) Fauna consists of mainly young stage amphipod *Apherusa glacialis* (150 inds), and *C.glacilis, Acartia sp.*, and *O.similis*.

- (2) Salinity of water 16‰.
- (3) (Fo) 0.62, that is an order of magnitude higher than at 5 m depth!

			PAICEX 2007-2011			
	Number of	Average	PAICEX 2007-2011			
Year	Measurements	thickness, cm				
2007	137	178 ± 26.6				
2008	213	182 ± 15.5				
			80 7			
2009	39	183 ± 36.2	70 -			
2010	23	162 ± 32.5				
2011	19	151 ± 21.3	0 – – – – – – – – – – – – – – – – – – –			

- Выявлено доминирование сезонных льдов
- Встречаемость многолетнего льда составляет около 10%
- Отмечено возрастание торосистости



Ice thickness

#### **ICE ALGAE SPECIES ABUNDANCE**

(PAICEX 2007-2010)

	GROUP	07	08	09	10	
			1			
	Centrophyceae:	14	15	8	9	
50 µm	Pennatophyceae:	38	13	17	10	
	Silicoflagellatae	1	1	1	1	
	Chrysophyceae	3	6	-	-	
	Dinophyta	7	11	5	3	
	Total	63	46	31	23	
			41			
	Sorensen's	0.2		22		
	similarity index				0.24	
			0.18			

• Число видов и количество клеток диатомовых водорослей заметно уменьшилось, но возросло количе ство цист динофлагеллят

• Индекс сходства между сообществами очень низкий

• Только два диатомовых вида Fragilariopsis cylindrus и Nitzschia frigida, силикофлагеллята Dictyocha speculum, и цисты Dinoflagellatae sp. были общими для всех собранных проб

## SUMMARY

In recent Arctic sea-ice cover, two ecological systems coexist: multi-year and seasonal ice ecosystems of which the composition and function are different. Due to remarkable decreasing of the first, and simultaneous increasing of the second, it should expect the restoration in biodiversity and primary productivity of the Arctic Ocean. If this trend will remain, the biological peculiarities of the AO will be similar to ones of the Southern Ocean.

#### Story of one sea ice sampling, SHEBA, Jan 05, 1998



Before ice sampling





3 hours of ice coring and processing





After 4 hours of work on ice Coming back with...nothing

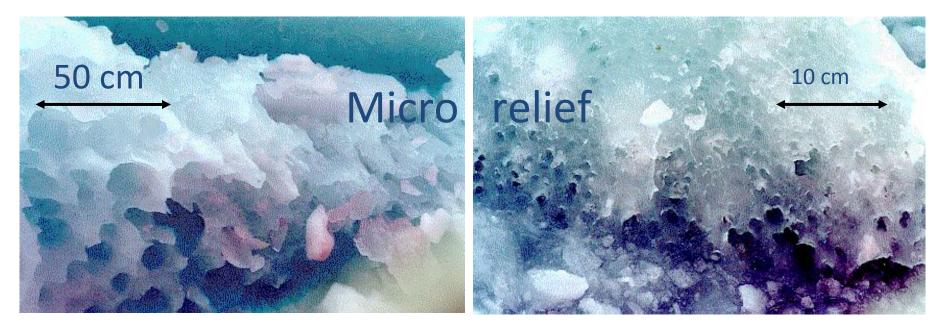




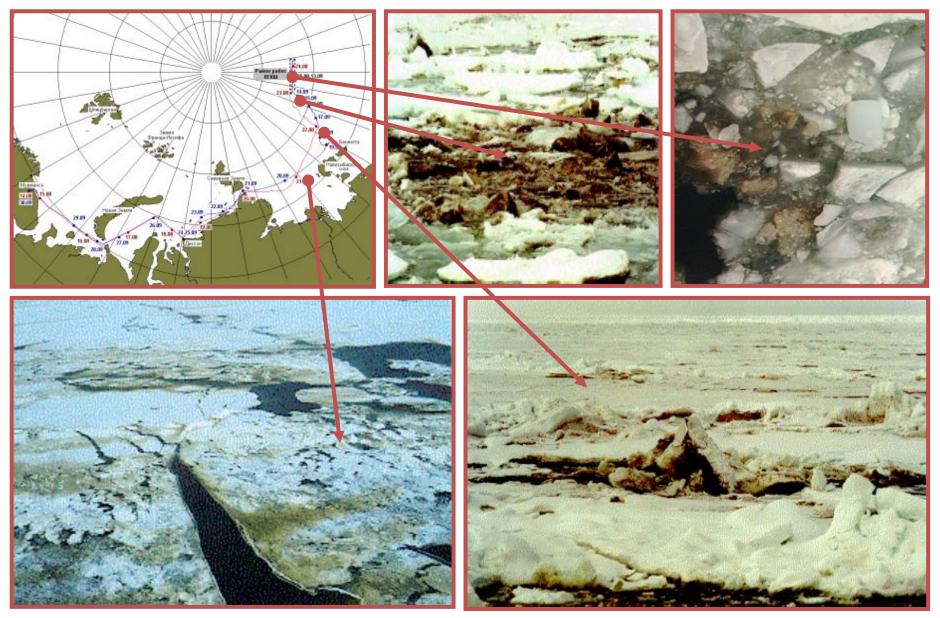


# Bottom sea-ice topography





#### Sediment-laden sea ice in the Arctic Ocean Russian "Arctic-2000" expedition, "Ak.Fedorov" August-September 2000





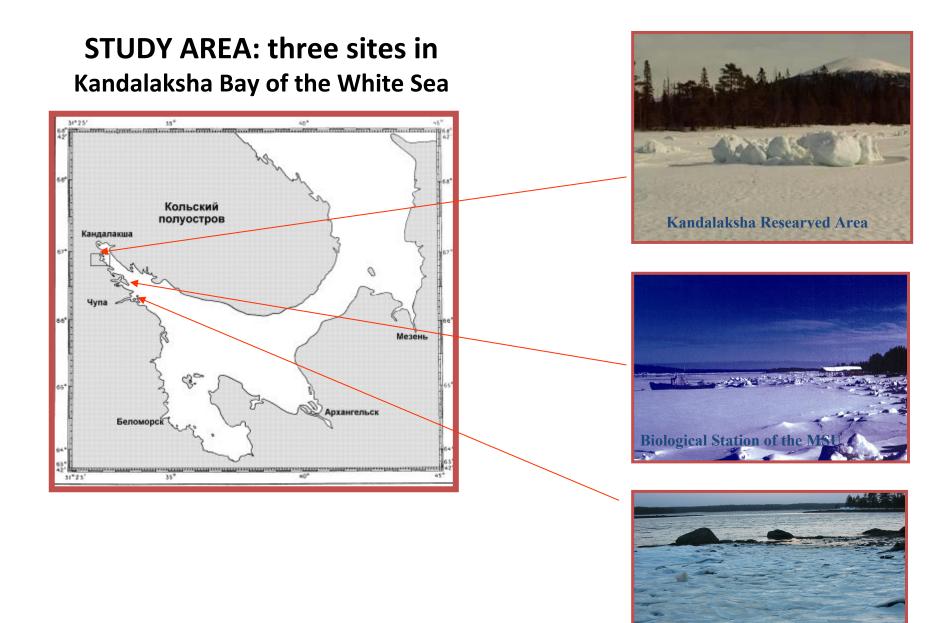
#### Pseudo-sea-ice-biota: Chukchi Sea benthos on ice in the Central Arctic Ocean

At Russian ice station "North Pole-33", July 17, 2005 (87°47N and 168W) were collected benthic invertebrates on ice surface: Sponges Demospongia; Abietinaria; Alcyonaria; Mesidothea sibirica; Bivalvia: Astarte borealis and Muskulus sp.; Gastropoda: Naticidae sp; Sea star: Lophaster furcifer; Bryozoa: Flustra foliacea and Gemellaria loricata

Melnikov. Zezina, 2012

# Arctic sea ice in the coastal zone

Coastal erosion Ice in tidal zone Ice in estuarine



Chupa Guba

#### Coastal sea ice zone in Kandalaksha bay of the White Sea



Accumulative coast

Abrasive coast

Two types of coast: (1) long, wide and flatable beach (accumulative coast), and (2) rocky, sharp and narrow shore (abrasive coast)

#### Example of accumulative coast Kandalaksha Bay, region of the MBS MSU, 1999



High tide

Low tide

#### LITTORAL ZONE IN SUMMER

Kandalaksha Bay, region of the MBS MSU, September 1999



## LITTORAL ZONE IN WINTER

Kandalaksha Bay, region of the MBS MSU, April 1999



*Fast ice and hummocks* 



Ridged ice



Ice edge and polynya



Anchored ice on "dried" littoral during low tide

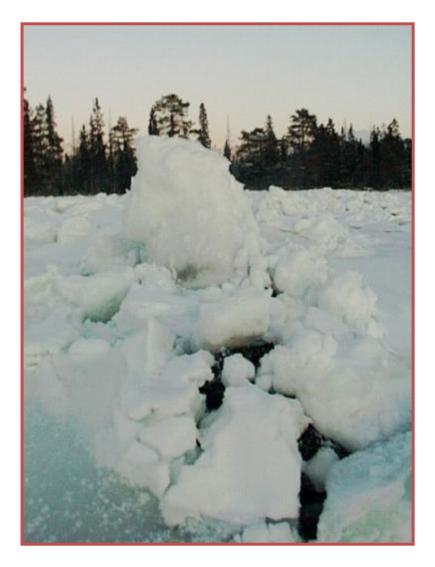


"Ice balls" in fast and shore ice interaction zone, Kandalaksha Bay, White Sea, March 2002





## Accumulative coast





Ice formation on the level coast



# Melting coastal ice in low tide



#### SEA ICE-BOTTOM INTERACTIONS

Kandalaksha Bay, region of the MBS MSU, April 1999

During the low and high tides the ice "bulldozing" the floor, large and small stones in direction to upper shoreline and accumulate sediments and stones.





#### SEA ICE IMPACT ON BENTHIC POPULATIONS

Kandalaksha Bay, region of the MBS MSU, April 1999



## EROSION IN COASTAL SEA ICE ZONE

Kandalaksha Bay, region of the MBS MSU, September 1999



#### **EROSION IN COASTAL SEA ICE ZONE**

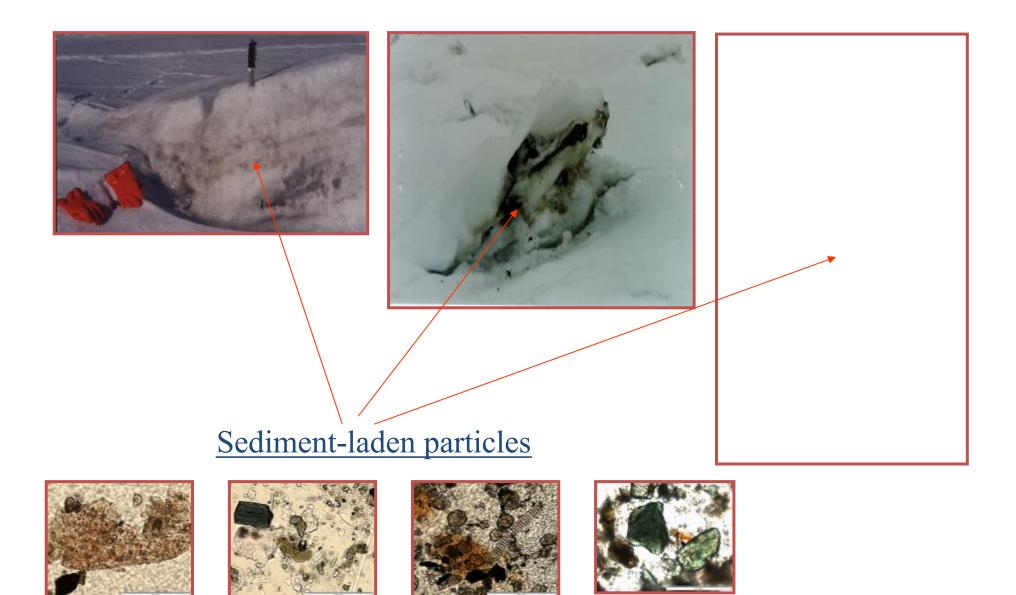
Chupa Inlet, winter 2003-2004





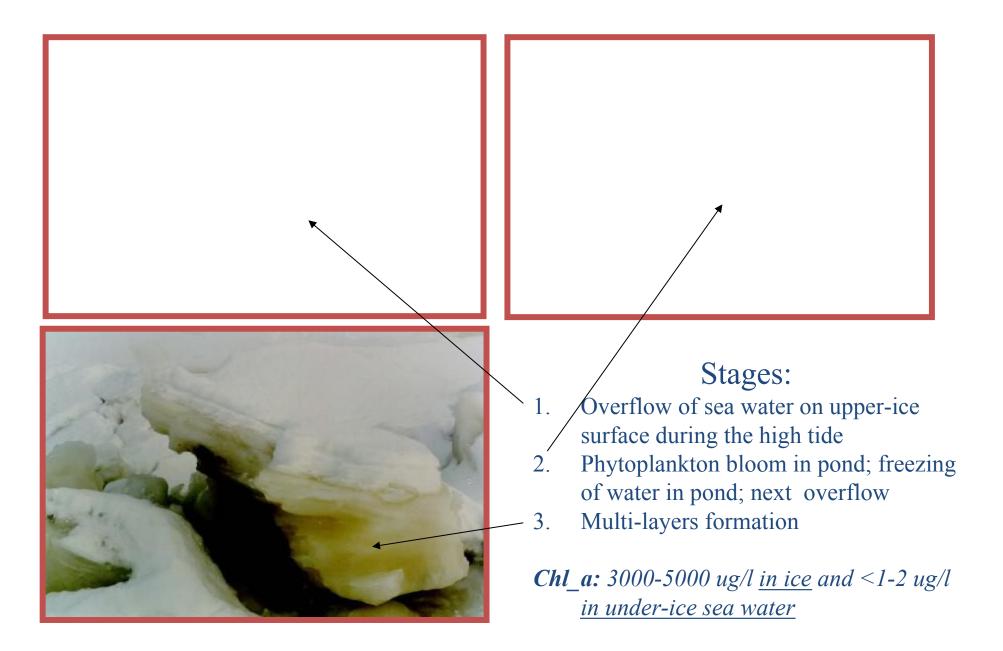


## Terrestrial materials in the coastal sea ice

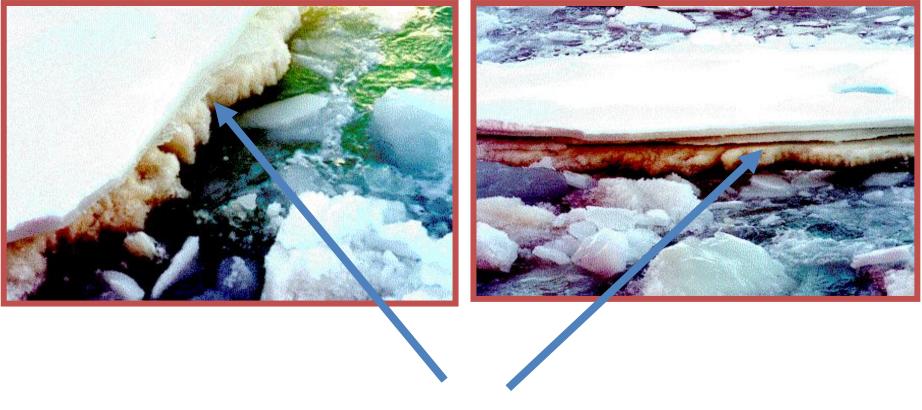


#### SEA ICE BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES in LITTORAL ZONE

Kandalaksha Bay, region of the MBS MSU, January 1997



## Infiltration ice in the Arctic Ocean "Russian Arctic-2000" Expedition, September 2000, 82N 170W



Snow-ice algae community

## Infiltration ice in the AO



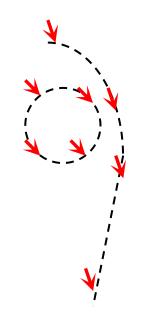


September 18, 2000 82N 170W "Arctic -2000" expedition Icebreaker «Ak. Fedorov»

> April 05, 2009 PAICEX-2009



ISW, Feb 1992



Average February 1986-2006

February 2008

Площадь льда в феврале 2008 (справа) по сравнению за этот месяц за период 1985-2000 (слева). Многолет ние льды занимают площадь около 6%, а сезонные льды более 90% площади океана. (Источник: <u>http://nsidc.org/data/seaice\_index/n\_plot.html).</u>

# ECOSYSTEM

E. ODUM's conception, the ecological system implies "... any unity, including all organisms in a given area, interacts with a physical environment in a such way that an energy flux creates a clearly-determined trophical structure, species diversity, and matter flux within the system" (Odum, 1971).

By another words, such exchange by energy between biotic and abiotic parts within the system when the functional stability is established even for a while.

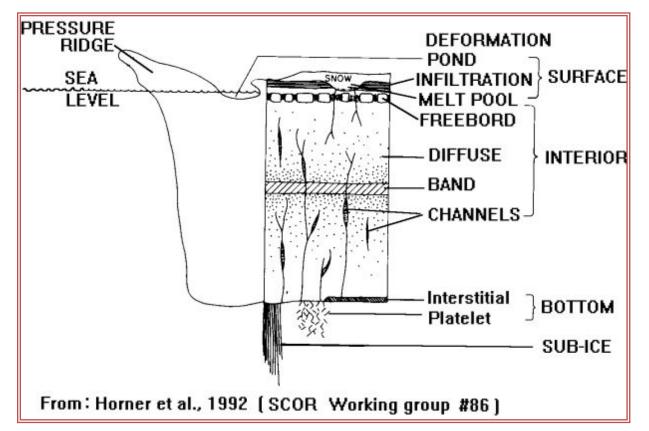
## ECOSYSTEM = BIOTOP + BIOTA

## Chaos in terminology!

## Previously used terms in sea ice ecology

- *Ice plankton, cryoplankton*. Organisms peculiar to sea ice that developed and form communities in and around ice in summer (Zubov, 1945);
- **Brown ice, colored ice**. Defined by color and algal content (Fukushima, 1961, 1965);
- *Plankton ice*. Formed when seawater freezes (Matsuda, 1961; Meguro, 1962; Meguro et al., 1966);
- *Epontic*. Attached and non-attached species especially adapted for life in sea ice (Bunt & Wood, 1963);
- *Cryophyton*. Algae living in snow and ice fields (Round, 1981);
- *Cryobiont*. Refers to organisms inhabiting snow and ice (Kol, 1942; Bursa, 1963);
- Sympagic. Refers to organisms living with sea ice (Whitaker, 1977; Carey, 1985);
- **SIMCO**. Sea Ice Microbial COmmunities; includes viruses, bacteria, diatoms etc. (Sullivan & Palmisano, 1981);
- Interfacial. Free-floating algae at the ice-water interface (Tremblay et al., 1989) etc.

**Sea ice terms** adopted by WMO (World Meteorological Organization) in 1968 (Kingstown) were used as a base to develop terms for sea ice biota communities and their occurrence in Polar regions



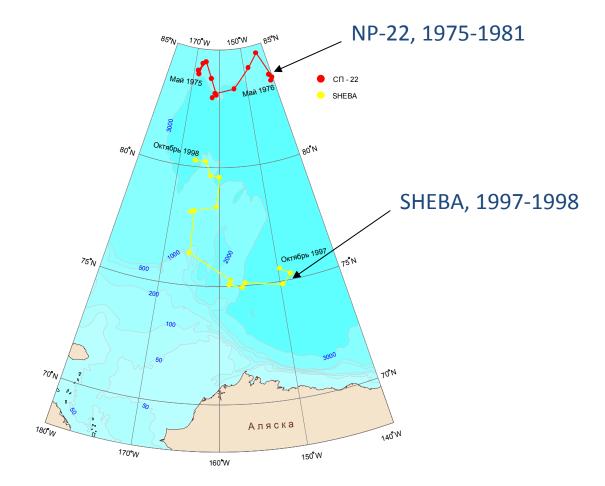
1. Horner et al., 1992. *Ecology of the sea ice biota*. 1. *Habitat, terminology, and methodology*. Polar Biol. 12: 417-427.

2. Legendre et al.,1992. *Ecology of the sea ice boita*. 2 *Global significance*. Polar Biol. 12: 429-444.

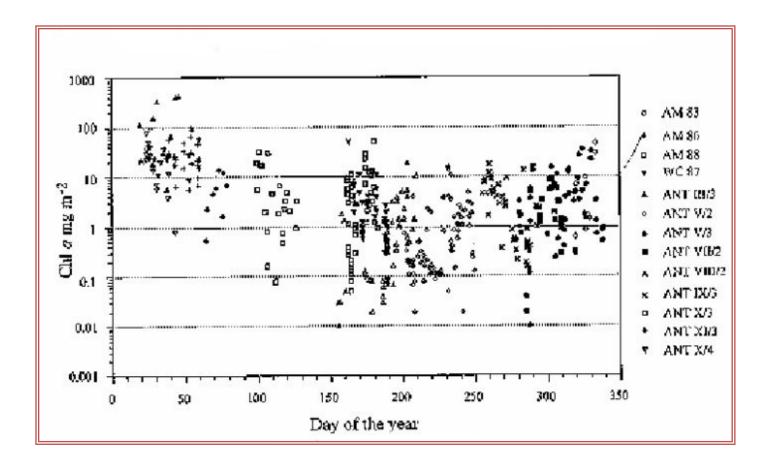
#### US experiment: Surface HEat Budget in the Arctic ocean SHEBA Ice Camp September 1997-October 1998

## NP-22 and SHEBA drift in the Canadian Basin

(same region, 20-years difference, chance for comparison of data)

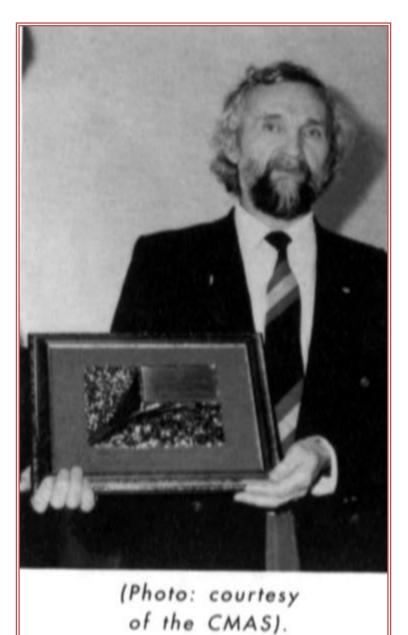


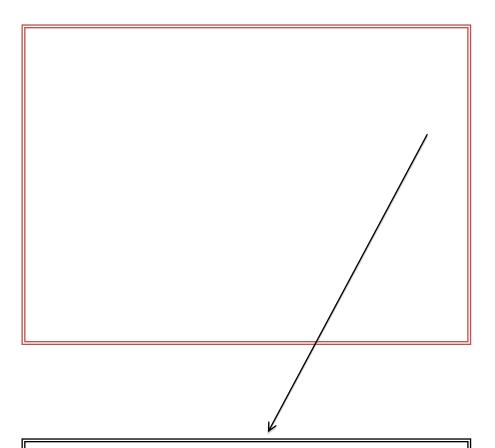
Chlorophyll a in Antarctic sea ice



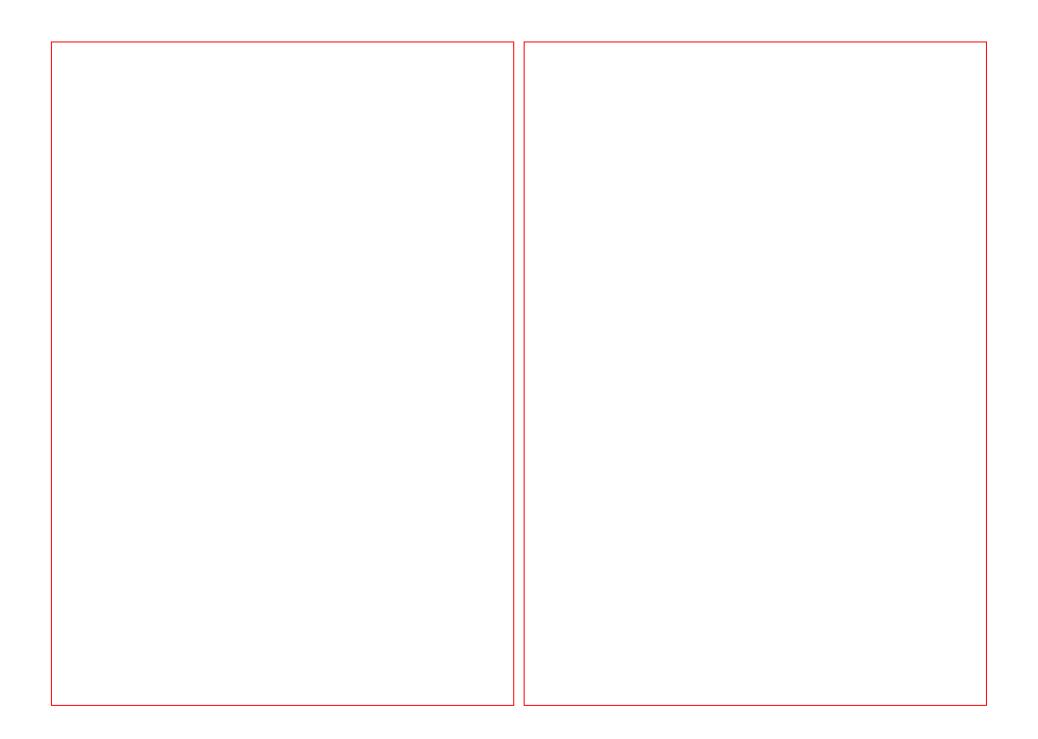
Areal Chl *a* concentrations determined from 448 sea ice cores collected during 13 US and German cruises. *From: Dieckmann et al.,1998.* 

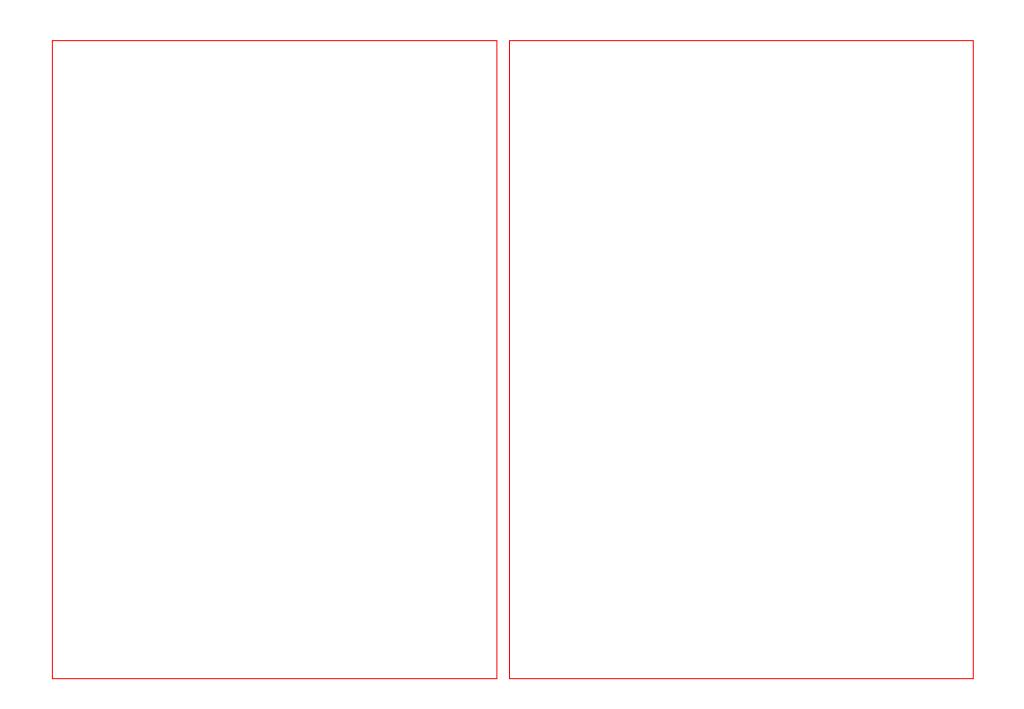
#### 1994 CMAS Grand Prix Award





"I am one of those who're very grateful to the KGB. In 1972 they refused to issue me with a visa to leave the USSR. The only ocean I didn't need a visa to get to was the Arctic Ocean".





#### GRC 1997

GRC 1999



GRC 2001 Polar Marine Sciences

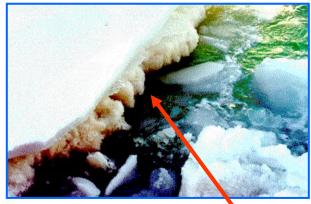
"A model, at best, contains everything we know" - *Barbara* said

"Do you really believe that there are enough data for parameterization the sea ice biological model?" – *Igor* asked.





# Инфильтрационный лед в СЛО: развитие диатомовых водорослей



Сентябрь 18, 2000 Канадский бассейн, 82N 170W Экспедиция "Арктика -2000" на нэс «Ак.Федоров»



Апрель 05, 2009, ПАЛЭКС-2009



Зап. часть моря Уэдделла Антарктика, февраль 1992

#### Interstitial fauna

NP-22, 23 1977-1980	Group	PAICEX 2007-2011		
3	Protozoa	0		
1	Foraminifera	0		
1	Acarina	0		
2	Nematoda	0		
1	Turbellaria	0		
1	Harpacticoida	0		
1	Amphipoda	0		

Интерстициальная фауна, связанная с обитанием внутри льда в настоящее в ремя не обнаружена

