

Rick Thoman

Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy
University of Alaska Fairbanks



Winter (December-February) 2020-21 Alaska Weather & Climate Highlights

Utgiagvik Jan temperature -6.9F, 9th straight Jan warmer than normal



Kaktovik continuous negative temperatures (°F) starting Jan 25

Nome very late freeze-up: open water until ~Dec 11



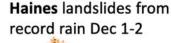
Fairbanks only 4.1" snow in Dec & Jan tied for 4th lowest



Chicken lowest temperature for winter: -57F Feb 9

Bethel Stormy Feb: 11 days with peak winds 30 mph or higher

Anchorage Feb highest temperature 30F, ties for lowest for any Feb





Kenai Mtns heavy mountain snows Dec-Jan



Juneau 5.08" rain Dec 1-2, all-time 24-hour record

observed sea-level pressure

Dec 31: 27.31"

Cold Bay Feb temperature

7F above normal, tied for third mildest



Kodiak lowest winter temperature only 14F, ties for 6th highest



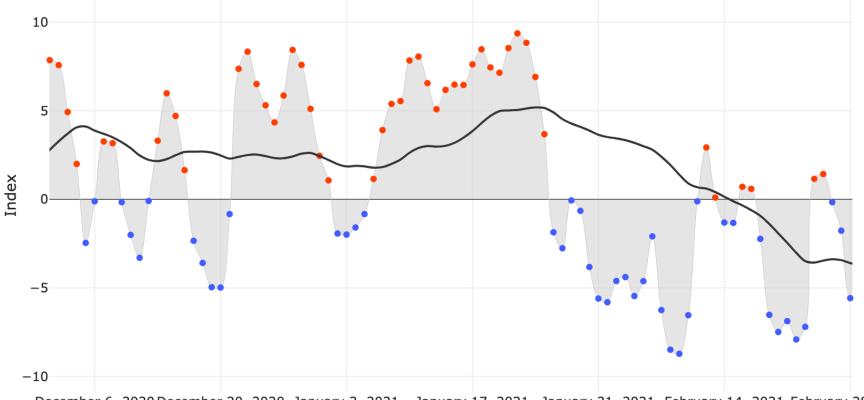
Shemya Alaska's lowest

Data sources: NOAA/NCEI
Some data preliminary and subject to change

Alaska Daily Temperature Index

Alaska Statewide Temperature Index

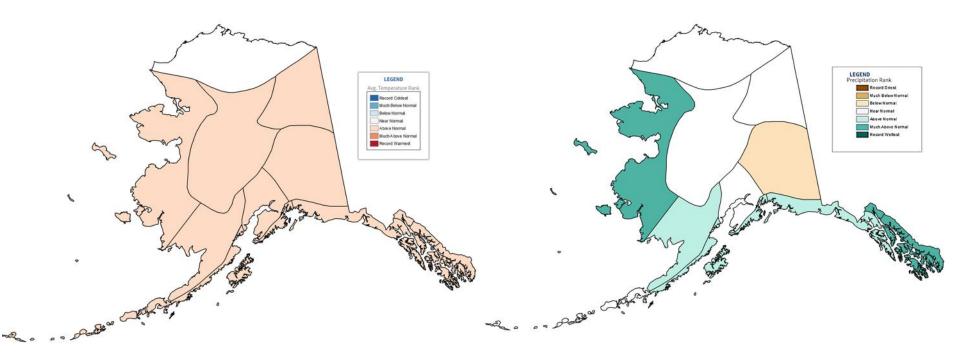
• Above Average
• Below Average
— 30-day Average



December 6, 2020 December 20, 2020 January 3, 2021 January 17, 2021 January 31, 2021 February 14, 2021 February 28, 2021



Alaska Regional Winter (Dec-Feb) 2020-21



NOAA Temperatures

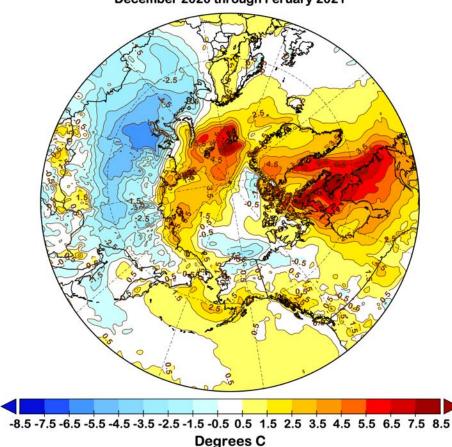
NOAA Precipitation

Note: Significant differences between analyses

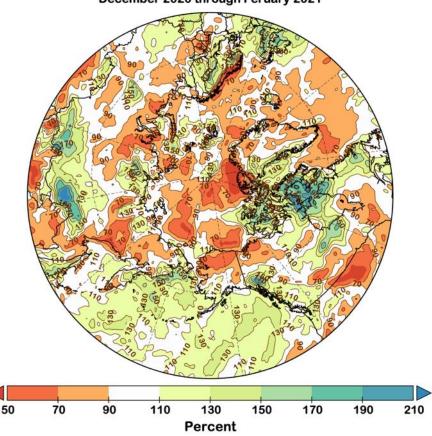


Winter 2020-21 Arctic-wide





Total Precipitation Percent of Average
December 2020 through Feruary 2021



Temperature Departures from Average

Precipitation Departures from Average

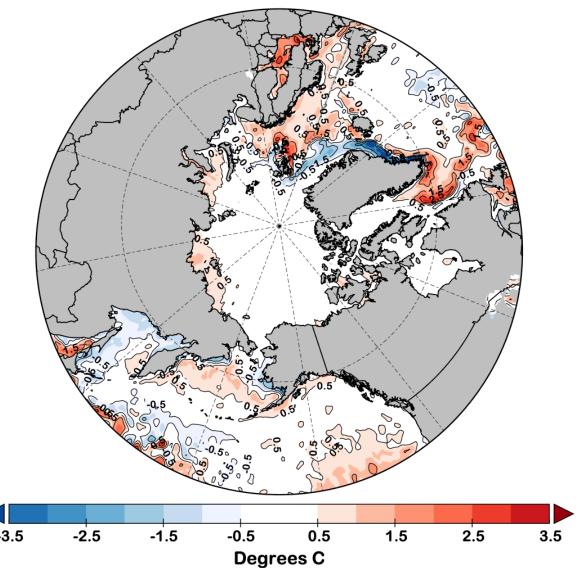


Data: ERA5 courtesy of EMCWF/Copernicus 1981-2010 Baseline

Winter 2020-21 Ocean Temperatures

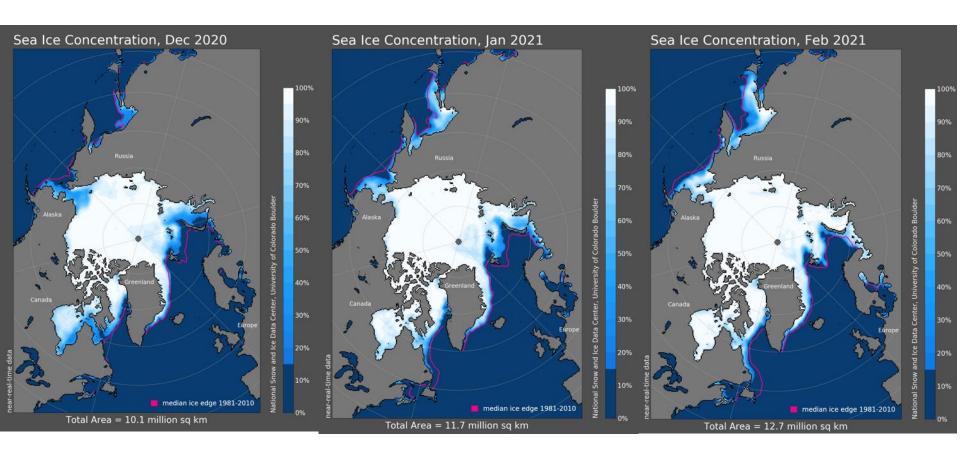
Average Sea Surface Temperature Departure from Normal

December 2020 through Feruary 2021





Sea Ice Winter 2020-21



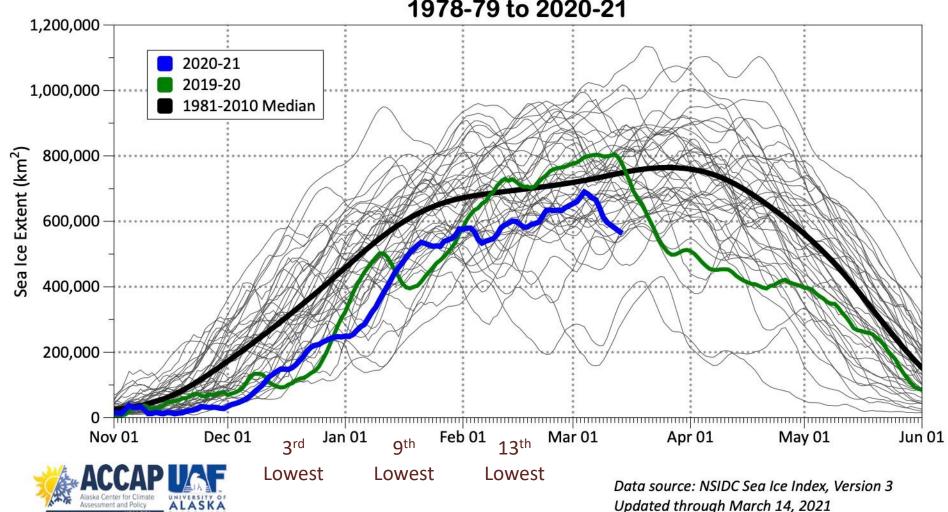
3rd lowest 6th lowest 7th lowest



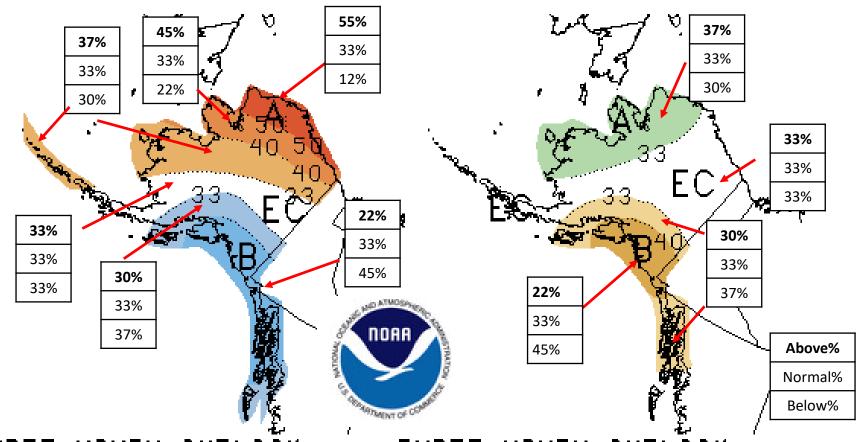
Since 1978-79

Daily Bering Sea Ice Extent





CPC March to May 2021 Outlook



THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY O.5 MONTH LEAD VALID MAM 2021 MADE 18 FEB 2021 THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY O.5 MONTH LEAD VALID MAM 2021 MADE 18 FEB 2021

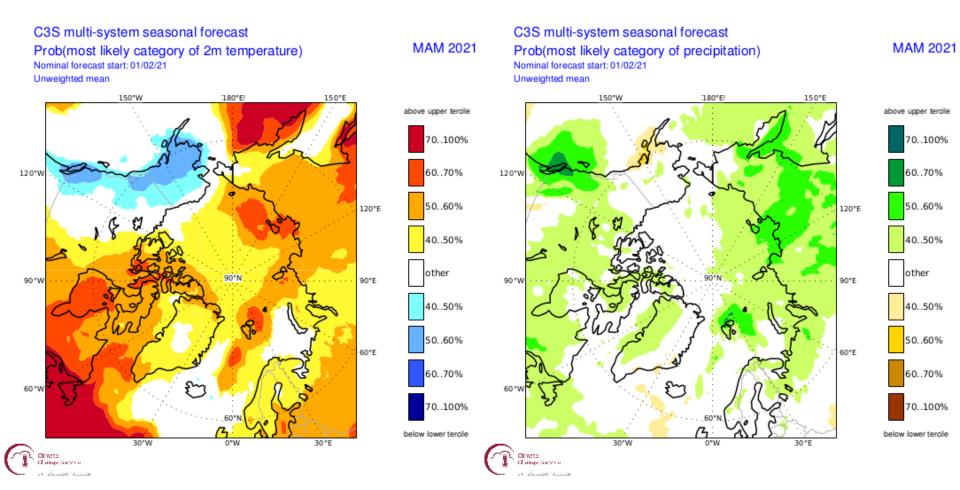






Spring 2021

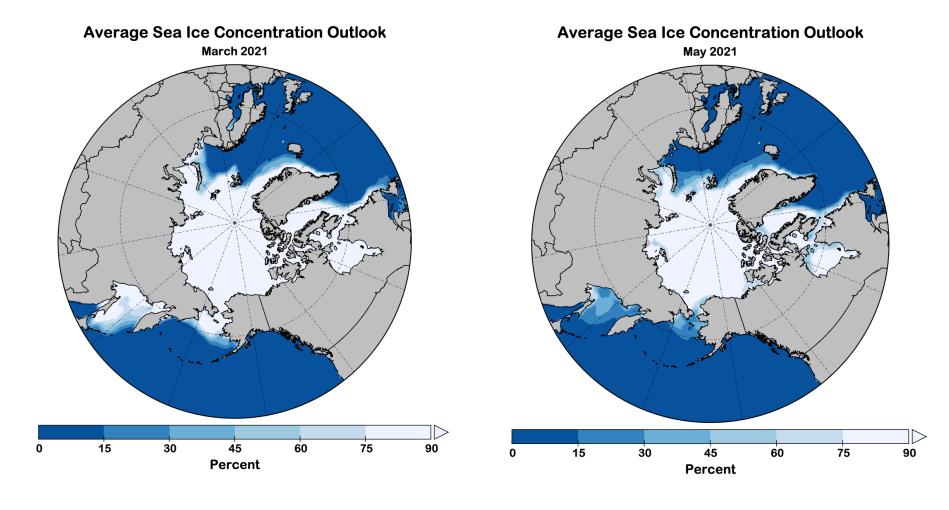
Arctic Temperature and Precipitation Outlook





Outlooks courtesy Copernicus C3S (Climate Change Service)

Spring 2021 Sea Ice Outlook





Data: NOAA/Climate Prediction Center Exp. Sea Ice Outlook

Landslide near Haines December 2, 2020



