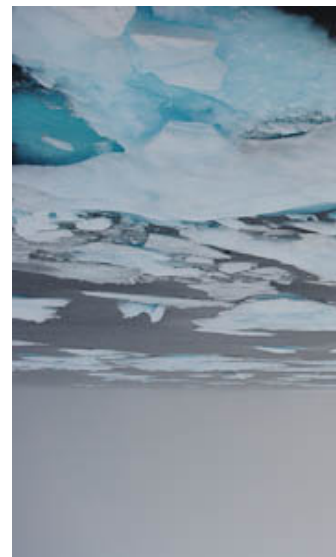


Beaufort Gyre Exploration Project: Dispatch 4: The Ice Floe Cometh

Alex Kain
September 20, 2009

Amid the thunderous echoes of sea ice crashing against the hull, scientists and crew members of the *Louis S.-St. Laurent* awoke to a frozen sea and crystalline blue, they extended into the gray horizon and surrounded the *Louis* in a polar wonderland.



The first of many icy mornings--in this case, a morning of multi-year cake ice. Multi-year ice is anything that has lasted longer than one melt season. It is characterized by a cerulean hue. The term "cake" refers to the size of the floes, not to their flavor.

Upside down, the Arctic environment the ice floes become clouds and t

In this upside-down desert world, Mike Dempsey from the Canadian Department of Oceans and Fisheries led the successful recovery of the first managed by the International Arctic Research Center. Weather conditions improved significantly from the previous day, allowing for an efficient r

Moorings are part of the fleet of instruments used on the Beaufort Gyre expedition to profile ocean conditions. The buoys are composed of three fastened to the buoy, and the probe crawls up and down the line while profiling ocean water at various depths. The probe on the CABOS mooring 1000-meter line over the past year.

Though conceptually simple, recovering a mooring presents a host of challenges. The process by which one is recovered resembles something using a joystick and a claw to fetch a Beanie Baby, recovering a mooring requires inserting a ten-centimeter hook into an extremely costly, one-e boat. The stakes are high, which is why each recovery is carefully planned out and executed by crew members and scientists with lots of experie



Moorings are recovered using a series of pulleys, winches, and spools that spans the width of the ship.

The probe
the vertica
Today's 10

The ship is currently steaming toward "Tuck," the colloquial name of the Canadian town Tuktoyaktuk, for fueling tomorrow. Once filled, the ship v

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