Print

Beaufort Gyre Exploration Project: Introduction

Welcome

Welcome to the Beaufort Gyre Exploration Project website. On these pages you will find a wealth of information about oceanography on top of the world. The site contains the following sections:

Overview: learn about the experiment and the scientists
Methods: examine the tools scientists use to study the Arctic Ocean
Expeditions: read dispatches and view photos from the research cruises
Data: access buoy and model data
Results: see the most recent scientific results
History: discover the history of Arctic exploration and science

Placing an ice-tethered profiler in the pack ice. (Chris Linder, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

A climate out of balance...

Ice, ocean, atmosphere. These three components constitute the health of the Arctic climate. At the heart of this system is one of the least studied bodies of water on the planet: the Beaufort Gyre, a slowly swirling bowl of icy water north of Alaska ten times the size of Lake Michigan.

Recent observations suggest that because of global warming, the natural rhythms of the Beaufort Gyre have been tipped out of balance. To find out what this means for the future of the Arctic climate, scientists from the United States, Canada, and Japan will set out every summer from 2003 to 2014 for month-long expeditions aboard the Canadian icebreaker Louis S. St-Laurent. They are using an array of newly-developed instruments to measure the environment above, below, and within the floating icepack.

Join the research team on the ice and aboard the icebreaker through realtime dispatches and photos posted to the Expeditions pages.

Beaufort Gyre Project in NBC LEARN program

NBC Learn, in partnership with the National Science Foundation, explores the impact that climate change is having on our planet.

"COLD" by Russian National Television (including information about the Beaufort Gyre Project) (English version)

"COLD" by Russian National Television (including information about the Beaufort Gyre Project) (Russian version)

On December 14, 2013, Russian National Television (NTV) released a new educational film "Cold" (~47 minutes in duration) where our Beaufort Gyre research is described amongst other studies on climate change and extreme weather conditions. WHOI researchers Andrey Proshutinsky, Richard Krishfield, and Lloyd Keigwin are among the scientists interviewed in this film who discuss their investigations to document and understand observed changes and predict future variability in the Arctic Ocean.

Last updated: February 14, 2014

Copyright ©2007 Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, All Rights Reserved.
Mail: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 266 Woods Hole Road, Woods Hole, MA 02543, USA.
E-Contact: info@whoi.edu; press relations: media@whoi.edu, tel. (508) 457-2000
Problems or questions about the site, please contact webdev@whoi.edu