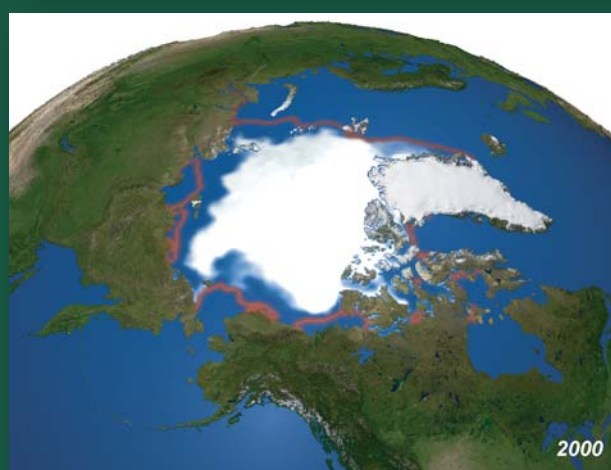
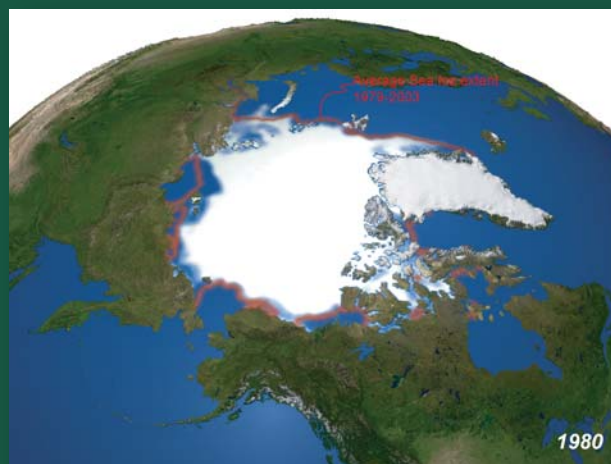
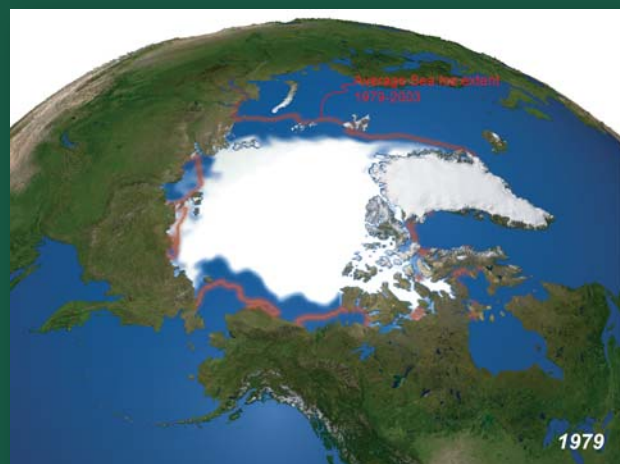


Our Changing Climate

Loss of Arctic Sea Ice



Studies report that the extent of Arctic sea ice has shrunk by more than 7.5 per cent over the past 25 years with record-low coverage in September 2005. An analysis of 30 years of satellite data suggest that the loss of Arctic sea ice is accelerating. Scientists at the National Snow and Ice Data Center report that 2006 had been on course to set a new record until temperatures cooled in August of this year. Evidence of why the Arctic sea ice is shrinking suggests that average temperatures in the Arctic are rising

even more rapidly than the global average. Satellite data indicates the rate of increased surface temperature over the last 20 years was eight times the global average over the last 100 years. There are projections that much of the sea ice, until now thought to be permanent, will melt by the end of this century if the current warming trend continues. The global impacts may be significant as increased absorption of solar radiation could lead to changes in the world ocean circulation.