

LEO Alaska Webinar Summer 2022 Climate Review and Autumn 2022 Outlook

Rick Thoman

Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy
University of Alaska Fairbanks



Summer 2022 Alaska Weather & Climate Highlights



Sea Ice Chukchi Sea summer ice extent 90% 1991-2020 average



Utqiagvik 1.42" rain July 23-24: all-time 24-hour precipitation record

Kotzebue average temp 48.9°F: coolest summer since 2006



Toolik Lake 2.5" snow: Jul 13th

Wildfire 3.11 million acres burned Statewide: 7th largest season since 1950



Denali Park rare midsummer 2" snow: Aug 9th

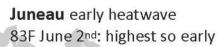


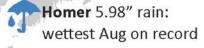
Fairbanks 2.43" rain: driest summer since 2004

St. Mary's June's East Fork wildfire threatened communities

> Dillingham June frequent wildfire smoke

Anchorage 3rd driest June followed by 3rd wettest August

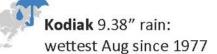






Cold Bay earliest "first freeze": Aug 18th

a personal



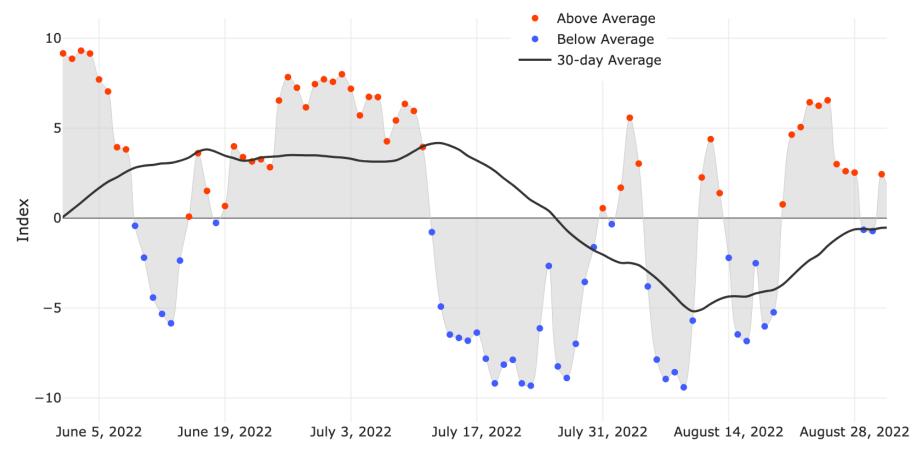
Sitka average temp 56.2°F: warmest June on record





Alaska Daily Temperature Index

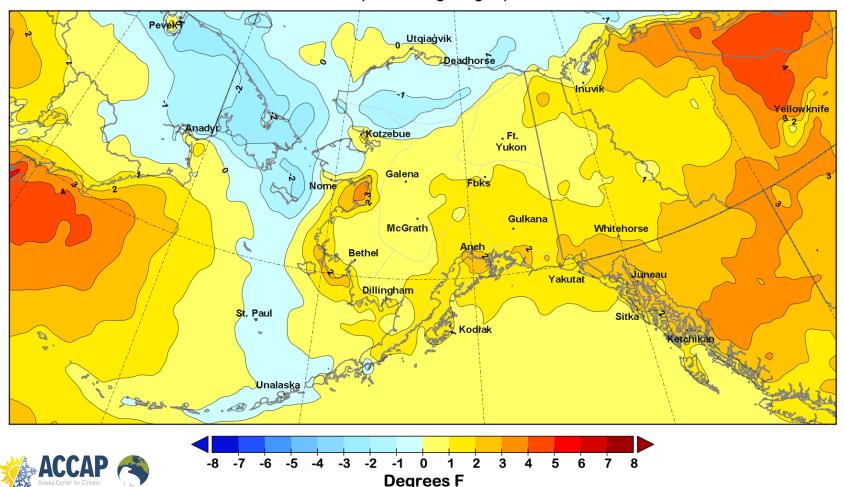
Alaska Statewide Temperature Index June 1 to August 31, 2022





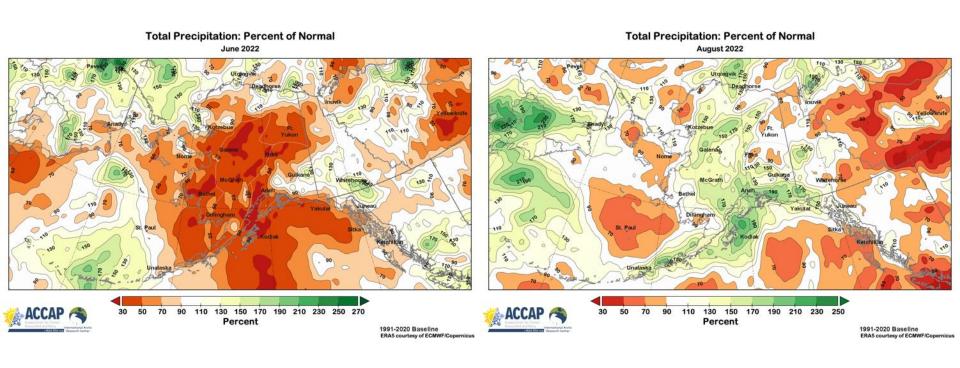
Summer 2022 Temperature Difference from Normal

Average Temperature: Departure from Normal Summer (June through August) 2022





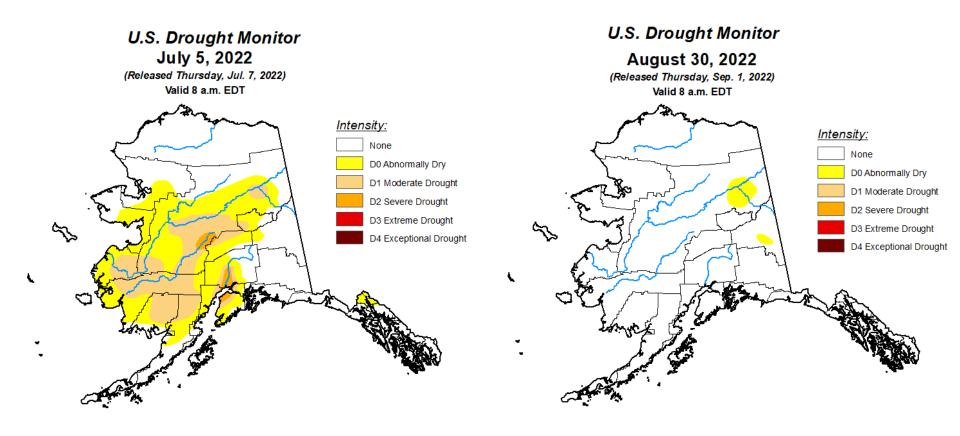
Dramatic Precipitation Differences



June Precipitation Percent of Average

August Precipitation Percent of Average

Drought WAS Alaska

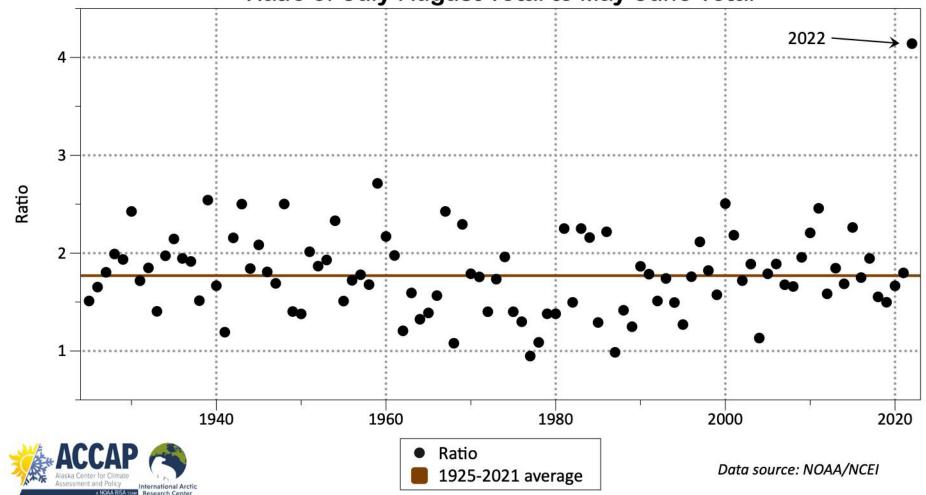


Dry Spring/Early Summer
Up to Severe Drought

Mostly Wet Late Summer Bye-Bye Drought

The Great 2022 Precipitation Flip-Flop

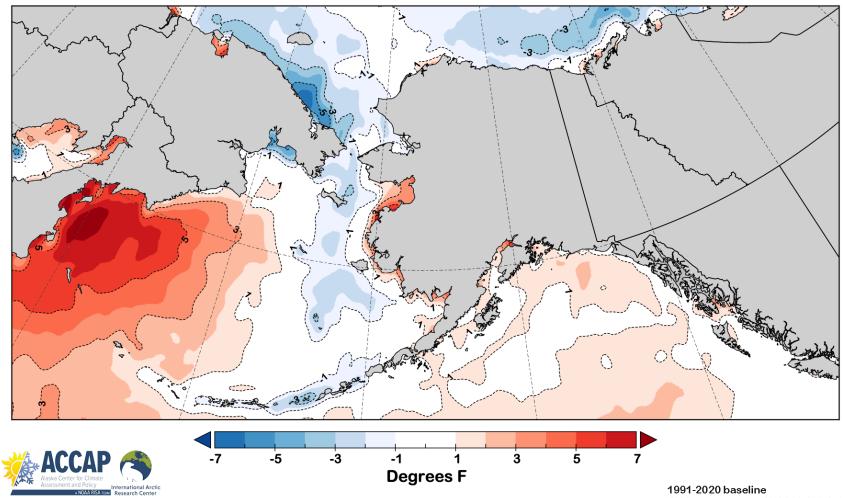
Alaska Statewide Precipitation, 1925-2022 Ratio of July-August Total to May-June Total



Summer 2022 Ocean Temperatures

Average Sea Surface Temperature Departure from Normal

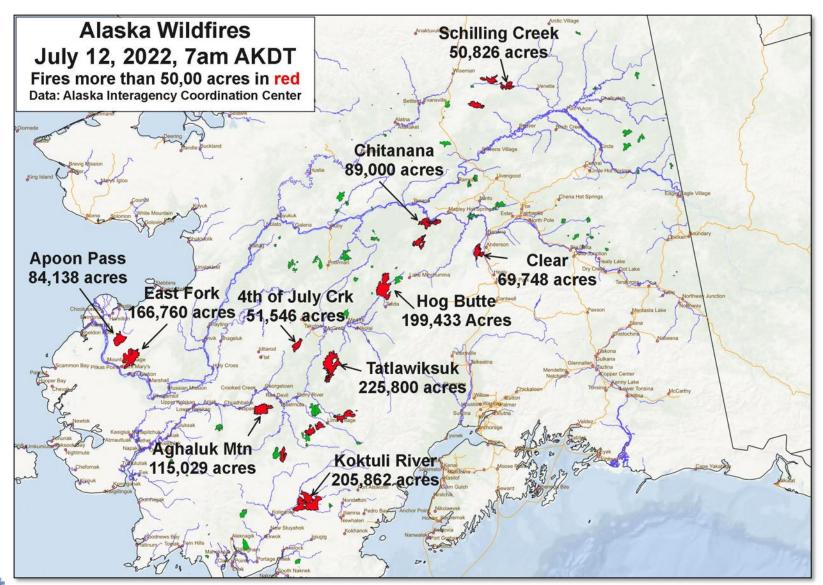
Summer (June through August) 2022





OISSTv2.1 courtesy of NOAA/PSL/ESRL

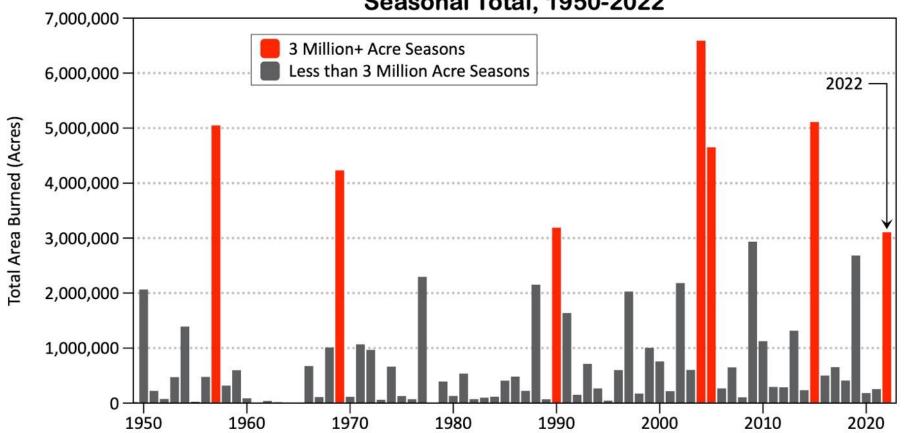
Alaska 2022 Wildfire





2022 Alaska Wildfire Wildfire

Alaska Wildfire Acreage Seasonal Total, 1950-2022

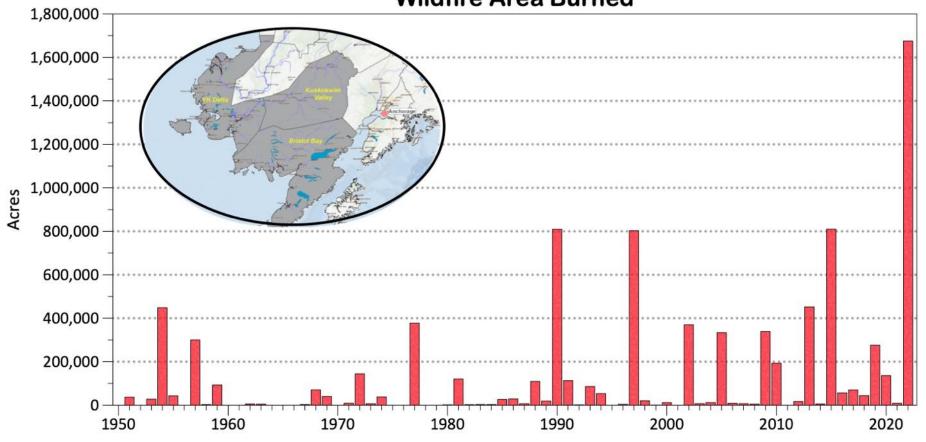




Data Source: Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Updated September 04, 2022

2022 Alaska Wildfire Wildfire

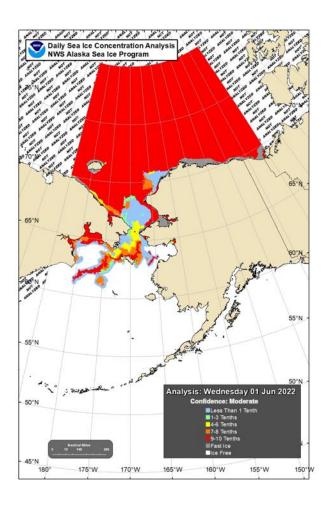


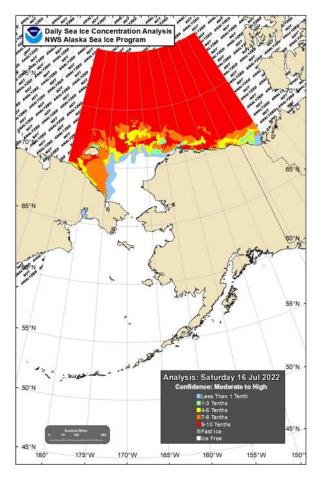


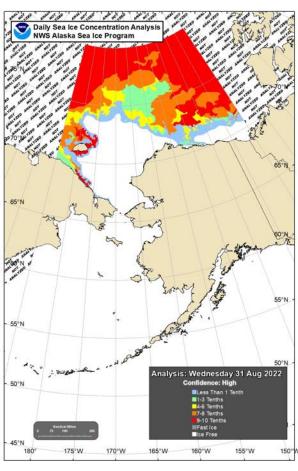


Data source: AICC, NWS/J. Chriest, UAF/C. Waigl Updated through August 09, 2022

Alaska Sea Ice Extent: Summer 2022





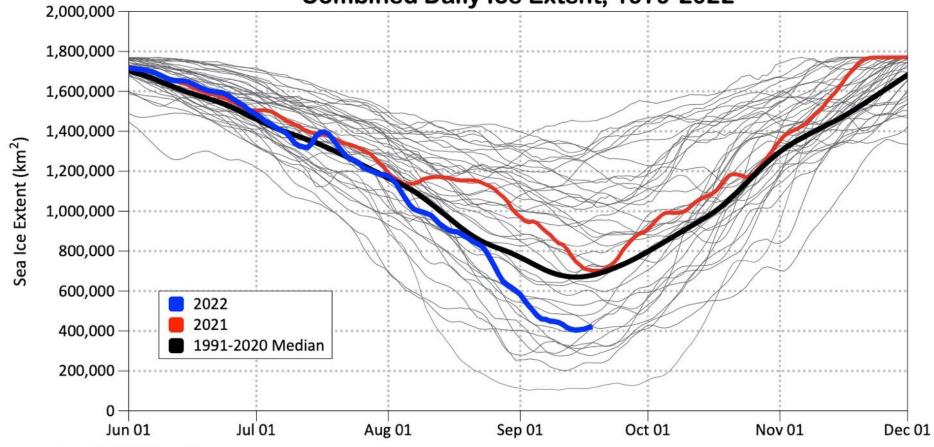


June 01st July 15th August 31st



Summer Sea Ice Around Alaska

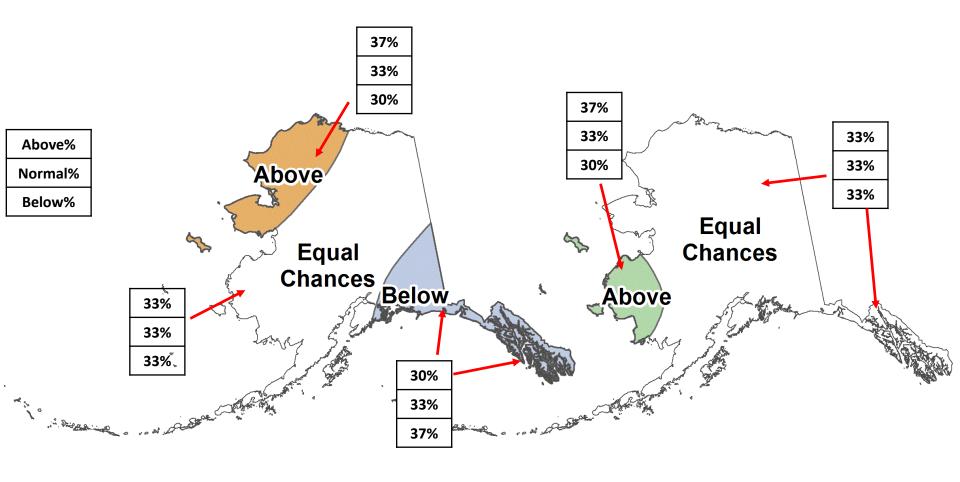
Chukchi & Beaufort Seas Combined Daily Ice Extent, 1979-2022





Data source: NSIDC Sea Ice Index, Version 3 Updated through September 19, 2022

CPC October-December 2022 Outlook

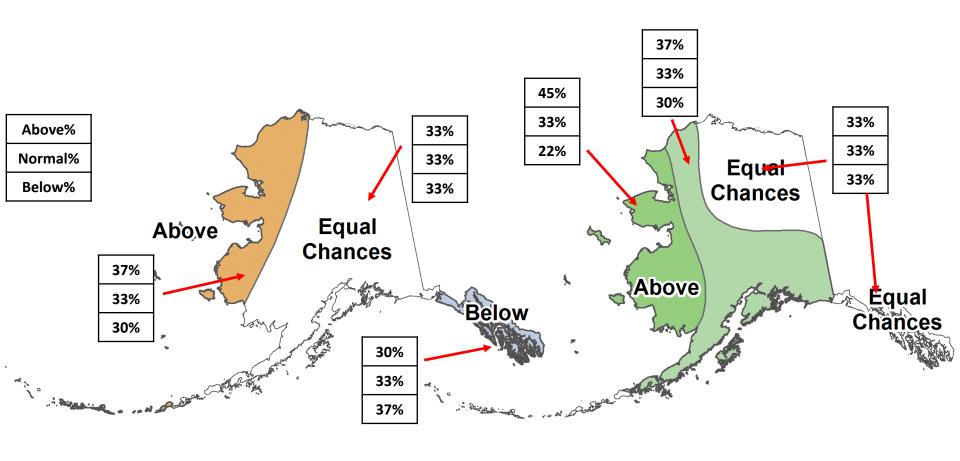


Temperature Outlook

Precipitation Outlook



CPC December-February 2022-23 Outlook



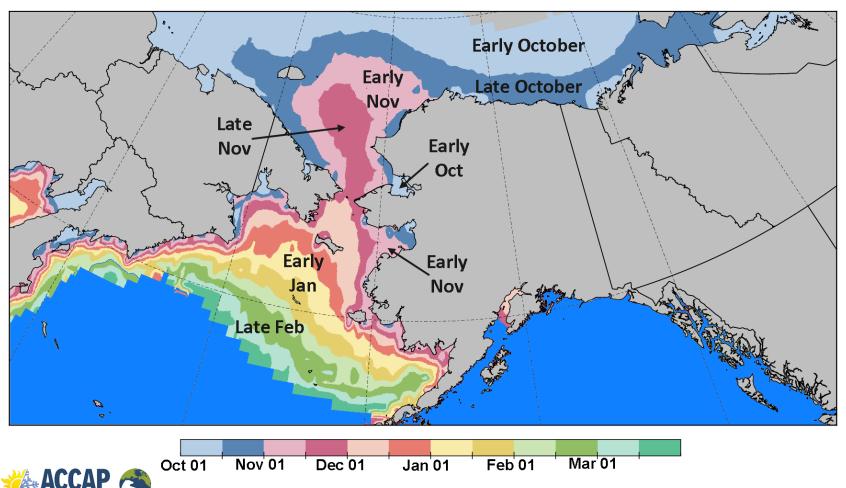
Temperature Outlook

Precipitation Outlook



Autumn 2022 Sea Ice Outlook

Autumn Freeze-up: First Date Sea Ice Concentration ≥15 Percent 2022-23



Outlook made in late August
Data: NOAA/CPC Exp. Sea Ice Outlook

Thanks very much





Clear wildfire, July 7,2022 Photo: Brian LeRoy