

LEO Alaska Webinar Summer 2023 Climate Review and Autumn 2023 Outlook

Rick Thoman

Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy University of Alaska Fairbanks



September 19, 2023

Summer 2023 Alaska Weather & Climate Highlights

Utqiaġvik average temperature 43.2F, warmest summer on record



Beaufort Sea August average sea ice extent 4th lowest on record

Statewide 19,000 lightning strikes July 24-25th, highest 1-day total since July 2019

West Coast/Interior rare low elevation summer snow June 1-2

Nome 53 days with rain, 3rd highest past 80 summers



Fairbanks average temperature 62.9F, 3rd warmest summer on record

Statewide wildfire burned less than half average, 298,000 acres.

Anchorage 48 days with rain, 2nd highest summer total

Gulkana driest summer since 2004: only 43% normal rainfall

> **Juneau** August 6th severe Mendenhall River flooding from glacier lake outburst

King Salmon 2nd wettest summer: 141 percent of normal

Homer wettest summer: rainfall 233 percent of normal

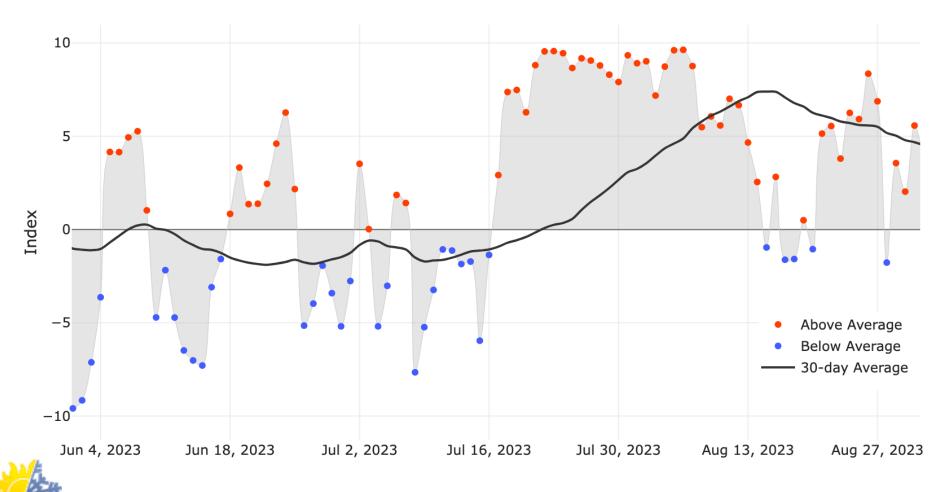
Sitka average temperature 58.0F, 3rd warmest summer on record



Data sources: NOAA/NCEI & NWS, Alaska Fire Service All data preliminary and subject to change

Alaska Daily Temperature Index

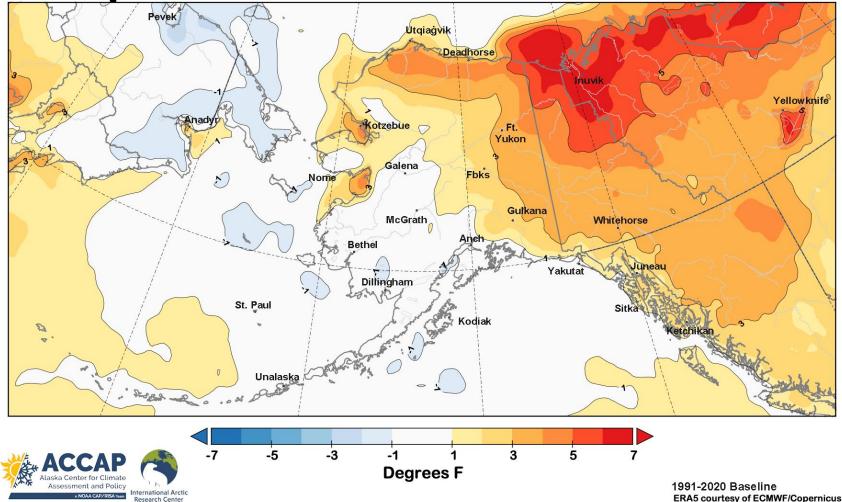
Alaska Statewide Temperature Index June 1 to August 31, 2023



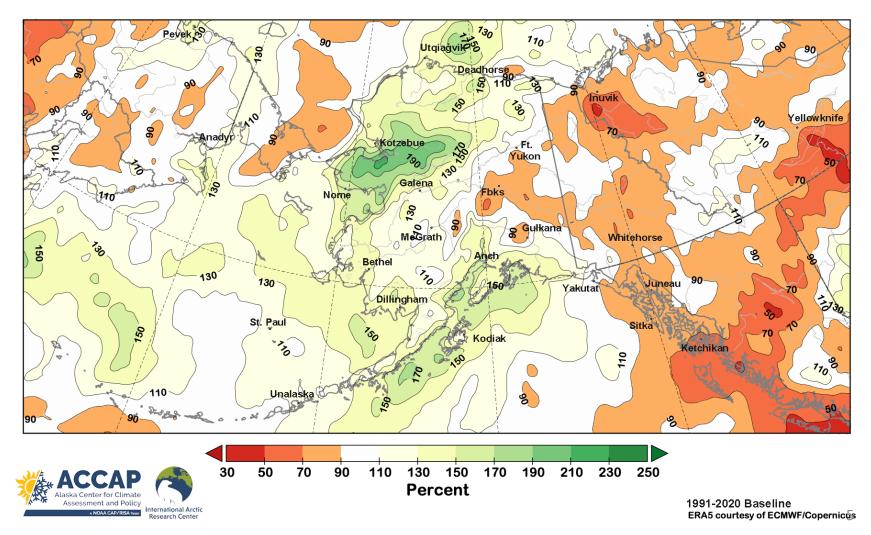
Online: http://accap.uaf.edu/tools/statewide-temperature-index

Summer 2023

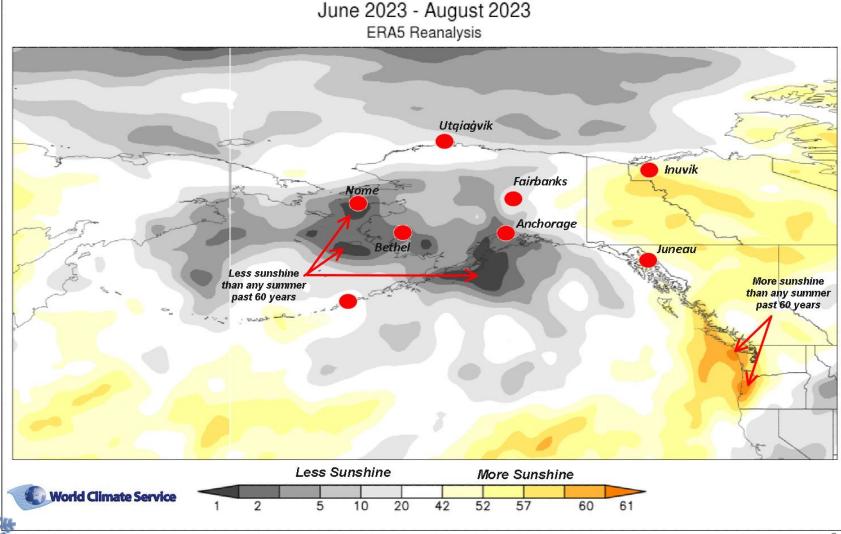
Temperature Difference from Normal



Summer 2023 Precipitation Difference from Normal



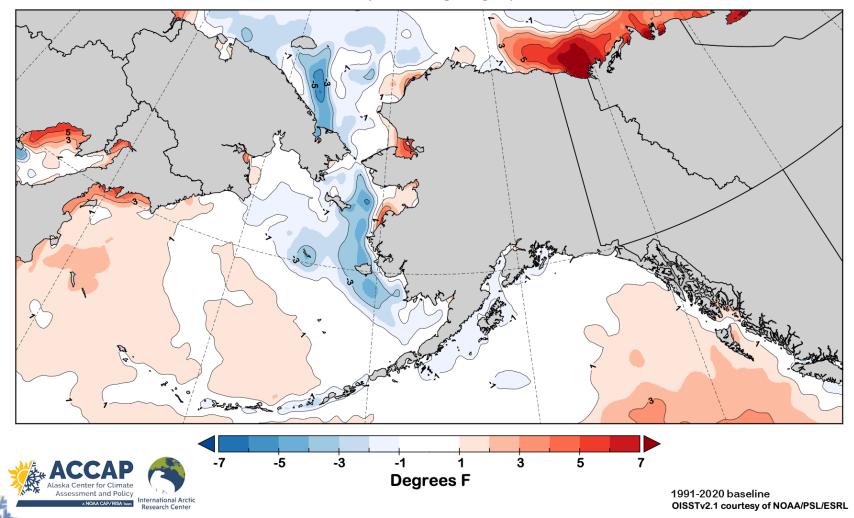
How Gray was It?



Summer 2023 Ocean Temperatures

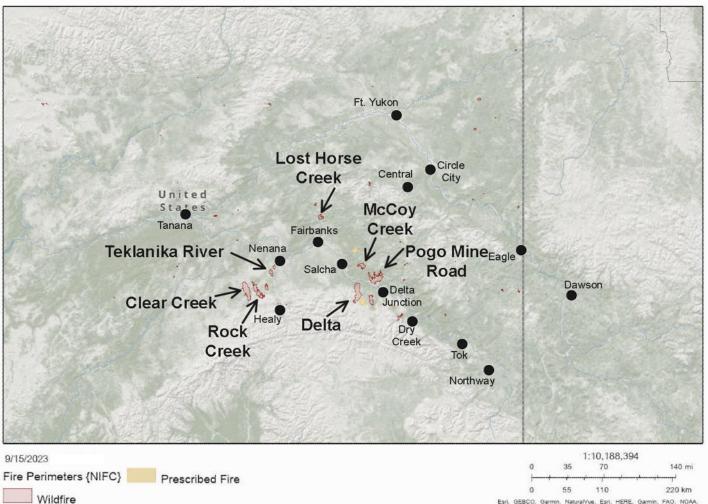
Average Sea Surface Temperature Departure from Normal

Summer (June through August) 2023



Alaska 2023 Wildfire



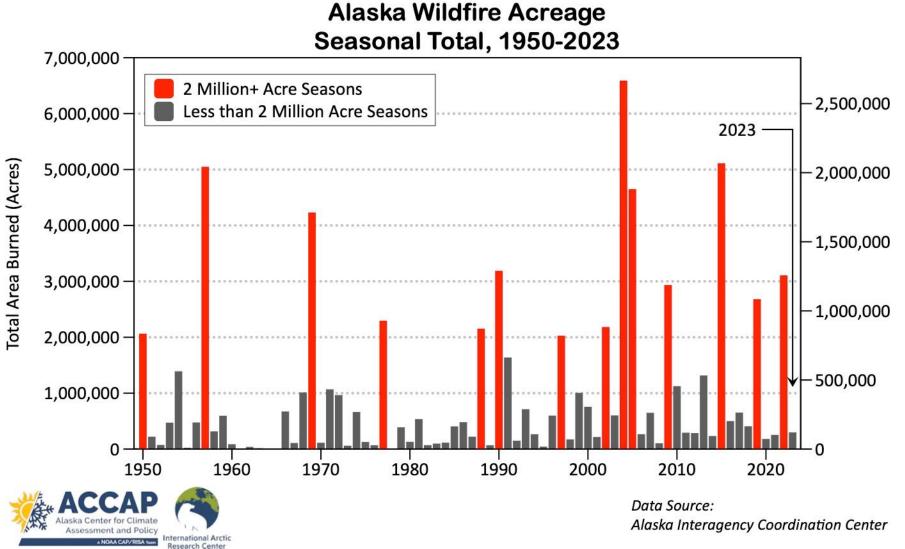


Esri, GEBCO, Garmin, NaturalVue, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA

AK Wildland Fire Information Series

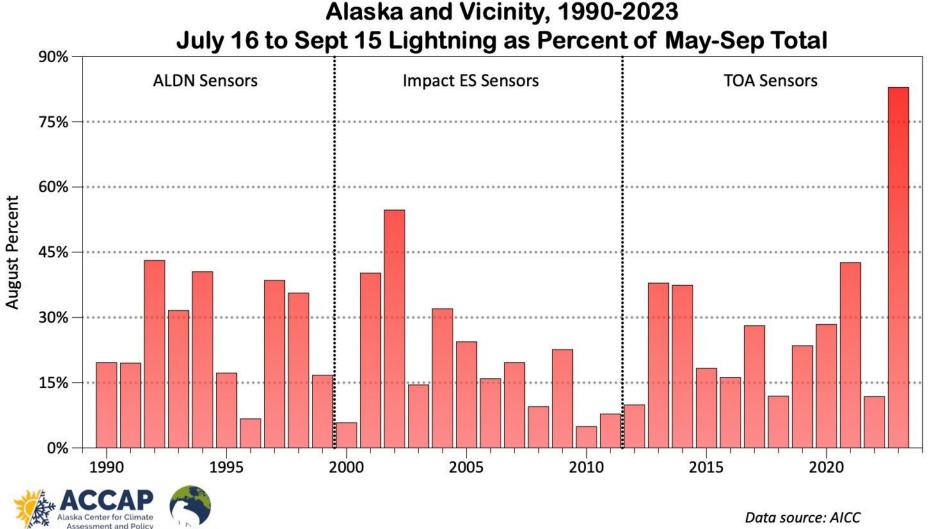
Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG). State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOFFP), US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS). U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land

2023 Alaska Wildfire In Content



Hectares

Late Season Lightning

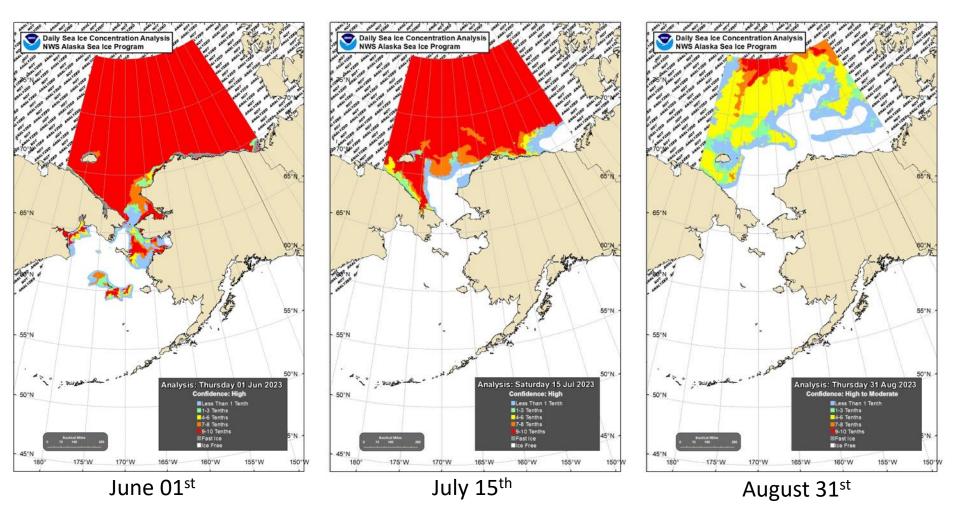


International Arctic

Research Center

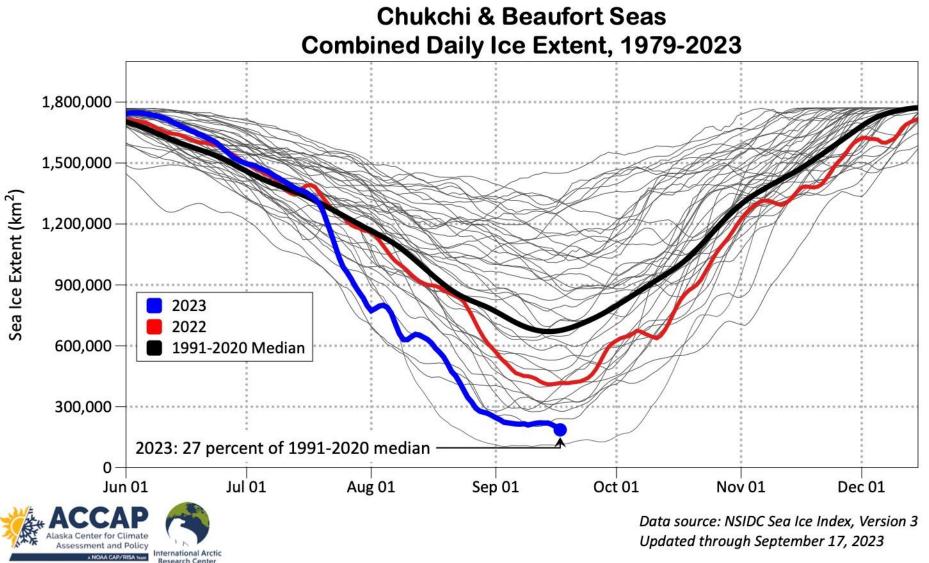
Updated Sept 15, 2023

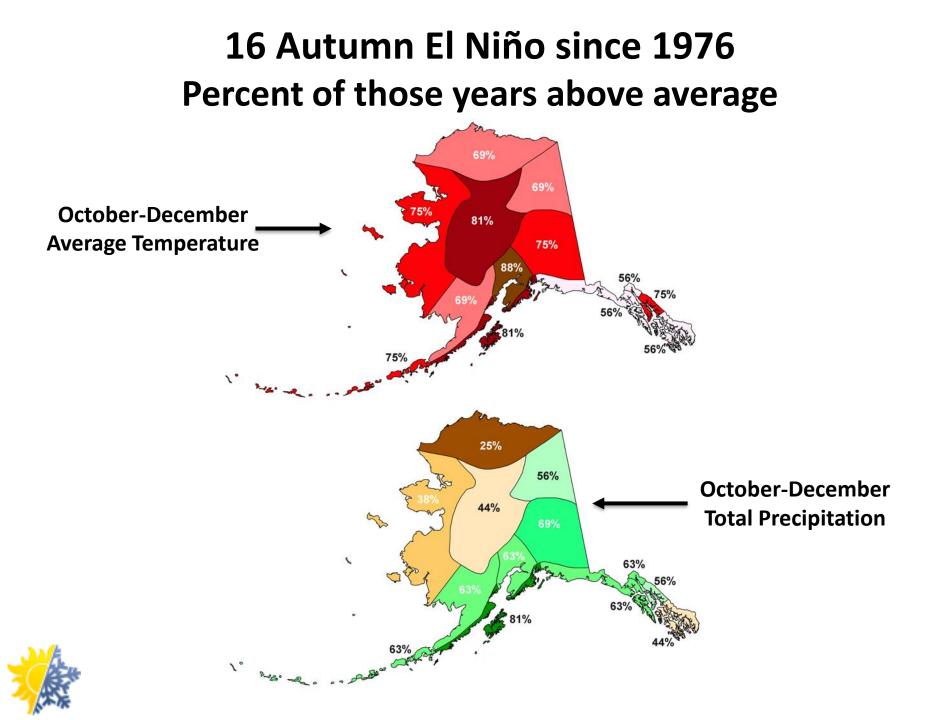
Alaska Sea Ice Extent: Summer 2023



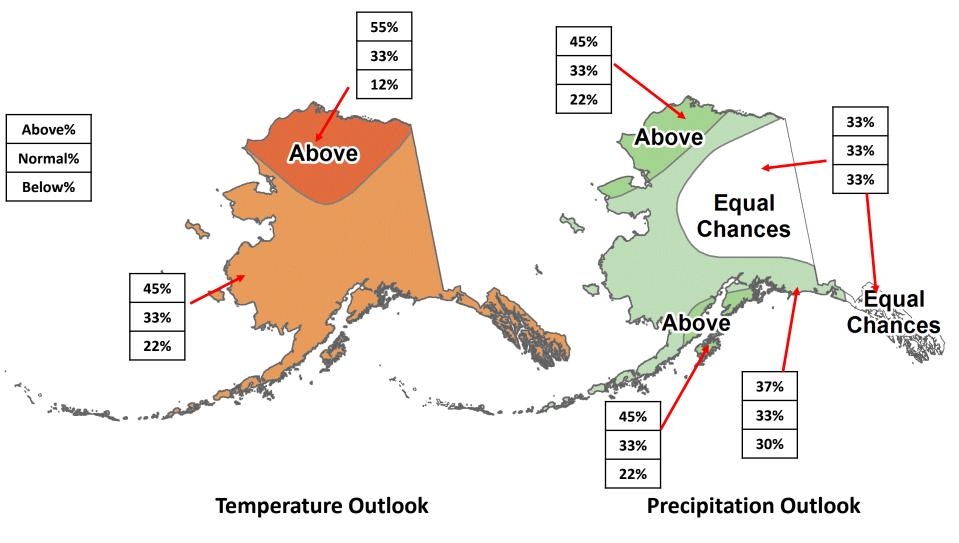


Summer Sea Ice Around Alaska



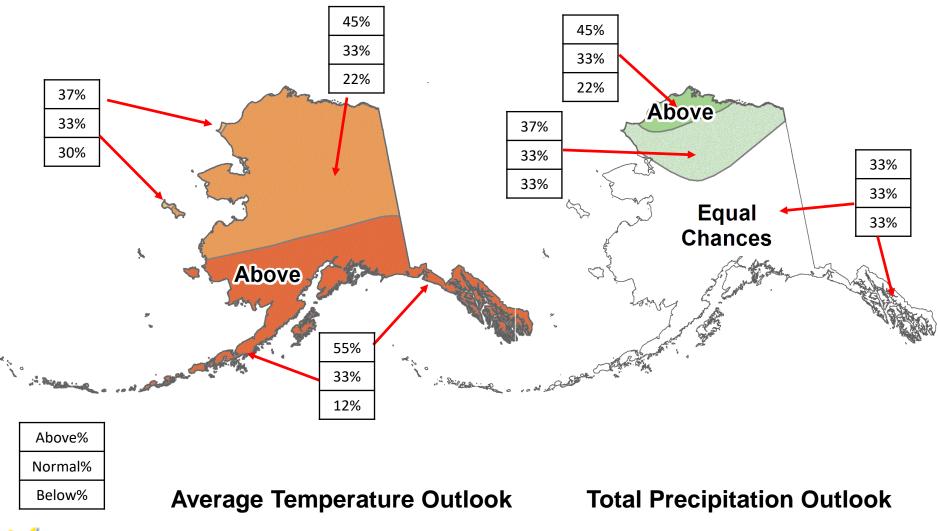


CPC October-December 2023 Outlook





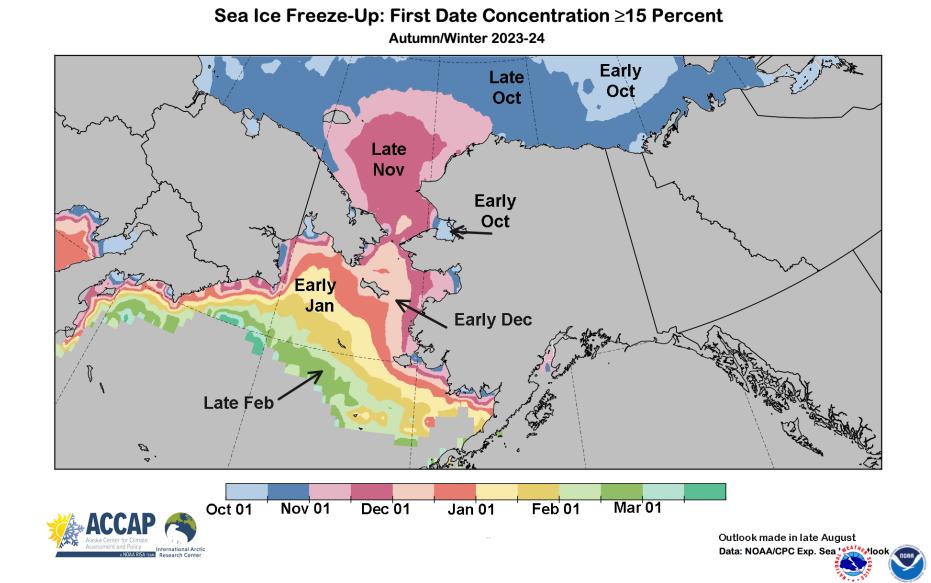
CPC December-February 2023-24







Autumn 2023 Sea Ice Outlook



Thanks very much



Summer Solstice at Sitka Photo: SEDA

