

**1 Ocean Warming of Nares Strait Bottom Waters off
2 NW Greenland 2003-09**

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11 Instead of a hostile, sluggish, steady, ice-covered environment with little
12 impact on the global ocean, the Arctic is becoming an increasingly acces-
13 sible, rapidly changing, dynamic, and only partly ice-covered ocean that is
14 implicated in global climate and environmental change. More specifically, our
15 new observations demonstrate that waters off northwest Greenland consti-
16 tute the final limb in the grand cyclonic circulation of the Atlantic layer in
17 the Arctic Ocean. These waters with an Atlantic water mass signature are
18 warming in Nares Strait to the west of Greenland as they are elsewhere. Es-
19 timates of the magnitude and uncertainty and indications of the dynamics
20 and downstream consequences of this warming are emerging from both our
21 moored observations and historical hydrographic station data.

22 Ocean temperatures sensed by instruments moored 3-m above the bottom
23 between 228 to 366 meter depth in Nares Strait suggest a mean warming of
24 about 0.023 ± 0.015 °C per year for the 2003 through 2009 period at 95%
25 confidence. Salinity changes for the same period are not significantly differ-
26 ent from zero. Nevertheless, oscillating bottom temperatures co-vary with
27 salinities. Mean bottom salinities in Nares Strait exceed 34.56 psu while no

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28 water with salinities above 34.51 psu occurs in Baffin Bay to the south. This
29 indicates a dominantly northern source for the waters sensed by our moor-
30 ings. Mean bottom temperatures hover near 0°C which suggests minimal in-
31 fluence of waters from the northeastern Amundsen Basin in the Arctic Ocean.
32 We thus conclude that the observed warming originates from the northeast-
33 ern Canadian Basin to the south-west of our study area.

34 In addition to these mean conditions, we find large interannual variabil-
35 ity. For example, significant freshening emerges for the 2003-06 period that
36 reaches -0.02 ± 0.008 psu per year without significant concurrent temper-
37 ature trends at three sensor locations. This contrasts with the 2007-09 ob-
38 servational period when five different sensors all indicate warmer waters (0.063
39 ± 0.017 °C per year) and saltier waters (0.027 ± 0.01 psu per year) which
40 reverses the 2003-06 freshening. We speculate that some of these observed
41 changes are caused by a changing ice regime. During the 2003-06 winters ice
42 was landfast while during 2007-09 it was generally mobile year-round. The
43 warming impacts tidewater glaciers along northern Greenland with sill depths
44 below 300 m, e.g., Petermann Gletscher.

1. Introduction

45 When a large outlet glacier of northwest Greenland (Petermann Gletscher) discharged
46 an ice island four times the size of Manhattan in August of 2010, the United States'
47 Congress held formal inquiries on its cause within days of the event. Some scientists
48 and the global media speculated that this event as well as concurrent severe droughts in
49 Russia and floods in China and Pakistan were tied to record breaking air temperatures
50 and global warming. Reviewing available data, *Johnson et al.* [2011] and *Falkner et al.*
51 [2011] cautioned that most melting of floating ice shelves such as Petermann Gletscher is
52 dominated by physical ocean processes below, not above the ice [*Rignot and Steffen, 2008*].
53 We here provide evidence that waters adjacent to Petermann Gletscher (a) originate from
54 the Arctic Ocean to the north, (b) contain heat of Atlantic origin, and (c) have warmed
55 significantly since 2003.

56 Changing ocean properties are observed in the Eurasian [*Polyakov et al., 2010*] and
57 North-American [*McLaughlin et al., 2009; Melling, 1998*] sectors of the Arctic Ocean in
58 recent years. The Arctic Ocean and its marginal seas have pronounced subsurface tem-
59 perature maxima [*Coachman and Barnes, 1963*] on account of inflowing warm and salty
60 Atlantic waters. These enter via eastern Fram Strait [*Fahrbach et al., 2001*] and the
61 Barents Sea [*Schauer et al., 2002*]. The circulation of the central Arctic Ocean is gen-
62 erally cyclonic (counter-clockwise) and most intense near boundaries adjacent to sloping
63 topographic features [*Nikolopoulos et al., 2008*]. It is explained elegantly by vorticity
64 conservation in the presence of a wind-stress curl [*Yang, 2005*]. Atlantic layer core tem-
65 peratures in the Arctic vary from 4 °C in the generally ice-free Barents Sea [*Levitus et al.,*

66 2009] to below 0.5 °C in the generally ice-covered eastern Canadian Basin [*McLaughlin*
67 *et al.*, 2009; *Melling*, 1998].

68 The Canadian Archipelago, Fram Strait, and Barents Sea constitute pathways of water,
69 ice, and vorticity between the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans. Arctic outflows via these path-
70 ways return freshwater to the North Atlantic that was evaporated from tropical oceans,
71 transported by the atmosphere, and delivered to the Arctic Ocean via precipitation, ter-
72 restrial run-off, and inflow from the North Pacific [*Emile-Geay et al.*, 2003]. We here focus
73 on changing water properties in Nares Strait to the west of Greenland bordering the Cana-
74 dian Archipelago [*Münchow et al.*, 2007]. Nares Strait is a major conduit of southward
75 flux into Baffin Bay and the Atlantic Ocean [*Münchow and Melling*, 2008]. Fluxes and
76 properties through Nares Strait reflect the impacts of disintegrating ice shelves of northern
77 Canada [*Copland et al.*, 2007], potentially surging glaciers of northern Greenland [*Rignot*
78 *and Steffen*, 2008; *Johnson et al.*, 2011], and diminishing sea ice in the Arctic [*Parkinson*
79 *and Cavalieri*, 2008].

80 Since the Lincoln Sea to the north of Greenland and Ellesmere Island contains some of
81 the oldest and thickest ice anywhere in the Arctic Ocean, the circulation and properties
82 of its underlying waters impact the fate of these last remains of multi-year ice. The flux of
83 such ice is currently limited to a 3-4 month long summer season. For the remainder of the
84 year, the ice is land-fast, but the duration of these conditions are changing [*Kwok et al.*,
85 2010]. More specifically, the length of the land-fast ice season in winter is decreasing.
86 Processes within and adjacent to the Canadian Archipelago strongly link ice, ocean, and

87 land in a system that conceivably moves more multi-year ice from the Arctic than is
88 currently possible during a 3-4 month season of ice mobility.

89 Subsurface Arctic Ocean temperature records longer than 80 years reveal both multi-
90 decadal oscillations [*Levitus et al.*, 2009; *Polyakov et al.*, 2004] and smaller, but significant
91 linear trends of increasing temperatures [*Polyakov et al.*, 2004; *Zweng and Münchow*,
92 2006]. Analyses of discrete hydrographic ship surveys such as those cited are challenged
93 by seasonally biased sampling, gappy records, and aliasing introduced by unresolved spa-
94 tial and temporal variabilities of a dynamical ice-ocean-atmosphere system [*Wunsch and*
95 *Heimbach*, 2006]. In contrast, generally shorter mooring records sample more frequently
96 and regular, thus contain less bias, but to date are shorter than a decade.

97 We here introduce temperature and salinity measurements from moorings that describe
98 means, variability, and trends from super-tidal to interannual time scales near the bot-
99 tom at several locations across a 38 km wide section of Nares Strait from 2003 to 2009.
100 After introducing our study area to the west of Greenland, we place our moored mea-
101 surements into a larger spatial context with discrete vertical profiles collected from ships
102 and helicopters in 2003. Time series of bottom temperature and salinity are analyzed
103 for dominant time scales of variability as well as for linear trends that constitute a first
104 estimate of variations at decadal time scales. We discuss our findings in the context of
105 both multi-decadal oscillations and a potential regime change towards an Arctic with a
106 more seasonal and mobile ice cover.

2. Data sources

107 Starting in 2003, we measured ocean properties in Nares Strait, a 30-50 km wide wa-
108 terway that separates Greenland from Canada between 78°N and 83°N latitudes (Fig. 1).
109 To the north it connects to the Arctic Ocean, while to the south it connects to Baffin Bay
110 and subsequently the Atlantic Ocean. At 80.5°N latitude we deployed an array of moor-
111 ings to measure ocean currents, temperature, and conductivity across a 38 km wide and
112 350 m deep section of Nares Strait. *Münchow and Melling* [2008] and *Rabe et al.* [2010]
113 introduced details and first results from instruments measuring ocean currents between
114 30 m and 300 m depth and temperature, conductivity, and pressure between 30 m depth
115 and a few meters above the seabed for the 2003 through 2006 period. The instruments
116 recovered in 2006 and 2009 provide gap-free records that are two and three years long,
117 respectively. We here report for the first time on interannual temperature and salinity
118 changes for the 2003 through 2009 period.

119 Bottom-mounted SeaBird 37SM sensors reveal temperature and salinity about three
120 meters above the bottom where turbulence levels, biological activity, and mooring motions
121 are all smaller than in the water column above. Samples were taken every 15 minutes.
122 Salinity is estimated from conductivity, temperature, and pressure. We estimate temporal
123 sensor drift by comparing 20 days of mooring records at the start and the end of the series
124 with discrete vertical CTD profiles taken during deployment and recovery operations.
125 Assuming negligible drift of temperature sensors, we find (not shown) that salinities drift
126 by about 0.051 psu towards fresher values for the 2003-06 period (-0.017 psu/year) and
127 0.031 psu towards fresher values also for the 2007-09 period (-0.016 psu/year). The sign

128 and magnitude of these changes is consistent with gradual fouling of a conductivity cell.
129 This constant salinity drift is removed from the 2003-06 records at KS02, KS10, and KS12
130 as well as from the 2007-09 records at KS04, KS06, KS08, KS10, and KS12 (see Fig. 1
131 for locations).

132 Of the eight separate time series of salinity S , only two records contain salinity spikes
133 with $S < 34.1$. Both occur at KS10 with the first starting May-16, 2005 lasting for 18
134 days and the second starting November-26, 2008 lasting 0.25 days. We replaced these
135 anomalous salinities with values estimated from a linear regression of salinity against
136 temperature ten days prior. As a final processing step we apply a Lanczos raised cosine
137 low-pass filter with a half-power point near 34 hours to remove tidal and inertial variations.
138 Uncertainties on statistical estimates require knowledge of the degrees of freedom which is
139 the ratio of the record length T to the decorrelation time scale T_d . We determine T_d by
140 integrating lagged auto-correlations of salinity and temperature to their first zero crossing
141 and find T_d in the range of 5-14 days (not shown). Using $T_d=14$ days our 2003-06 and
142 2007-09 records have about 78 and 51 degrees of freedom.

3. Spatial Context

143 Fig. 1 shows the location of our larger study area from the 4000-m deep Amundsen
144 Basin and 1500-m deep Lomonosov Ridge in the Arctic Ocean at 89°N latitude to the
145 2000-m deep Baffin Bay basin at 73°N latitude. Nares Strait connects these two basins
146 with northern and southern sill depths near 84°N and 80°N latitude of about 300 m and
147 200 m depth, respectively. Fig. 1 also shows the location of five CTD casts that were
148 taken in Nares Strait between its northern and southern sills as well as stations bordering

149 the adjacent deep basins to the north and south of the sills. Fig. 2 depicts vertical profiles
150 of salinity from 150-m below the surface to the bottom near 500-m depth. Below the main
151 halocline at any given depth it clearly shows the progression of high salinities in the Arctic
152 Ocean to lower salinities in Nares Strait and to the lowest salinities in Baffin Bay. Except
153 for Baffin Bay, the correlation of salinity S with potential temperature θ is almost linear
154 (Fig. 3) as temperature increases with salinity. All Nares Strait waters with salinities
155 above 34.54 are either locally produced by brine injections or must have entered from the
156 north, because Baffin Bay waters with a subsurface temperature maximum have salinities
157 that are always less than 34.54 [Münchow *et al.*, 2011].

158 The shallow Nares Strait cast terminating at 330-m depth with a bottom salinity of
159 34.72 originates from our mooring section while a deeper Nares Strait cast taken to the
160 north measures salinities reaching 34.82 at 500-m. Waters with these θ - S characteristics
161 are found at about 350-m depth in the Arctic Ocean just to the north of the northern sill.
162 These data indicate that either an uncharted sill deeper than the charted 300-m sill exists
163 or episodic upwelling raises the salty Arctic Ocean waters from 350-m to 300-m depth
164 and over the sill to subsequently cascade down into Nares Strait to form Nares Strait
165 bottom water with $S=34.82$ and potential temperature $\theta=0.20$ °C. The vertical excursion
166 would likely be larger than 50-m as the downward motion would entrain fresher water as
167 it descends.

168 Besides the temperature salinity correlations from the CTD casts we also show in Fig. 3
169 the mean temperature and salinity values from the eight time series (Table 1) along with
170 the magnitude of temperature and salinity changes that we discuss next . Mean values

171 aggregate between 34.56 and 34.67 along the Arctic Ocean and Nares Strait correlations.
172 This gives confidence that both the 2003 CTD casts as well as our mooring data represent
173 similar waters.

4. Time Series 2003-2009

174 Fig. 4 shows salinity and potential temperature for the 2003-06 and 2007-09 deploy-
175 ments near the center of the channel at KS10 (see Fig. 1 for location). Salinity at KS10
176 generally varies between 34.4 and 34.7 except for two events in January 2004 (Day 366)
177 and December 2007 (Day-1800) with unfiltered salinities reaching almost 34.3 that also
178 correspond to lower temperatures (not shown). Temperatures are within a narrow range
179 between -0.4 °C and $+0.2$ °C except for two short events. Without the hindsight of moor-
180 ing data *Samelson et al.* [2006] discuss the first event in terms of strong wind-forcing
181 and ice motion that *Rabe* [2010] analyze as a wind-driven response of a density stratified
182 channel flow under the influence of rotation. The perhaps physically similar 2007 event
183 of low bottom temperature and salinity also corresponds to strong winds from the north.
184 These winds cause strong upwelling off Greenland that brings warmer waters towards the
185 surface and advects loose ice towards the channel center and to the south [*Rabe*, 2010].
186 This upwelling results in large areas of active sea-ice formation that is visible in MODIS
187 thermal imagery (Fig. 6) where high brightness temperatures indicate thermal radiation
188 from open water or thin ice.

189 Note that the highest salinities with values above 34.7 occur at the beginning of the
190 record in the summer of 2003 and the end of the record in the summer of 2009. Salinities
191 indicate that waters become fresher in 2003 and saltier in 2009 for six to nine months.

192 Within a time series covering six years, such short-period trends stand out, but they are
193 balanced by opposing trends at other times. A single year-long record, however, would
194 potentially mis-interpret the significance of such trends that really are oscillations at time
195 scales longer than the record. The same caveat, albeit at decadal time scales, does apply
196 to any linear trend analysis applied to our six year period of observations.

5. Linear Regressions

197 Table 1 lists record mean values and salient statistics for each location for each de-
198 ployment period. The linear warming and freshening during the period of observations
199 are overlaid in Fig. 4 for the center of the channel at KS10 for potential temperature
200 θ and salinity S both as time series and as θ - S scatter. The linear trend line for time
201 series is shown also with values for the slopes listed in Table 1. Furthermore, we color
202 code data prior to May-16, 2005 (Day-866) in black and those after this time in red for
203 the 2003-06 record. While not apparent from the time series, depicting the data as θ - S
204 scatter irrespectively of time, we show that the selected time corresponds to the arrival of
205 a fresher and warmer water mass. More specifically, a strong linear relation exists in θ - S
206 space, however, the relation prior and after May-16, 2005 are distinct. Furthermore, this
207 shift occurs instantaneously at multiple bottom sensors across the section such as at KS02
208 adjacent to the coast of Canada (Fig. 5) and at KS12 near the coast of Greenland (not
209 shown). This date separates a cooler-fresher water from a warmer saltier water. Similar
210 coherent changes of water properties across the entire array occur during the 2007-09 de-
211 ployments on Oct.-31, 2008 which we show in Figs. 4 and 5 for the center channel location

212 KS10 and a coastal Canada location KS04. Additional sensors at KS06, KS08, and KS12
213 show similar behavior (Table 1).

214 During the 2003-06 period linear trends of potential temperature are indistinguishable
215 from zero within 95% confidence levels at all three locations across the channel (Table 1).
216 In contrast, salinity trends indicate freshening of about 0.018 ± 0.008 psu per year at KS02
217 (Fig. 5). Values at all three locations are indistinguishable from each other within their
218 respective uncertainties which is true for the 2007-09 period as well. For the latter period,
219 however, our data suggests more dramatic rates of change in time. Both temperature
220 and salinity trends are different from zero at 95% confidence except for one shallower
221 location (KS12). At KS04 temperature and salinity trends exceed 0.065 ± 0.022 °C per
222 year and 0.030 ± 0.013 psu per year (Fig 5). There is no apparent pattern in these rates
223 from sensor to sensor across the channel. We thus assume that each record represents an
224 independent realization of the same change. This reduces the uncertainty of the estimated
225 across-channel averaged trends by $\sqrt{N-1}$ where $N=3$ for 2003-06 and $N=5$ for 2007-09.
226 Sectionally averaged bottom temperature in Nares Strait thus warm by 0.027 ± 0.010 °C
227 and become saltier by 0.063 ± 0.017 per year from 2007 to 2009.

6. Discussion

228 The Arctic Ocean resembles an estuary with respect to the Atlantic Ocean. As a
229 strongly stratified ocean, it delivers relatively fresh waters to the Atlantic near the surface
230 and in return receives relative salty waters below the surface. Both the Arctic's sea ice
231 cover and the stability of Greenland's outlet glaciers depend on the delicate balance of
232 the inflows and outflows and the salt and heat content that these waters carry.

233 Analysis of historical records report Arctic change from ship-based observations [*Levitus*
234 *et al.*, 2009; *McLaughlin et al.*, 2009; *Polyakov et al.*, 2004; *Zweng and Münchow*, 2006;
235 *Melling*, 1998] of temperature and salinity for the last 10-100 years. Most of these records
236 contain linear trends that demonstrate subsurface warming of the Atlantic layer. The data
237 also contain large amounts of scatter and oscillations. Furthermore, much of the sampling
238 is seasonally biased towards the polar summers when access is easier. Few records are
239 sampled frequently enough to resolve temporal and spatial oscillations due to Kelvin and
240 Rossby waves [*Gill*, 1982] that have periods of days to months. And lastly, few historical
241 records are long enough to resolve interannual and decadal oscillations of the atmospheric
242 circulation patterns described by the North-Atlantic Oscillation [*Hurrell and Deser*, 2009]
243 and the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation [*Enfield et al.*, 2001].

244 Exceptions are *Levitus et al.* [2009] who finds strong correlations in an almost 110-
245 year long record of subsurface Barents Sea temperature measurements that correlate with
246 the Atlantic Meridional Oscillation. *Polyakov et al.* [2004] reports Atlantic layer core
247 temperatures from the slopes and basins of the Arctic ocean and also finds correlations
248 with climate indices in addition to a weak background warming trend of 0.026 ± 0.008
249 °C per decade for the region to the north of Nares Strait from discrete casts covering
250 26 different years with data. Note that this trend is an order of magnitude smaller than
251 what we report here for our 2003-09 mooring record and that the 26 CTD casts are widely
252 separated in both time and space.

253 We here report first results from moored records that for five years resolved hourly
254 to interannual time scales at 5-km spatial scales. Our array does not resolve decadal

255 variability, but the linear trend represents a first estimate of long-term variability that
256 includes both decadal variability and steady background warming or cooling. We are
257 presently unable to distinguish between the two. Nevertheless, combining our 2003-06
258 and 2007-09 records from three and five sensors, respectively, we find a mean warming
259 of about 0.023 ± 0.015 °C per year where the uncertainty represents a 95% confidence
260 interval for a 14 day decorrelation time scale determined conservatively from the data.
261 The salinity data reveal freshening of -0.001 ± 0.009 psu per year that is not significantly
262 different from a zero.

263 The observed trends are spatially coherent across the section. The large warming by
264 up to 0.07 °C per year starting in 2007 coincides with the arrival of waters that also
265 have higher salinities which reversed the freshening of prior years. Water properties in
266 Nares Strait also change at daily to interannual times scales perhaps associated with the
267 arrival of water mass fronts in θ - S space. The timing and frequency of such occurrences
268 contributes to the warming, however, it implies a different and potentially more dynamic
269 and nonlinear process than a steady, uniform, and linear rise of ocean temperatures.

270 We present two speculations on the cause of the enhanced warming, namely (a) ad-
271 vection from the north and (b) local convection with attendant vertical mixing. First,
272 warming waters of Atlantic origin previously detected in the Canadian Basin [*McLaughlin*
273 *et al.*, 2009] may have reached the Lincoln Sea, pushed over the 300-m deep northern sill,
274 and entered Nares Strait from the north. Bottom temperature and salinity in Nares Strait
275 suggest a source for such water at 350-m depth in the Arctic Ocean. In order to enter

276 Nares Strait, these waters must be lifted intermittently by almost 50-m to cross the sill
277 and plunge to the bottom of Nares Strait (Fig. 2).

278 A second, perhaps concurrent cause could be changing local ice conditions. More specif-
279 ically, for the 2003-06 period, Nares Strait developed ice arches at its southern entrance
280 [*Dumont et al.*, 2009] that remained in place for 158, 242, and 169 days during the 3
281 winters [*Kwok et al.*, 2010]. This arch locks all motion of ice in Nares Strait [*Dunbar*,
282 1973], decouples the ocean circulation from the local atmosphere, and supports the North
283 Water polynya [*Melling et al.*, 2001]. The polynya failed to form in the 2006/07 winter
284 [*Münchow et al.*, 2007] when ice was moving all year through Nares Strait from north
285 to south. During the 2007/08 winter it lasted for only 68 days [*Kwok et al.*, 2010], and
286 again failed to form at all in the winter of 2008/09. Instead, a northern ice arch formed
287 on January 17, 2009 (Fig. 7) and all locally produced sea ice was promptly exported into
288 Baffin Bay to the south. This northern ice arch formation coincided with a rapid warming
289 observed in 2009 at all locations in Nares Strait both near the bottom (Fig. 4) and within
290 the water column (not shown). Year-long southward advection of ice and surface waters
291 leads to enhanced local ice production, brine rejection and entrainment of overlying warm
292 waters as these brines sink. This process may be further enhanced during periods of strong
293 upwelling favorable winds from the north. The offshore Ekman transport off Greenland
294 due to winds from the north moves loose or thin ice towards the center of the channel.
295 The thus created open waters during freezing air temperatures result in enhanced sea ice
296 production, brine rejection and entrainment of overlying warm waters as these brines sink
297 (Fig. 7).

298 MODIS thermal imaging for the 2009/10 winter (not shown) indicates that a northern
299 ice arch similar to that shown in Fig. 7 formed intermittently without a southern ice
300 arch. Except for a short period in 2008, a southern ice arch has been in place since
301 Jan.-30, 2011 (not shown) for the first time since 2006 stopping all flow of ice in Nares
302 Strait. An array of bottom moored sensors was deployed in Nares Strait in 2009 that will
303 hopefully be recovered in 2012 to extend our ocean observations for another three years.
304 We hypothesize that the accelerated large warming trend coincident with the failure of a
305 southern ice arch will have continued through 2010 but will reverse in 2011. The fact that
306 we do find statistically significant regressions indicative of freshening for the 2003-06 and
307 increasing salinity for the 2007-09 periods should encourage (a) cautious interpretations of
308 short records and (b) efforts to extend existing interannual observations at key locations
309 such as Nares Strait. Such data are crucial for testing Arctic Ocean and climate models
310 under development with sufficient resolution to more faithfully represent flows and driving
311 forces through the Canadian Archipelago and adjacent waters.

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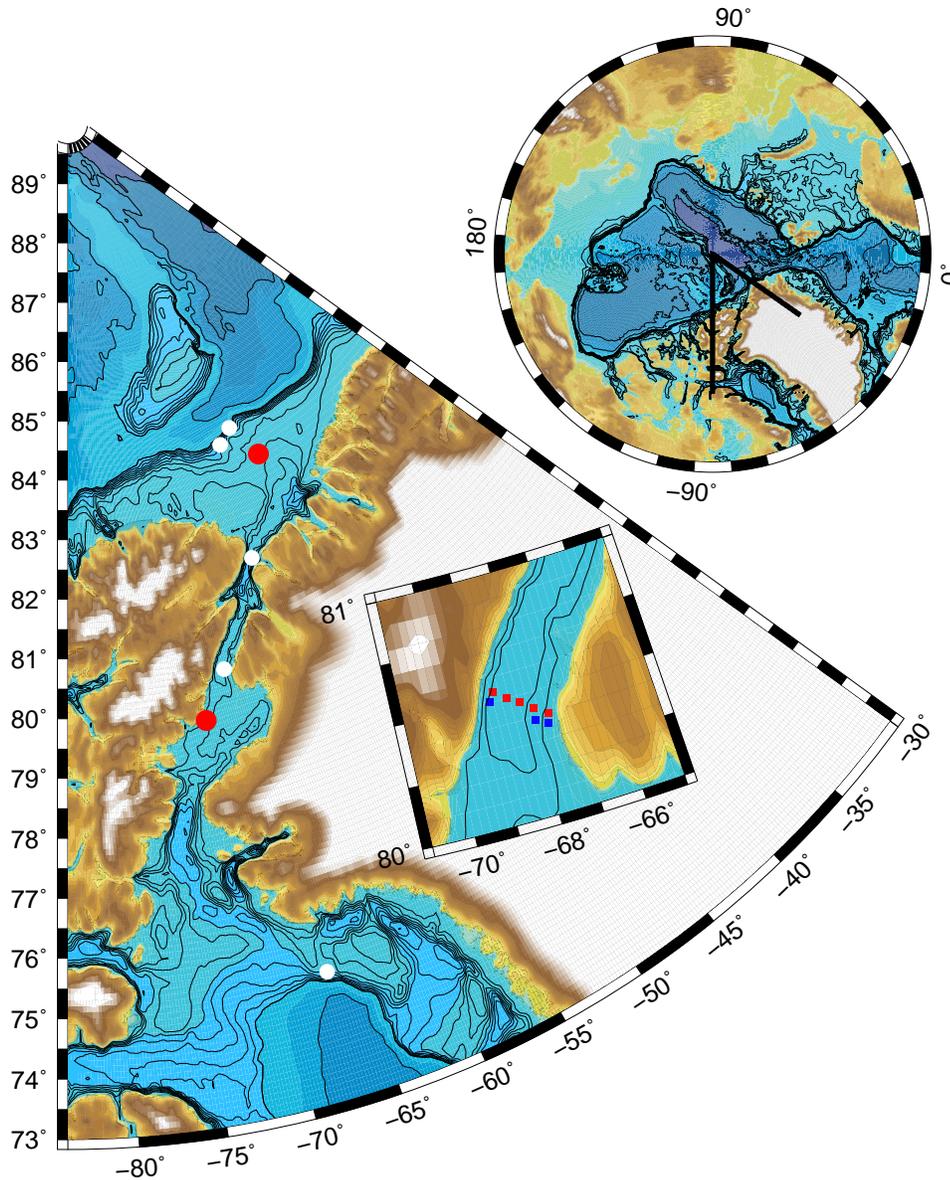


Figure 1. Maps of the Arctic Ocean (top right) and the Nares Strait (bottom left) study area with bottom contours from IBCAO in meters with contours every 100-m from 200-m to 1000-m and 1000-m beyond that depth. Sill locations are indicated with large red circles in the north (290-m) and south (225-m). White circles indicate locations of selected 2003 CTD casts. The inset near 80.5° N latitude indicates bottom-mounted ADCP mooring locations for 2003-06 (blue symbols for KS02, KS10, KS12 from west to east) and 2007-09 (red symbols for KS04, KS06, KS08, KS10, and KS12 from west to east), the symbols for the 2003-06 mooring locations are

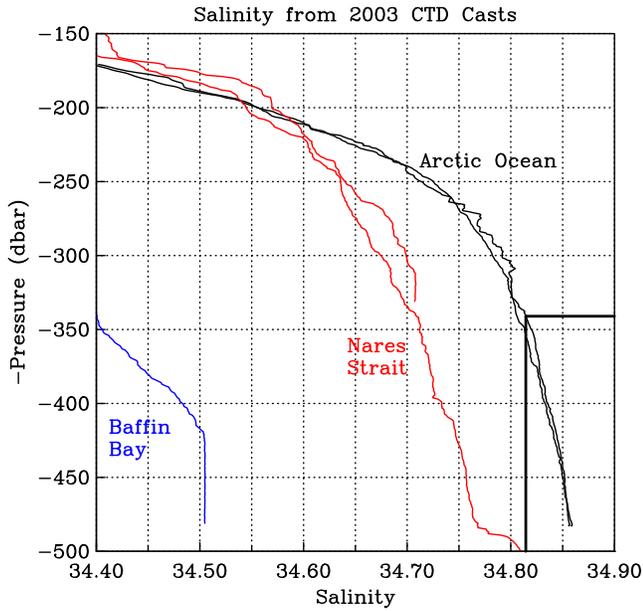


Figure 2. Vertical salinity profiles below 150-m from the Arctic Ocean to the north of the northern sill (black), Nares Strait between the northern and southern sill (red), and Baffin Bay to the south of the southern sill (blue). See Fig. 1 for locations. The Nares Strait profile terminating near 330 dbar originates from our mooring section while the profile terminating at 500 dbar is to the north where we find the densest water in 2003 ($\sigma_{\theta}=27.94 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$, $S=34.82$ psu).

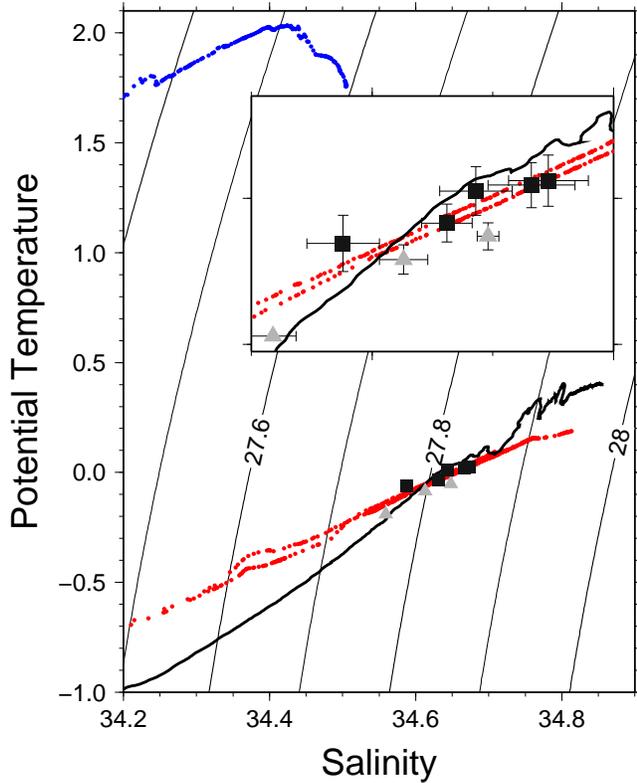


Figure 3. Temperature-Salinity correlations from the Arctic Ocean to the north of the northern sill (black), Nares Strait between the northern and southern sill (red), and Baffin Bay to the south of the southern sill depth (blue). Symbols represent record mean properties of eight mooring records in the range [34.56, 34.67] psu for salinity and [-0.19, +0.10] °C for temperature (Table 1) with triangles from the 2003-06 and rectangles from the 2007-09 deployment. See Fig. 1 for locations. Contours are lines of constant density. The insert is an expanded view where the uncertainties represent changes about the mean associated with changes discussed in the text.

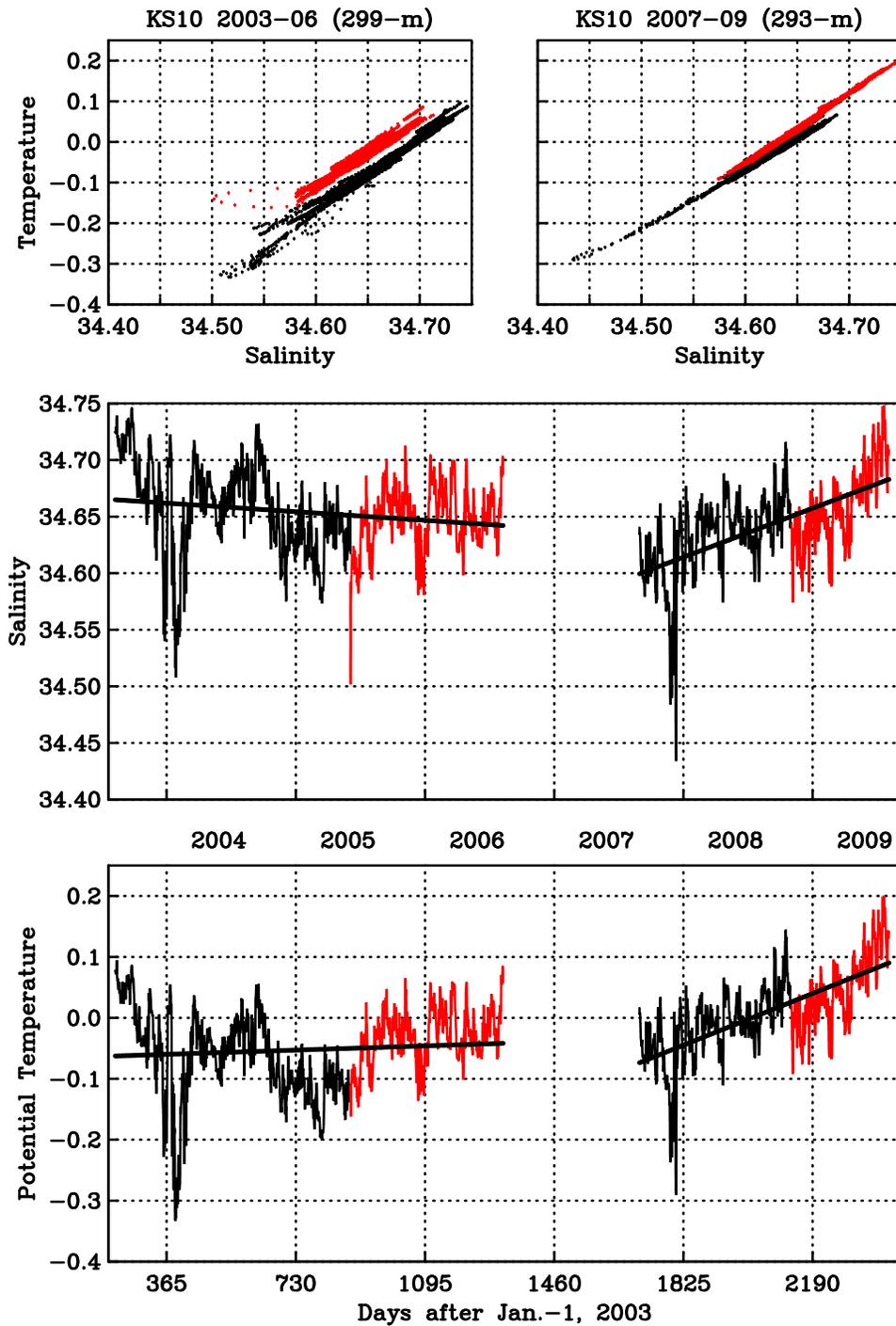


Figure 4. Time series and correlations of salinity and potential temperature near the bottom at KS10. Data are low-pass filtered to remove tidal and inertial variability. Different colors indicate data relative to events discussed in the text.

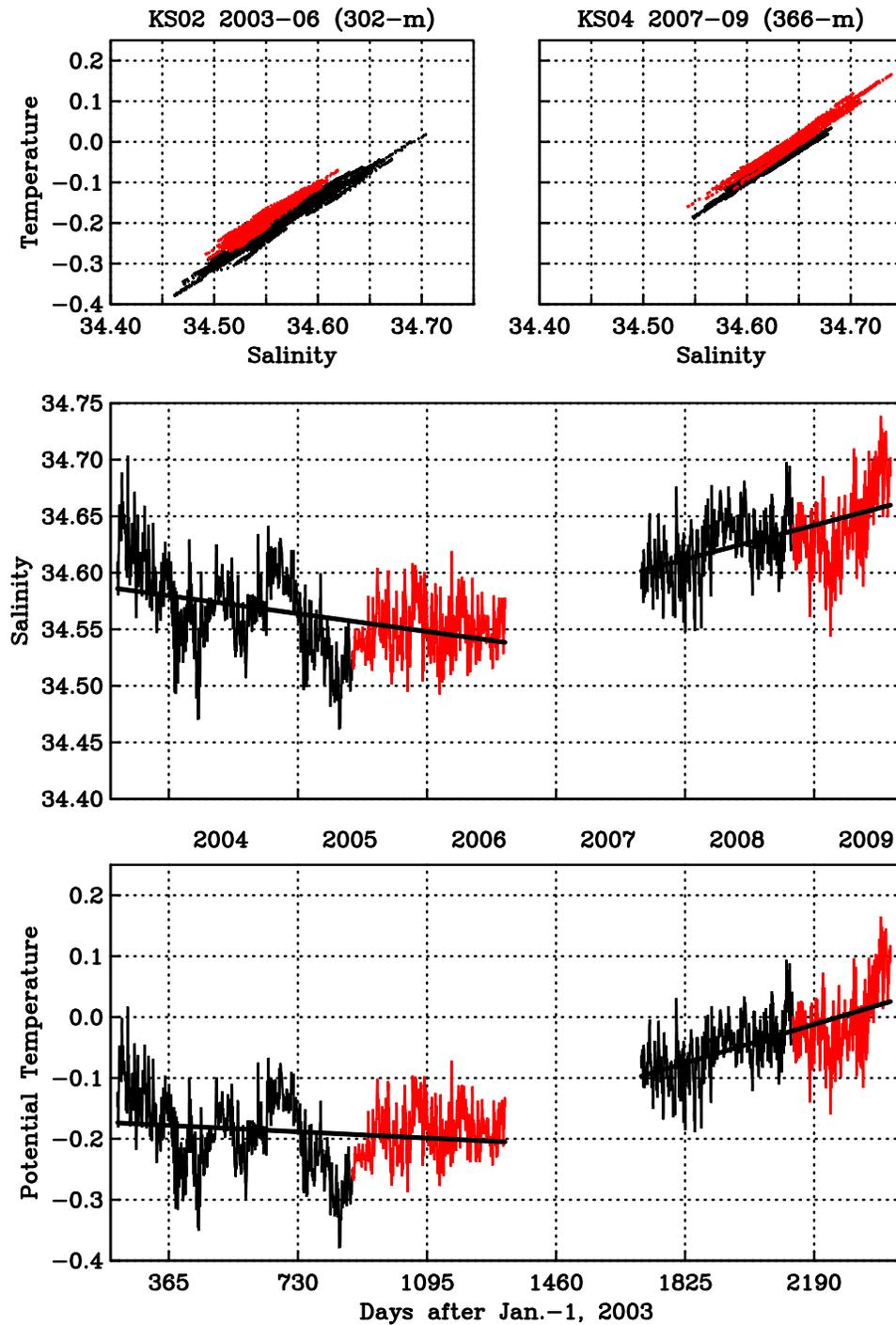


Figure 5. Time series and correlations of salinity and potential temperature near the bottom at KS02 for 2003-06 and KS04 for 2007-09. Data are low-pass filtered to remove tidal and inertial variability. Different colors indicate data relative to events discussed in the text.

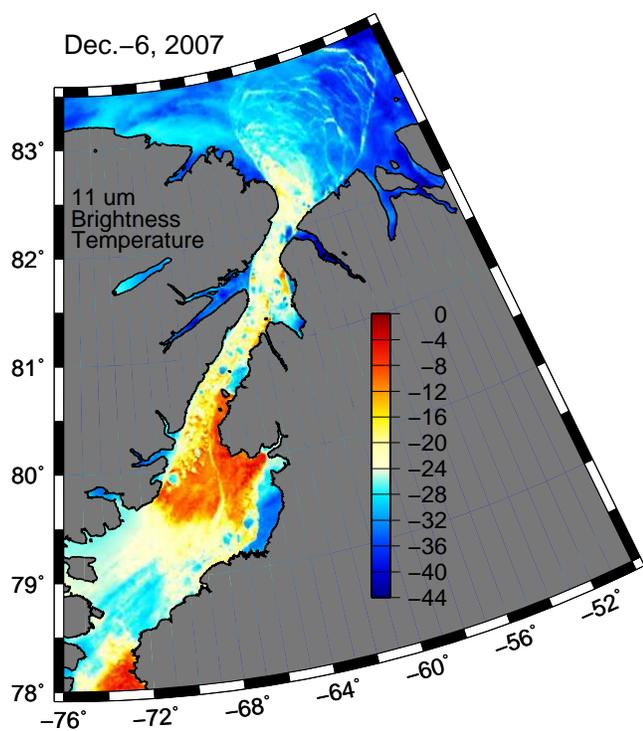


Figure 6. Brightness temperature at 11 μm from MODIS Terra on Dec.-6, 2007 (Day-1800 in Fig. 4) showing a large area of high temperatures near our mooring section at 80.5° N that represents thermal radiation from either open water or very thin ice.

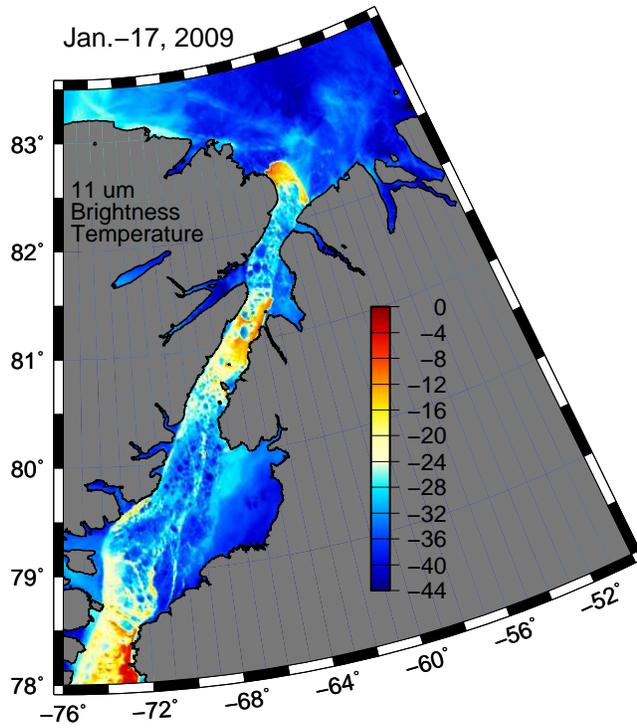


Figure 7. Brightness temperature at 11 μm from MODIS Terra on January 17, 2009.

Table 1. Mooring details, averaged temperature T_{bar} and salinity S_{bar} , linear trend for temperature dT/dt and salinity dS/dt along with 95% confidence levels assuming a 14 day decorrelation time scale resulting in 78 and 51 degrees of freedom for the 2003-06 and 2007-09 deployments, respectively.

Name	Lon., W	Lat., N	Depth, m	T_{bar} , psu	S_{bar} , °C	dT/dt , °C/year	dS/dt , psu/year
KS02 2003-06	68.8744	80.5538	302	-0.19	34.56	-0.010 ± 0.014	-0.018 ± 0.008
KS10 2003-06	67.9296	80.4388	299	-0.05	34.65	$+0.000 \pm 0.020$	-0.015 ± 0.010
KS12 2003-06	67.6709	80.4092	263	-0.08	34.61	$+0.001 \pm 0.025$	-0.026 ± 0.014
KS04 2007-09	68.7393	80.5378	366	-0.03	34.64	$+0.065 \pm 0.022$	$+0.030 \pm 0.013$
KS06 2007-09	68.4555	80.5038	358	+0.02	34.67	$+0.063 \pm 0.028$	$+0.035 \pm 0.016$
KS08 2007-09	68.1850	80.4715	356	+0.02	34.67	$+0.066 \pm 0.029$	$+0.028 \pm 0.017$
KS10 2007-09	67.8930	80.4355	293	+0.01	34.64	$+0.059 \pm 0.037$	$+0.023 \pm 0.022$
KS12 2007-09	67.5927	80.3993	228	-0.06	34.59	$+0.064 \pm 0.047$	$+0.019 \pm 0.030$