

The Threat of Storms Wreaking Havoc in the Arctic Ocean

By [Sam Carana](#)

Theme: [Environment](#)

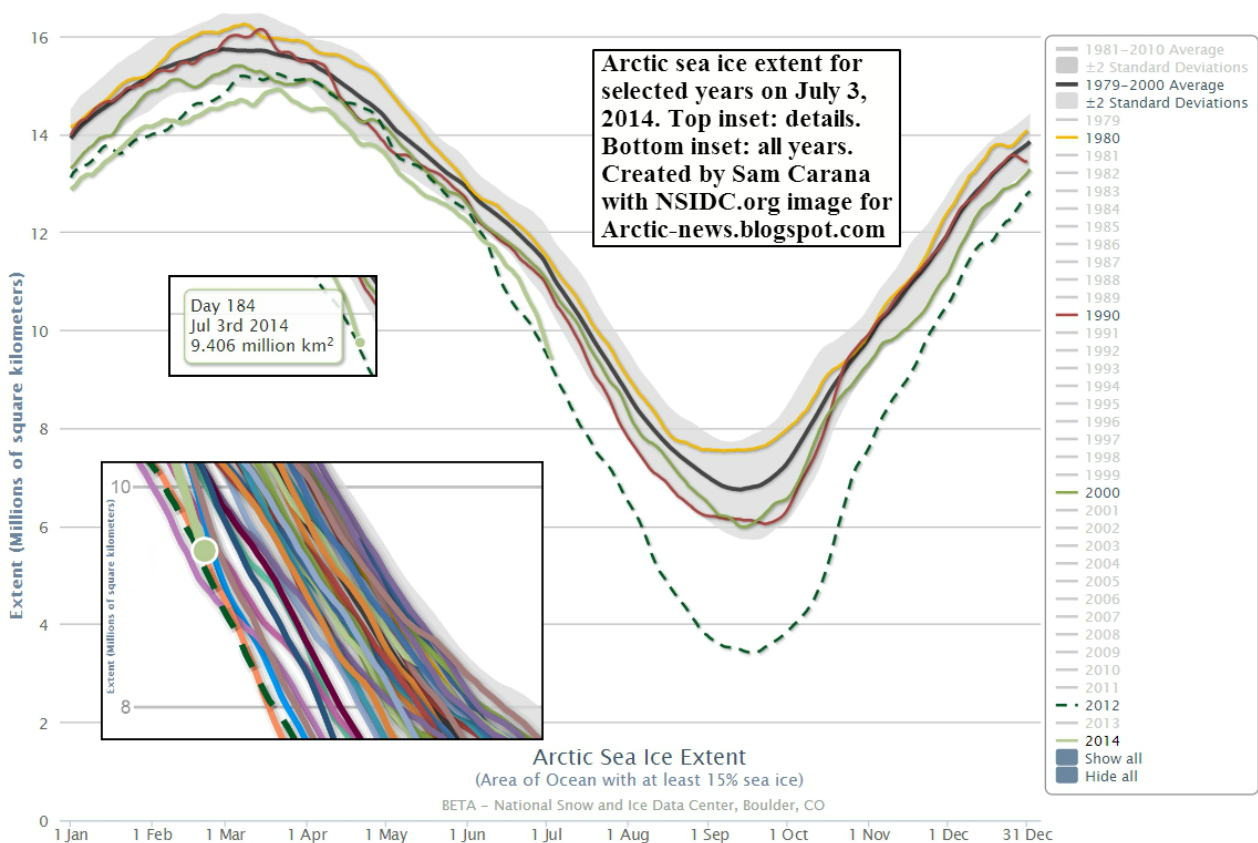
Global Research, July 05, 2014

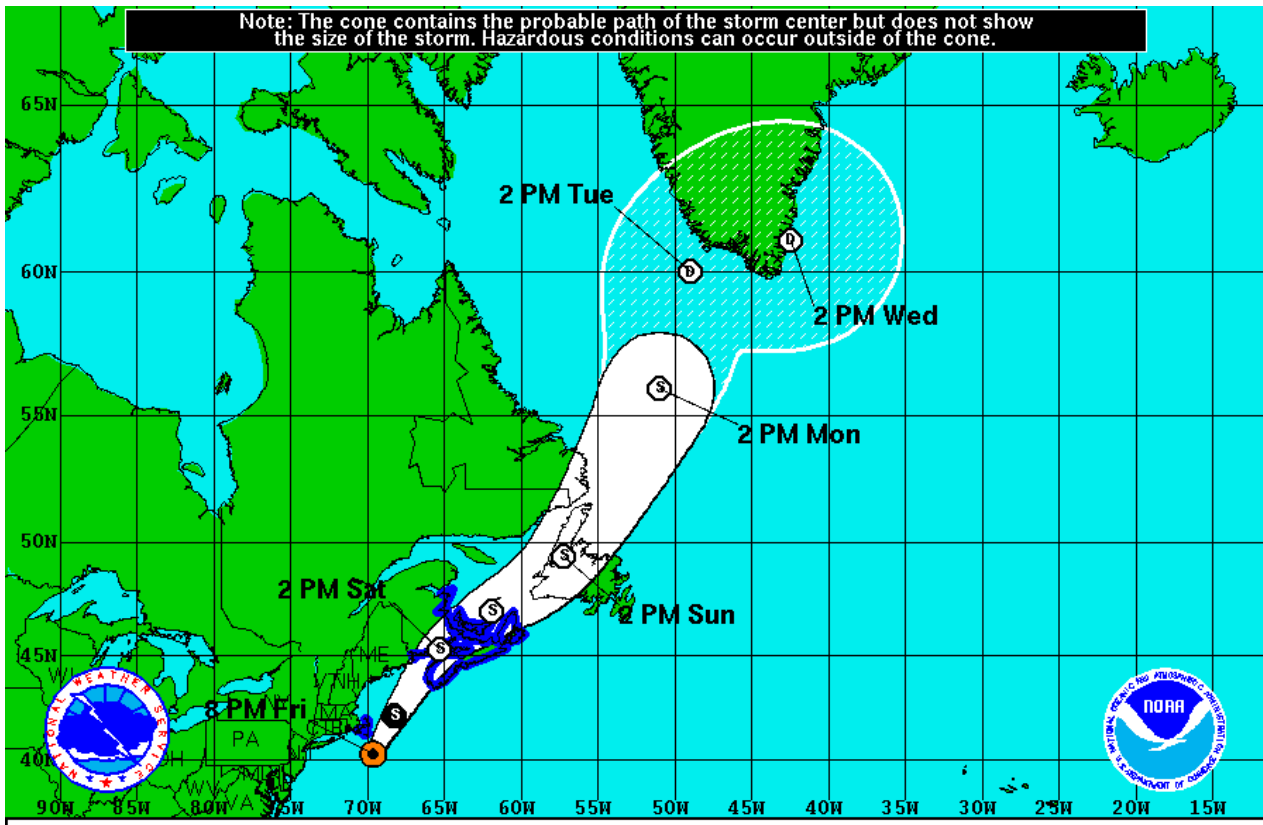
[Arctic News](#)

Arctic sea ice extent is close to a record low for this time of the year, as the image below shows.

Furthermore, the current decline in sea ice extent is much steeper than it used to be for this time of the year, raising the specter of sea ice hitting an absolute record low later this year.

Moreover, a total collapse of sea ice may occur if storms continue to develop that push the remaining ice out of the Arctic Ocean into the Atlantic Ocean.

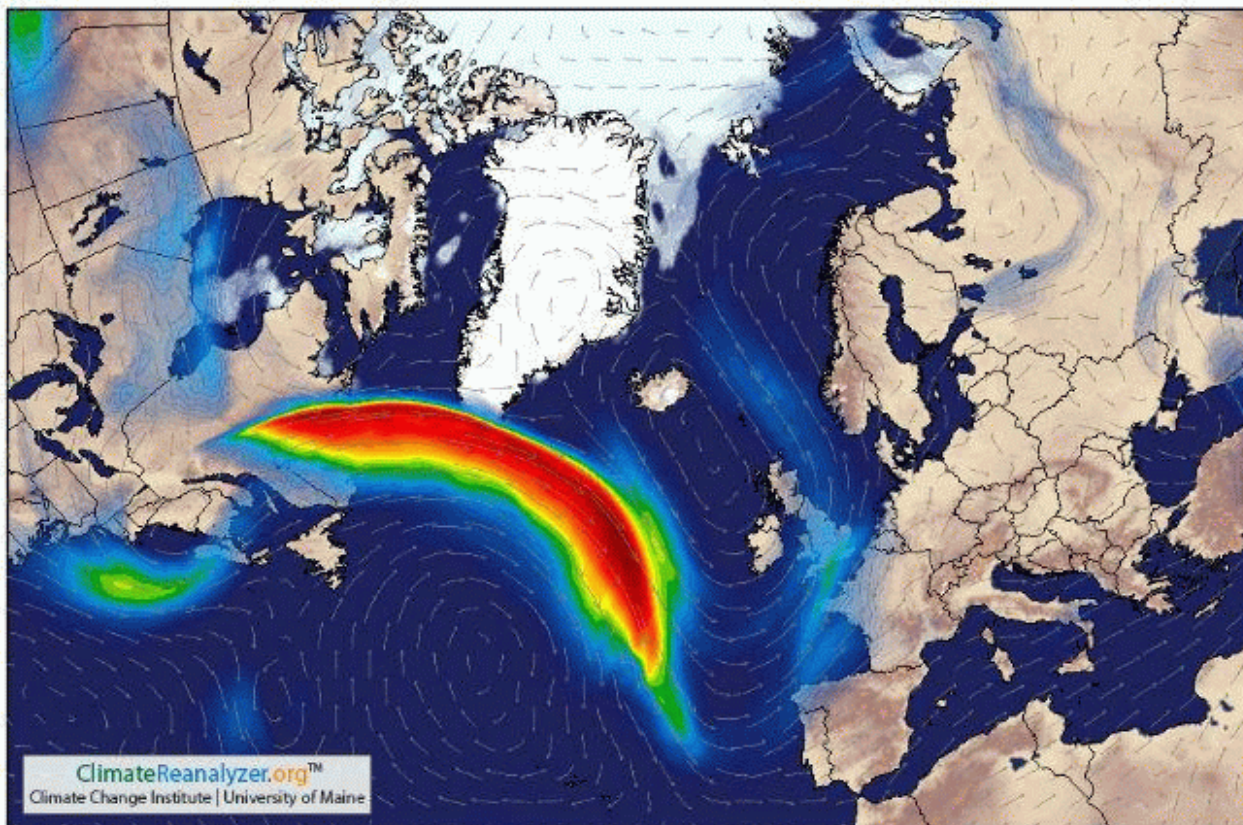




Hurricane Arthur Friday July 4, 2014 8 PM EDT Intermediate Advisory 16A NWS National Hurricane Center	Current Information: ● Center Location 40.3 N 69.6 W Max Sustained Wind 80 mph Movement NE at 28 mph	Forecast Positions: ● Tropical Cyclone ○ Post-Tropical Sustained Winds: D < 39 mph S 39-73 mph H 74-110 mph M > 110mph
Potential Track Area: Day 1-3 Day 4-5	Watches: Hurricane Trop.Storm	Warnings: Hurricane Trop.Storm

The threat posed by storms is illustrated by the track projected to be followed by Hurricane Arthur over the next few days, as shown on above NOAA image.

The path followed by Hurricane Arthur is influenced by the current shape of the jet stream. As the animation below illustrates, the jet stream looks set to prevent Hurricane Arthur from moving to the east and instead make it move into the Labrador Sea to the west of Greenland and - partly due to the high mountains on Greenland - continue to wreak havoc in Baffin Bay further north.



Created by Sam Carana for Arctic-news.blogspot.com
Wind Speed at 250 millibar (m/s)

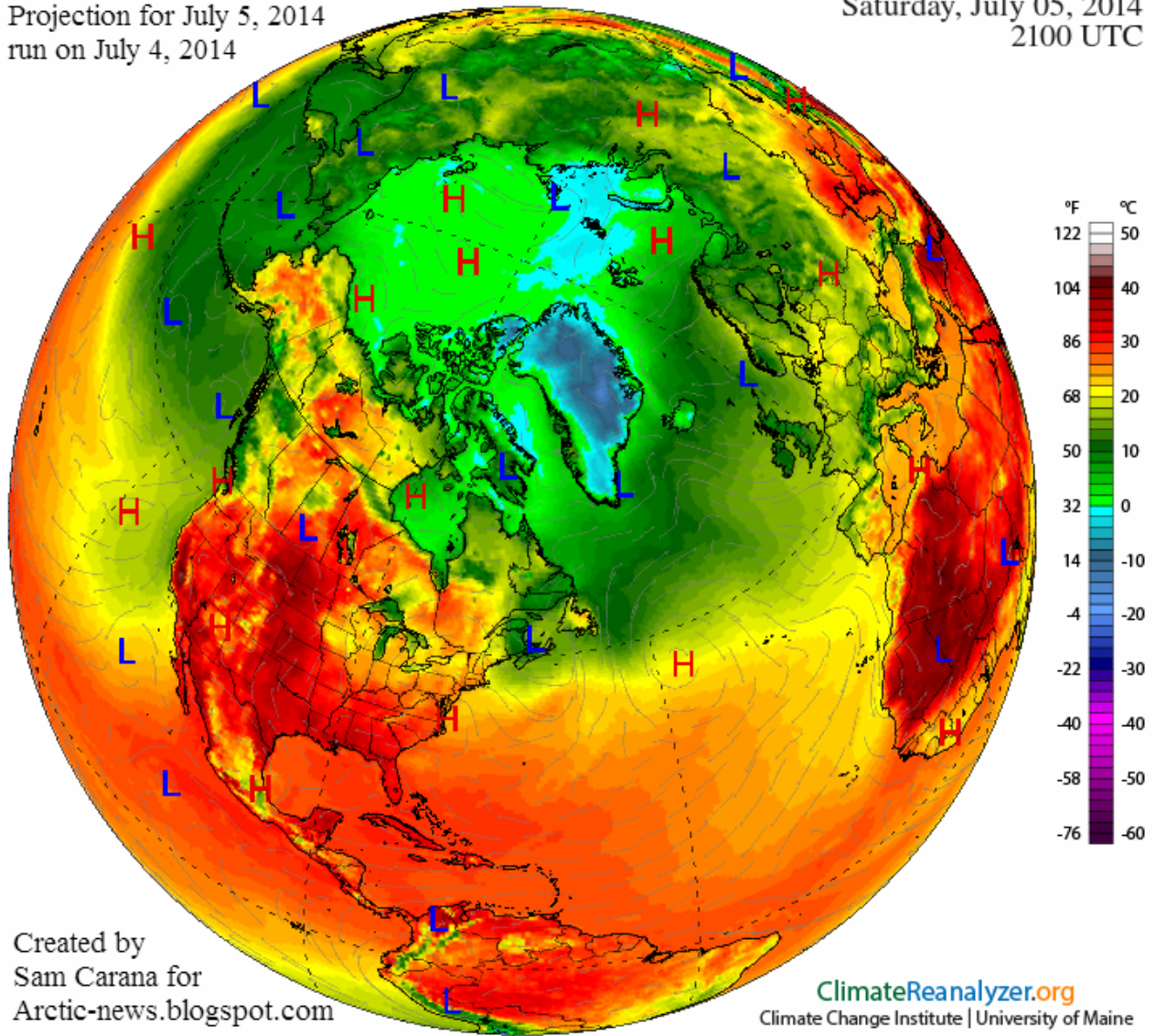
0	25	50	75	100	125
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[Note: this animation is a 1.87 MB file that may take some time to fully load]

Last month, the [June heat record broke in Greenland](#). Very high temperatures are currently recorded all over North America, as the image below shows.

Global Forecast System Model
Projection for July 5, 2014
run on July 4, 2014

Temperature at 2 meters
Saturday, July 05, 2014
2100 UTC

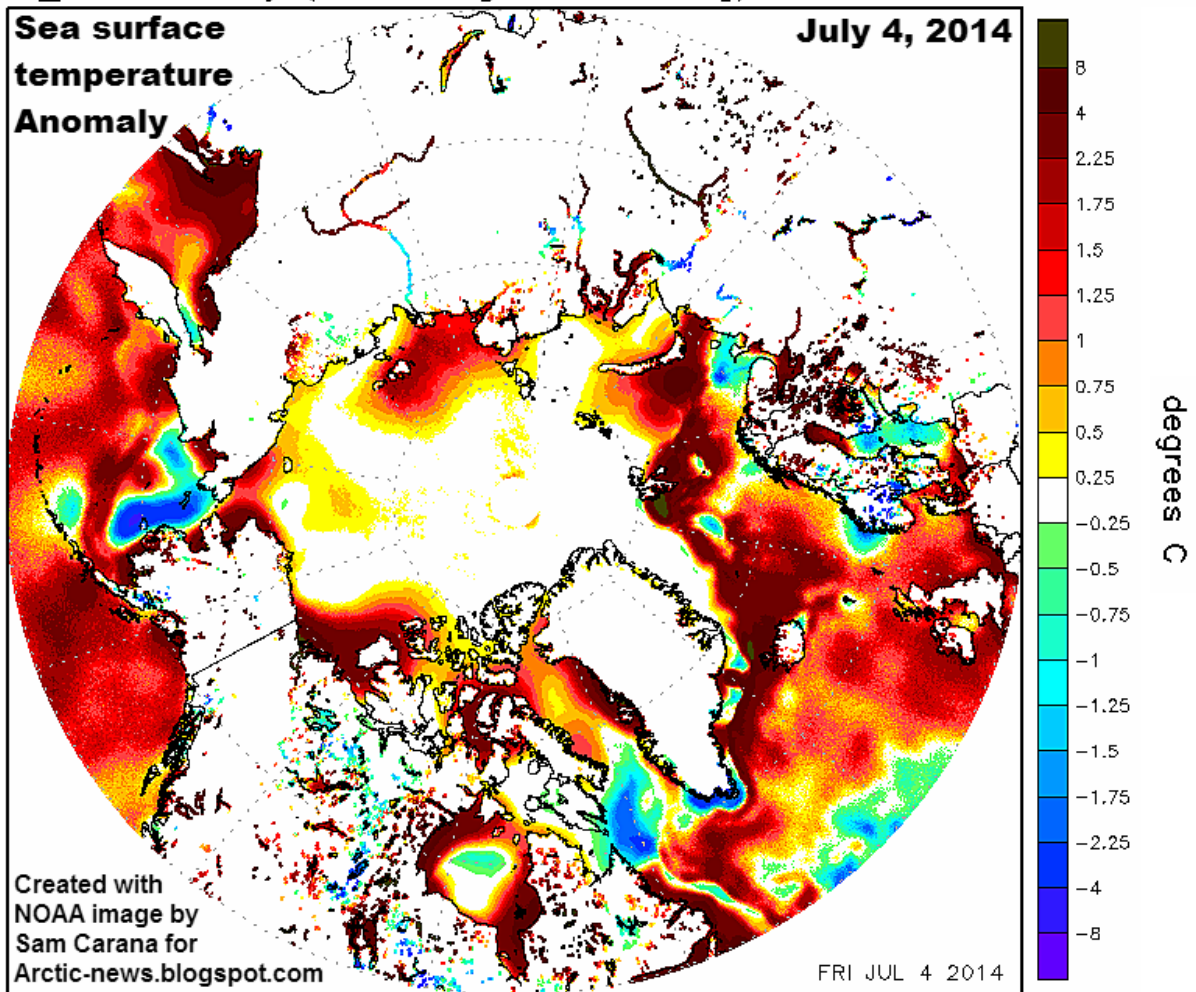


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Sam Carana for
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ClimateReanalyzer.org
Climate Change Institute | University of Maine

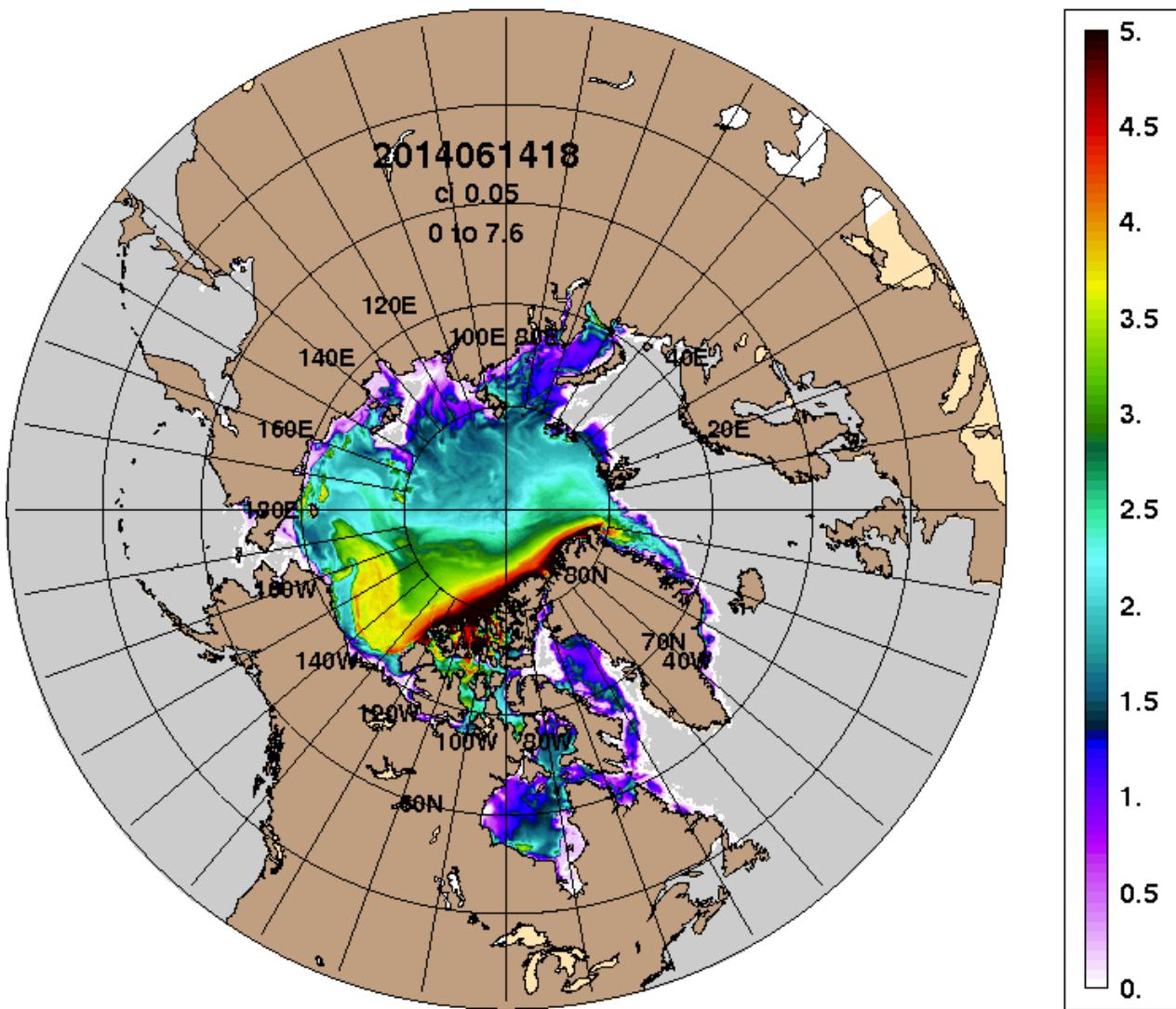
Furthermore, sea surface temperature anomalies in the Arctic are currently very high, as the image below shows.

NOAA/NWS/NCEP/EMC Marine Modeling and Analysis Branch Oper H.R.
RTG_SST Anomaly (0.083 deg X 0.083 deg) for 04 Jul 2014



Finally, the sea ice is currently very thin, as shown by the Naval Research Laboratory animation below.

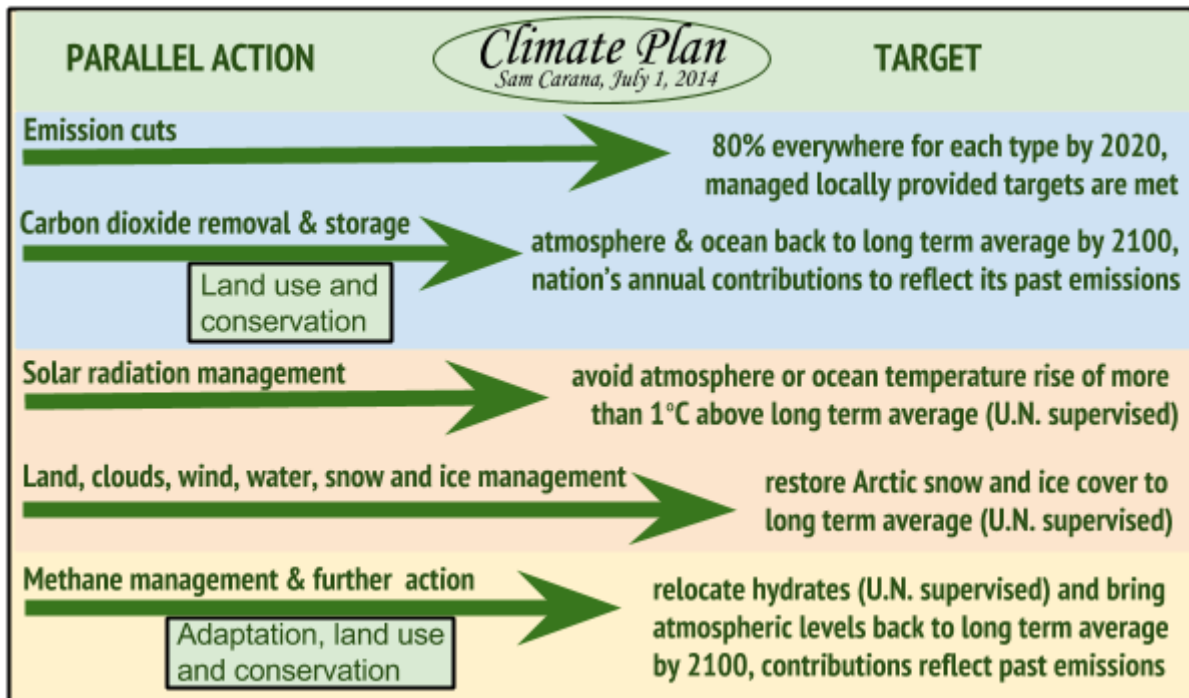
ARCc0.08-03.9 Ice Thickness (m): 20140612



The above animation further shows that there now is very little sea ice left in Baffin Bay, making it easier for storms to cause very high waves that could enter the Arctic Ocean and break the sea ice north of Greenland and Canada.

Arctic sea ice volume minimum is typically reached around halfway into September. This is still months away, but the prospect of an El Niño event striking this year now is 90%, according to [predictions by the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts](#).

All this combines into a growing threat that hydrates contained in sediments will destabilize and that huge quantities of methane will be released abruptly from the seafloor of the Arctic Ocean. The risk that this will eventuate is intolerable and calls for parallel lines of action as pictured in the image below.



Source: [Climate Plan](#)

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