

Welcome to NOAA's Arctic Program.

The 2020 Report Card: “The sustained transformation to a warmer, less frozen and biologically changed Arctic remains clear.”

“Extreme warm air temperatures in the Eurasian Arctic illustrate significant region-wide effects of year-to-year variability and connections across the Arctic environment.”

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION.

NOAA Arctic Program

The Arctic: As used in this document, the term “Arctic” means all United States and foreign territory north of the Arctic Circle and all United States territory north and west of the boundary formed by the Porcupine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers; all contiguous seas, including the Arctic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering and Chukchi Seas; and the Aleutian chain. For purposes of this document only, this map illustrates the Arctic as defined under the Arctic Research and Policy Act and does not represent or reflect the position of NOAA with respect to the international boundaries and limits depicted therein.

The Arctic has profound significance for climate and functioning of ecosystems around the globe. The region is particularly vulnerable and prone to rapid change. Increasing air and ocean temperatures, thawing permafrost, loss of sea ice, and shifts in ecosystems are evidence of widespread and dramatic ongoing change. As a result, critical environmental, economic, and national security issues are emerging, many of which have significant impacts for human lives, livelihoods, and coastal communities.

Though NOAA has numerous and diverse capabilities that support these emerging issues, a strategic approach that leverages NOAA’s existing priorities and strengths, as well as those of our national and international partners, is needed. This document provides a high-level framework and six strategic goals to address NOAA’s highest priorities in the region. It is based upon assumptions that the region will: 1) continue to experience dramatic change, 2) become more accessible to human activities, and 3) be a focus of increasing global strategic interest.

NOAA'S ARCTIC VISION AND STRATEGY.

NOAA envisions an Arctic where decisions and actions related to conservation, management, and use are based on sound science and support healthy, productive, and resilient communities and ecosystems. The agency seeks a future where the global implications of Arctic change are better understood and predicted.

NOAA's Arctic Vision and Strategy, *Executive Summary* of the NOAA's Arctic Vision and Strategy, released February 2011 provides a high-level framework and six strategic goals to address NOAA's highest priorities in the region:

- Healthy Arctic Communities and Economies
- Forecast Sea Ice
- Strengthen Foundational Science to Understand and Detect Arctic Climate and Ecosystem Changes
- Improve Weather and Water Forecasts and Warnings
- Enhance International and National Partnerships
- Improve Stewardship and Management of Ocean and Coastal Resources in the Arctic
- Advance Resilient and Healthy Arctic Communities and Economies

LINK: <https://www.arctic.noaa.gov/Arctic-News/ArtMID/5556/ArticleID/320/NOAAs-Arctic-Vision-and-Strategy>

NOAA'S ARCTIC ACTION PLAN

In 2014, President Obama released a plan for moving forward on his national strategy to advance U.S. security and stewardship interests in the Arctic. In keeping with the goals and tenets of his strategy, NOAA released its Arctic Action Plan—a document that provides NOAA scientists, stakeholders and partners a roadmap to make shared progress...

About the Arctic Report Card

LINK: <http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/Arctic-News/ArtMID/5556/ArticleID/308/NOAAs-Arctic-Action-Plan>

ARCTIC REPORT CARD.

REPORT CARD

This annually published peer reviewed report gathers the latest science from top experts to track changes in the Arctic. Issued annually since 2006, the Arctic Report Card is a timely and peer-reviewed source for clear, reliable and concise environmental information on the current state of different components of the Arctic environmental system relative to historical records. The Report Card is intended for a wide audience, including scientists, teachers, students, decision-makers and the general public interested in the Arctic environment and science.

LINK: <https://arctic.noaa.gov/Report-Card/Report-Card-2020>

This Arctic Report Card was discovered in a New York Times report of December 9, 2020.