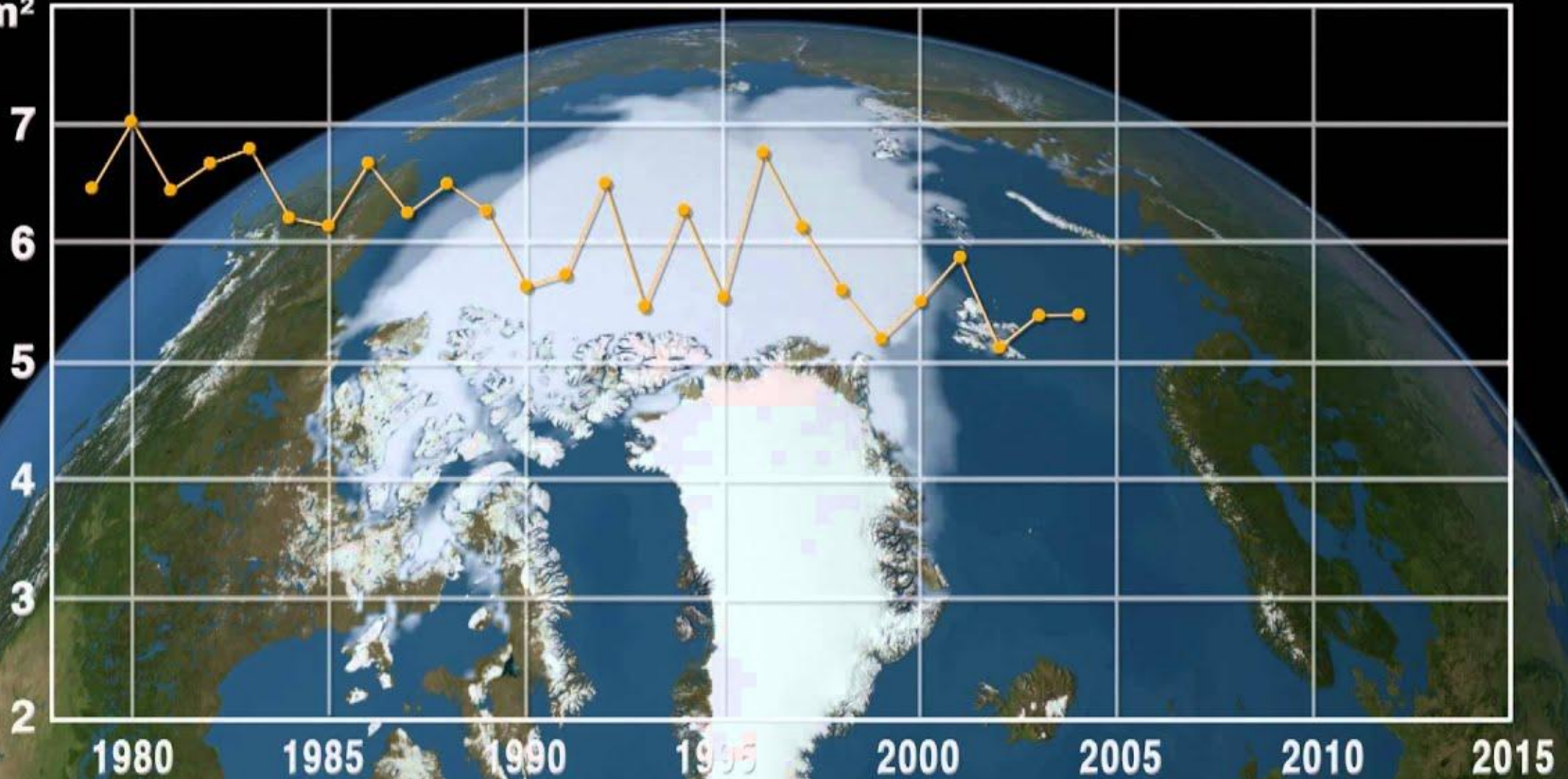


ARCTIC SEA ICE AREA

Millions
km²



1

00:00:02,290 --> 00:00:07,970

Satellite observations by NASA show sea ice in the Arctic has reached an annual low

2

00:00:08,750 --> 00:00:15,960

The sea ice receded to an area of 1.94 million square miles on September 17th 2014

3

00:00:16,900 --> 00:00:19,929

making it the sixth lowest extent on record

4

00:00:19,930 --> 00:00:23,320

Arctic Sea ice basically acts as a big air conditioner for the planet

5

00:00:23,370 --> 00:00:26,120

When the sun shines down on it, most of the energy is reflected away

6

00:00:26,140 --> 00:00:28,720

So it helps to keep the planet cool

7

00:00:29,100 --> 00:00:33,530

Since 1979, we've been monitoring the extent of sea ice with satellites

8

00:00:33,550 --> 00:00:38,950

and at the present time we've lost an area equivalent about a third of the United States

9

00:00:39,460 --> 00:00:41,330

It goes up and down every year

10

00:00:41,350 --> 00:00:44,780

but the long-term trend is that we've been losing a lot of sea ice

11

00:00:45,400 --> 00:00:48,780

In large part, what's been causing the decrease has been heat

12

00:00:48,800 --> 00:00:49,960

The Arctic has been warming up

13

00:00:49,980 --> 00:00:51,570

Especially in the last 10 years

14

00:00:51,590 --> 00:00:55,500

The temperatures in the Arctic have risen about two to three times the global average

15

00:00:56,020 --> 00:00:58,380

So increases in the global temperature have been

16

00:00:58,400 --> 00:00:01,080

decreasing the thickness and extent of Arctic Sea ice

17

00:01:01,300 --> 00:01:06,270

The total volume of sea ice at the end of the summer melt season in 2013

18

00:01:06,290 --> 00:01:09,950

is about two thirds less compared to 1979

19

00:01:11,260 --> 00:01:14,600

The lost of Arctic Sea ice thickness makes it less resilient

20

00:01:15,230 --> 00:01:19,030

If It's just not as thick, what happens is that it melts faster

21

00:01:19,050 --> 00:01:22,210

and because of this, it just doesn't stay around as long in the summer