



1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,990

[Music] Narrator: Barring any late season surges,

2
00:00:04,010 --> 00:00:08,000

we can now say that Arctic sea ice reached its peak extent for this

3
00:00:08,020 --> 00:00:12,010

year's freeze cycle on Feb. 25th. It's the smallest winter

4
00:00:12,030 --> 00:00:16,020

maximum coverage since we began consistently tracking the ice pack

5
00:00:16,040 --> 00:00:20,020

with satellites in 1979, and the second earliest peak as well.

6
00:00:20,040 --> 00:00:24,030

Much of the winter ice pack consists of thin ice that will melt in the summer,

7
00:00:24,050 --> 00:00:28,030

and scientists say that while this winter did set a new record,

8
00:00:28,050 --> 00:00:32,040

trends in the summer minimum extent are more interesting scientifically and a better

9
00:00:32,060 --> 00:00:36,040

indicator of climate change. Here we see in yellow

10
00:00:36,060 --> 00:00:40,050

where the ice extent is low near the coasts of Russia and Alaska, or more precisely,

11
00:00:40,070 --> 00:00:44,050

the difference between this year's ice pack and the average maximum