
Historical Average
1981-2010

1
00:00:00,130 --> 00:00:04,290
NASA and NSIDC scientists report that

2
00:00:04,310 --> 00:00:08,470
sea ice in the Arctic reached an annual minimum extent of 1.7

3
00:00:08,490 --> 00:00:12,670
million square miles on September 11th, 2015.

4
00:00:12,690 --> 00:00:16,770
According to scientists, it is the fourth lowest extent on record.

5
00:00:16,790 --> 00:00:20,940
Scientists have continuously monitored Arctic sea ice using satellites

6
00:00:20,960 --> 00:00:25,130
since 1979. Compared to the 30-year average

7
00:00:25,150 --> 00:00:29,280
from 1981-2010, this year's minimum extent

8
00:00:29,300 --> 00:00:33,290
is 699,000 square miles lower a difference an area

9
00:00:33,310 --> 00:00:37,320
comparable to the state of Alaska. Scientists have observed a

10
00:00:37,340 --> 00:00:41,390
trend in declining sea ice coverage over the past three decades.

11
00:00:41,410 --> 00:00:45,440
Satellite measurements show 10 record minimums have occurred in the last

12
00:00:45,460 --> 00:00:49,630
11 years. Measurements also show that more than the thin seasonal ice

13
00:00:49,650 --> 00:00:53,700

is melting. The thicker and slower growing multi-year ice is becoming

14
00:00:53,720 --> 00:00:57,880
increasingly less resilient. As a result, scientists say