

A middle-aged man with short grey hair and glasses is speaking. He is wearing a bright yellow-green t-shirt under a dark jacket with grey panels on the sleeves. The background shows a multi-story building with green siding and stone accents, some trees, and a cloudy sky.

Steven Wofsy

ATom Principal Investigator, Harvard University

1
00:00:05,749 --> 00:00:02,950
uh yesterday's flight was intended to

2
00:00:08,150 --> 00:00:05,759
take us from the deserts of california

3
00:00:10,549 --> 00:00:08,160
to the north pole so the mission turned

4
00:00:12,629 --> 00:00:10,559
out to be quite a challenge then we had

5
00:00:14,470 --> 00:00:12,639
bad weather in the arctic and made it

6
00:00:16,310 --> 00:00:14,480
very difficult for us to do the sampling

7
00:00:18,470 --> 00:00:16,320
that we had really intended to do the

8
00:00:20,470 --> 00:00:18,480
crew was very resourceful and they were

9
00:00:21,910 --> 00:00:20,480
able to take us from the upper

10
00:00:22,870 --> 00:00:21,920
atmosphere down right down to the

11
00:00:24,630 --> 00:00:22,880
surface

12
00:00:27,429 --> 00:00:24,640
where we flew around and were able to

13
00:00:29,750 --> 00:00:27,439

observe melting of the ice and also to

14

00:00:32,150 --> 00:00:29,760

observe the changing and

15

00:00:33,430 --> 00:00:32,160

composition into the core of the arctic

16

00:00:36,870 --> 00:00:33,440

circulation

17

00:00:39,350 --> 00:00:36,880

we found the air was really really clean

18

00:00:42,630 --> 00:00:39,360

but outside of there it's been extremely

19

00:00:44,549 --> 00:00:42,640

hot and dry in alaska and in siberia and

20

00:00:46,790 --> 00:00:44,559

there's a lot of fire burning and we

21

00:00:49,990 --> 00:00:46,800

could see the output of smoke all the

22

00:00:52,869 --> 00:00:50,000

way there and we also were traveling

23

00:00:55,830 --> 00:00:52,879

into the kind of the heartland of

24

00:00:58,150 --> 00:00:55,840

climate change so the arctic is

25

00:01:00,389 --> 00:00:58,160

changing very very quickly we didn't see

26
00:01:02,549 --> 00:01:00,399
any multi-year ice all we saw were very

27
00:01:03,750 --> 00:01:02,559
very flat pieces of ice that were all

28
00:01:06,789 --> 00:01:03,760
broken up

29
00:01:08,870 --> 00:01:06,799
uh the flat pieces of first year ice we

30
00:01:10,630 --> 00:01:08,880
had done this same trip 20 years ago

31
00:01:12,950 --> 00:01:10,640
there would have been scabs of moldy or

32
00:01:14,550 --> 00:01:12,960
ice and very little open water so it was

33
00:01:19,830 --> 00:01:14,560
a very successful flight and we're

34
00:01:26,310 --> 00:01:23,270
we are here in hawaii now we're at the

35
00:01:28,390 --> 00:01:26,320
james cook memorial this is where a spot

36
00:01:30,789 --> 00:01:28,400
near where james cook was killed now

37
00:01:32,630 --> 00:01:30,799
james cook was the captain of a british

38
00:01:34,630 --> 00:01:32,640

ship exploring the world this is what

39

00:01:37,670 --> 00:01:34,640

the atom mission is doing right now we

40

00:01:39,670 --> 00:01:37,680

are flying the nasa dc8 around the world

41

00:01:41,830 --> 00:01:39,680

jumping from spot to spot uh yesterday

42

00:01:44,230 --> 00:01:41,840

on wednesday we jumped down from

43

00:01:45,910 --> 00:01:44,240

anchorage alaska down here to hawaii and

44

00:01:49,510 --> 00:01:45,920

we went past a little

45

00:01:51,670 --> 00:01:49,520

uh aleutian um airfield called cold bay

46

00:01:53,830 --> 00:01:51,680

and in fact we went down over cold bay a

47

00:01:55,749 --> 00:01:53,840

couple hundred feet so all the way down

48

00:01:58,310 --> 00:01:55,759

here to hawaii we're going up and down

49

00:02:01,590 --> 00:01:58,320

and up and down measuring atmospheric

50

00:02:03,109 --> 00:02:01,600

gases so like james cook

51

00:02:05,590 --> 00:02:03,119

we're exploring the world we're

52

00:02:07,429 --> 00:02:05,600

exploring the atmosphere to find out

53

00:02:09,190 --> 00:02:07,439

what might happen in the future from

54

00:02:12,229 --> 00:02:09,200

climate change so today we're in this

55

00:02:14,390 --> 00:02:12,239

lovely spot on saturday we fly down to

56

00:02:15,990 --> 00:02:14,400

american samoa and then it's on to