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Arctic Research Cruise Planning 2024-2026: A Discussion with the AICC

Frank R. Rack, Ph.D., Program Manager, Arctic Research Support and Logistics Program
NSF Office of Polar Programs, Arctic Sciences Section

NSF/OPP's Arctic Sciences Section and the Arctic Research Support and Logistics Program



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Vessel Support

The NSF Arctic Research Support and Logistics (RSL) Program works with NSF/OCE/IPS Program Officers, the USCG, national and international vessel operators, and our Arctic logistics contractor (Battelle-ARO) to identify vessel requirements for proposed projects and then negotiate terms and conditions to acquire ship time on domestic and international icebreakers, vessels of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet (ARF), or commercial charter vessels, to provide support to NSF-funded Arctic Sciences Section and related projects.

USCGC HEALY and other vessels of the U.S. ARF, or foreign research vessels, if applicable, are requested using a **Ship-time & Marine Equipment (SME)** request form that is submitted through the **Marine Facilities Planning (MFP)** application (<https://www.mfp.us/>). The SME form is included as a **Supplementary Document** in research proposals that are submitted to NSF for peer review.

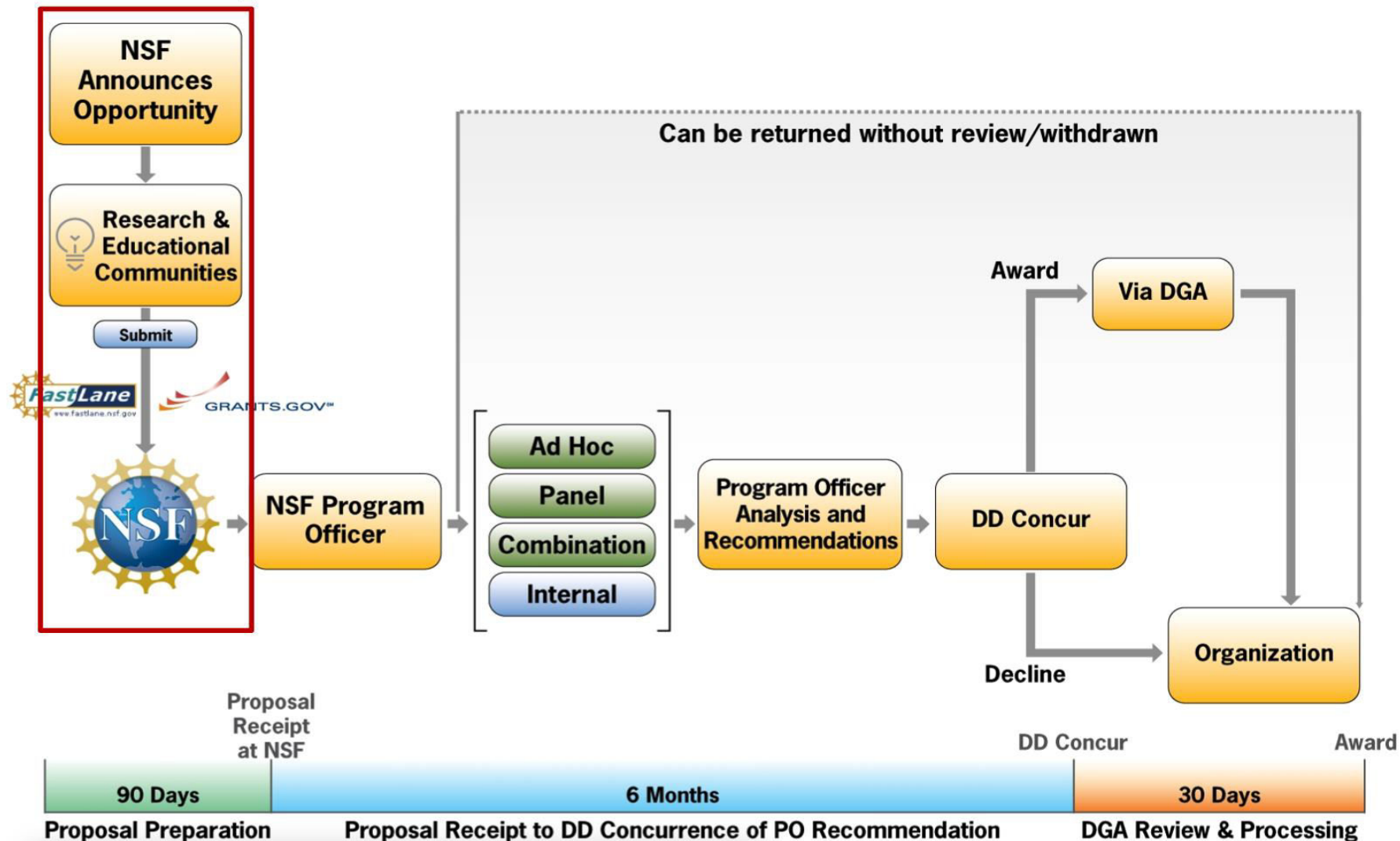
Vessel Operators of the U.S. ARF (and potentially others, like the USCG) use the information provided in the SME request forms to develop and confirm annual vessel schedules. Research project PI's update their SME submissions in the MFP to clarify the source of project funding and status prior to scheduling.

Proposals requesting access to Arctic research vessels and icebreakers should submit proposals two or more years prior to the desired time of the cruise to provide sufficient time for planning.

NSF Typical Proposal & Award Process Timeline



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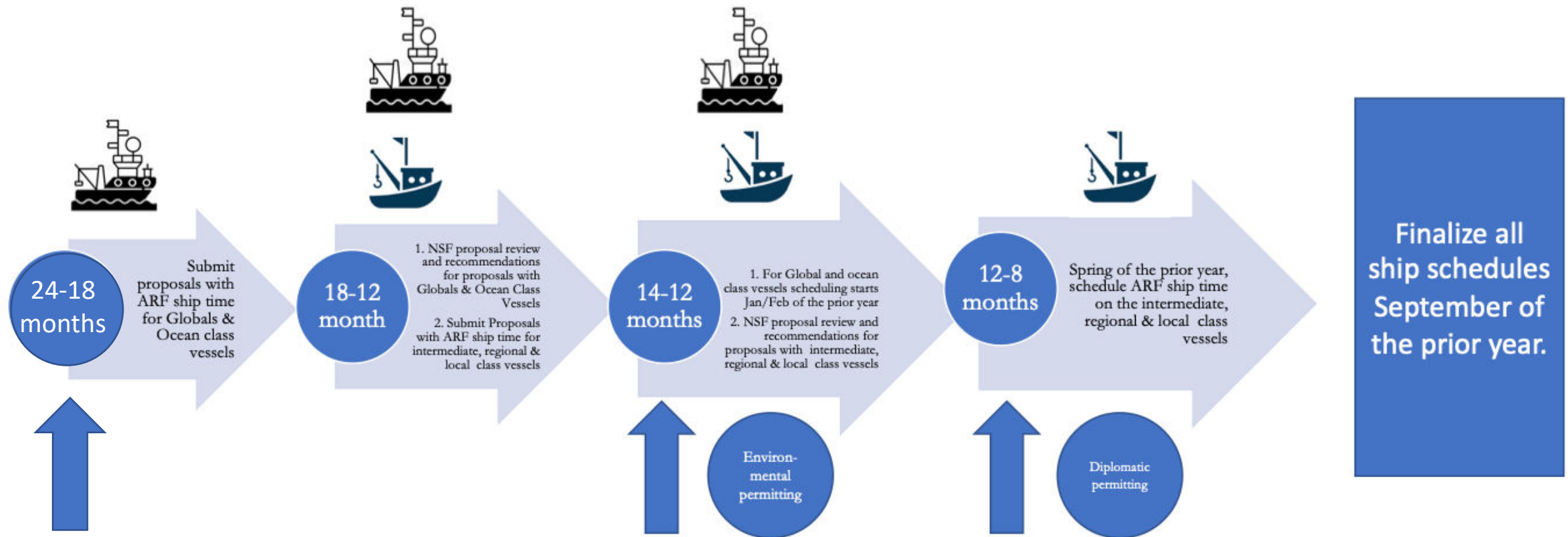


NSF/OPP/ARC Arctic Research Support and Logistics Program Guidance for Vessel Requests



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For Proposals That Include SME Requests for U.S. Academic Research Fleet, USCGC HEALY, or International Icebreaker Ship Time in the Arctic Region



NSF/OPP/ARC funded Projects that are Ready to be Scheduled for Cruises between 2024-2026



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TBD Vessel: Craig Lee (AON-1902595) - Davis Strait Observing System (2024)
https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1902595&HistoricalAwards=false

TBD Vessel: Bob Pickart (AON-2135537) - Monitoring the Western Arctic Boundary Current (2024, 2026)
https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2135537&HistoricalAwards=false

TBD Vessel: Robert Hatfield (OCE-2112536) - Collaborative Research: Spatiotemporal observations of the demise of an ice sheet: Paleo perspectives from Baffin Bay, West Greenland. (ANS co-funding) (2024)
https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2112536&HistoricalAwards=false

TBD Vessel: Polyakov (AON-1724523) Nansen and Amundsen Basins Observational System (NABOS) (2025).
See: https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1724523 and <https://uaf-iarc.org/nabos/>

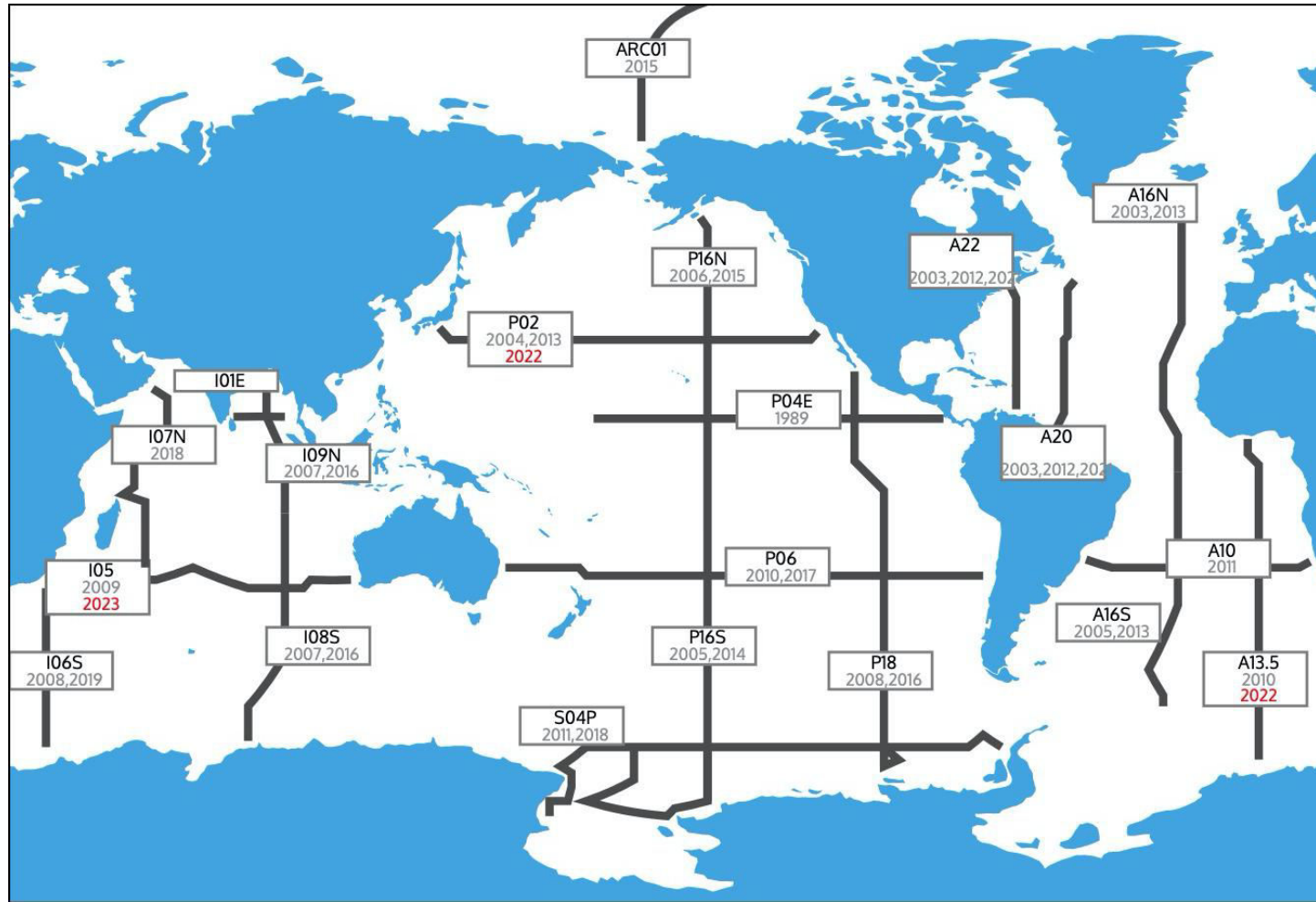
TBD Vessels of Opportunity: Rigor (AON-1951762) Collaborative Research: Coordination, Data Management and Enhancement of the International Arctic Buoy Programme (IABP), and US Interagency Arctic Buoy Program (USIABP). See: https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1951762

Norseman II (assumed): Woodgate - Bering Strait: Pacific Gateway to the Arctic (annually through 2026)
https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2153942&HistoricalAwards=false

NSF GO-SHIP ARC01 Request for 2026 (last in 2015)



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GO-SHIP is a major contributor to WCRP's Climate Variability and Predictability Experiment (CLIVAR) and International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project.

GO-SHIP is part of the Global Climate Observing System / Global Ocean Observing System (GCOS / GOOS).

GO-SHIP brings together scientists with interests in physical oceanography, the carbon cycle, marine biogeochemistry and ecosystems, and other users and collectors of hydrographic data to develop a globally coordinated network of sustained hydrographic sections as part of the global ocean/climate observing system.

The Global Ocean Ship-Based Hydrographic Investigation Program: <https://www.go-ship.org/>

Interagency Perspectives on the Arctic

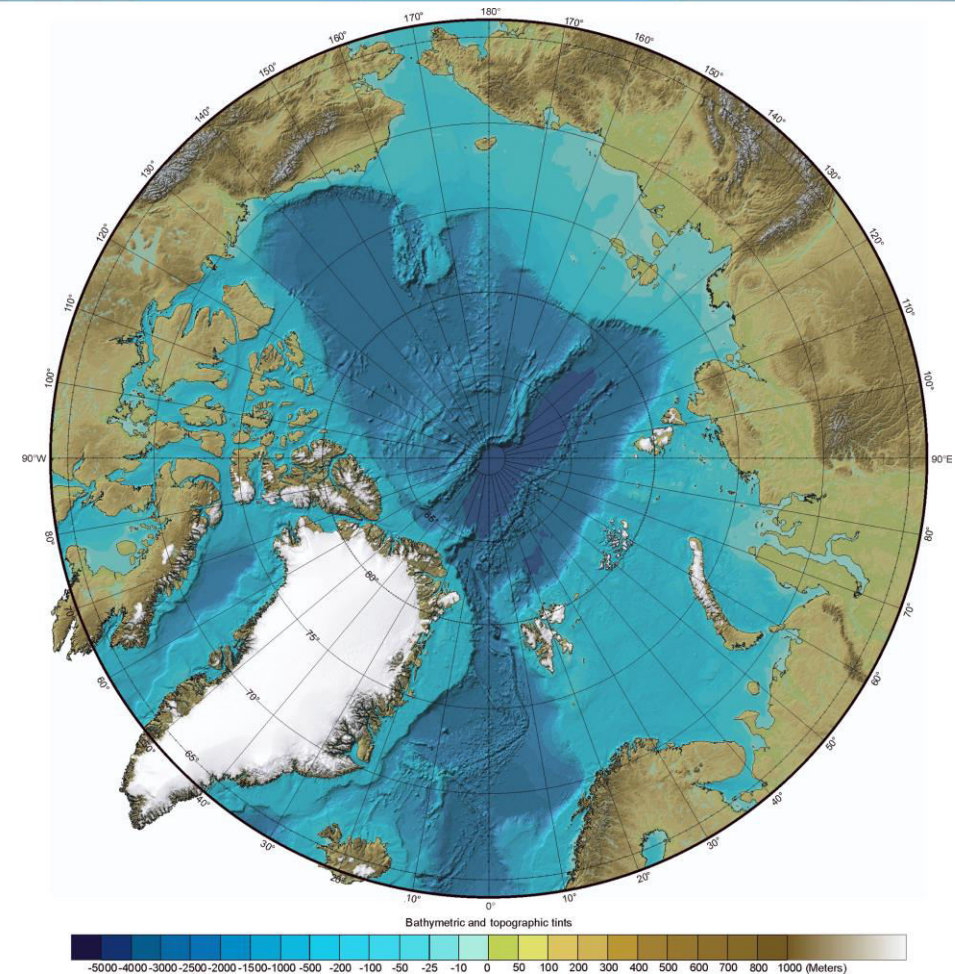


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Sources: GAO analysis of National Snow and Ice Data Center; Office of Naval Intelligence; Map Resources. | GAO-23-106411

Trans-Arctic Maritime Routes and Arctic Sea Ice Extents from March and September 2019 Compared with the September Median, 1981 to 2010 (From: GAO-23-106411, Figure 2).



https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/bathymetry/arctic/images/IBCAO_ver1map_letter_low.jpg

