2017-18 Bering Sea Ice Review

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AOOS Board Meeting, May 11, 2018
Record low sea ice in the Bering Sea, 2017-18

-- 40% below the previous lowest of the satellite era

Data source: NSIDC Sea Ice Index, Version 3

← the lowest (by far) since 1850
Bering Sea ice extent (updated through May 08, 2018)

Bering Sea Daily Ice Extent
1978-79 to 2017-18

Data source: NSIDC Sea Ice Index, Version 3
Updated through May 08, 2018
Community Views

Utqiaġvik: Dec 21, 2017
Photo: Craig George

Shishmaref: Feb 22, 2018
Photo: Sharon Nayokpuk

Little Diomede, February 20, 2018
Photo by Carla Ahkvaluk
Why so little ice?

*Bering Sea: “warm” for several years*

*Late Start: Large Scale Warmth*

*Persistent storminess*

Central Bering Sea Dec-Feb Mean SST
1945-2017

Data source: NOAA ERSSTv5 & UAF/B. Brettschneider
2017-18 South Wind Strength Rankings (post-1948): Proxy for “storminess”

Near-Surface Winds

Steering-Level Winds

December-February 2017-18