

# The Arctic Report Card 2022

December 15, 2022

**In news**— NOAA has released the Arctic Report Card 2022 recently.

## **What is the Arctic Report Card?**

**Issued annually since 2006 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** is an American scientific and regulatory agency, the Arctic Report Card is a timely and peer-reviewed source for clear, reliable and concise environmental information on the current state of different components of the Arctic environmental system relative to historical records.

## **Key highlights**

Following are some of the Highlights of the report card for 2022:

- The **average surface air temperature over the Arctic for this past year (October 2021-September 2022) was the 6th warmest since 1900**. The last seven years are collectively the warmest seven years on record.
- In 2022 Arctic sea ice extent was similar to 2021 and well below the long-term average.
- Satellite records from 2009 to 2018 show **increasing maritime ship traffic** in the Arctic as sea ice declines.
- The most significant increases in maritime traffic are occurring from the Pacific Ocean through the Bering Strait and Beaufort Sea.
- Low pressure across the Alaska Arctic and northern Canada sustained warm summer temperatures over the Beaufort Sea and Canadian Archipelago.
- **August 2022** mean sea surface temperatures continued to show warming trends for **1982-2022 in most ice-free**

## **regions of the Arctic Ocean.**

- The report card said that **Between October 2021 and September, air temperatures above Arctic lands were the sixth warmest since 1900**, noting that the seven warmest years have been the last seven.
- Rising temperatures have helped plants, shrubs and grasses grow in parts of the Arctic tundra, and **2022 saw levels of green vegetation that were the fourth highest since 2000, particularly in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago**, northern Quebec and central Siberia.
- **The Greenland Ice Sheet experienced its 25th consecutive year of ice loss.** In September 2022, unprecedented late-season warming created surface melt conditions over 36% of the ice sheet, including at the 10,500 ft ice sheet summit.
- **A new chapter in this year's report deals with Arctic precipitation.** Measuring snow, rain and freezing rain is tricky there: In the northernmost reaches of the region, there aren't many weather gauges.
- It says that **precipitation levels have increased significantly in the Arctic since the mid-20th century.** 2022 was the region's third-wettest year since 1950.
- Because of warmer temperatures, though, extra snow doesn't necessarily remain on the ground. Snow accumulation in the Arctic was above average during the 2021-22 winter.