

Ocean-Ice sheet interactions: the case of the Amundsen Sea, West Antarctica

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Abstract

Glaciers terminating into the Amundsen Sea, West Antarctica, have been thinning and accelerating over the past 40 years, and are now contributing close to 10% to global sea level rise. Atmospheric temperatures are rarely reaching ice melting levels, so relatively warm ocean waters eroding the glacier buttressing ice shelves have long been suspected to trigger those changes. In this lecture I will review considerable progresses made over the past decade in understanding ocean-ice sheet interactions in this particular part of the world, mostly by using in situ and satellite observations near, above and beneath the ice shelves and the neighboring ocean.