The Role of Icebergs in Global Change

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Abstract

Icebergs interact with the oceans and climate in a range of ways, principally centred on the impact of their meltwater, whether physically or biochemically, on the ocean. Here we will explore a range of these interactions, from the climate impacts of glacial-era armadas of icebergs in Heinrich events to recent and current freshwater and primary production impacts. Much of the discussion will focus on the North Atlantic, and Greenland's calving in the case of recent iceberg flux change, but the biological and carbon cycling impact is stronger in the Southern Ocean and we will conclude with a discussion of recent analysis of this newly appreciated link between icebergs and global change.