Scholarly Article About Global Warming

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Article record from Academic Search Complete 3310 JOURNAL OF CLIMATE VOLUME 21 Stability of Antarctic Bottom Water Formation to Freshwater Fluxes and Implications for Global Climate. Authors listed. Trevena, Jessica^{1,2} *j.trevena@unsw.edu.au* Authors: Stability of Antarctic Bottom Water Formation to Freshwater Fluxes and Implications affiliation info for Global Climate available JESSICA TREVENA, WILLEM P. SIJP, AND MATTHEW H. ENGLAND Climate Change Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia Journal of Climate; Jul2008, Vol. 21 Issue 13, p3310-3326, 17p Source: (Manuscript received 29 August 2007, in final form 10 December 2007) Document Type: Article ABSTRACT Article is long -Data or graphs included 17 pages Subject Terms: *OCEAN bottom 3324 JOURNAL OF CLIMATE VOLUME 21 *HYSTERESIS Technical language in title and *OCEAN temperatu *CLIMATIC changes abstract - not for a general AABW (compensated) audience AABW (non-compensated) Geographic Terms: ANTARCTIC Ocean NADW (compensated) Overturning (SV) NORTH Atlantic Ocean Abstract: i The stability of Antarctic Bottom Water (AABW) to freshwater (FW) perturbations is investigated in a coupled climate model of intermediate complexity. It is found that AABW is stable to surface freshwater fluxes greater in volume and rate to those that permanently "shut down" North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW), Although AABW weakens during FW forcing, it fully recovers within 50 yr of termination of FW input. This is due in part to a 0.1 0.2 0.5 0.6 concurrent deep warming during AABW suppression that acts to eventually destabilize the FW forcing (Sv) 3325 1 July 2008 TREVENA ET AL. Journal Ocean; and 3) a different vertical ocean structure with obtained. Hence, it is most likely that the feedbacks of. warm deep water underlying cold surface water in the identified in this study would be present in full dynamics coupled climate system models. Climate high-latitude Southern Ocean. If we accept that the ntarctica are due, at least

References or bibliography included

at end of article

tical FW perturbations.

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caused by this differing

the persistence of the

mass geometry is the fundamental reason for the difference in behavior of NADW and AABW under iden-

It is interesting to note the remarkable steadiness of

the high-latitude Southern Ocean temperature over the

course of FWso (maximum zonal mean change, south

63°S of 0.2°C from section 3d). Ocean temperature

se of the Drake Pas-

differing land

Acknowledgments. R. J. Stouffer and three anony-

mous reviewers provided useful feedback on the origi-

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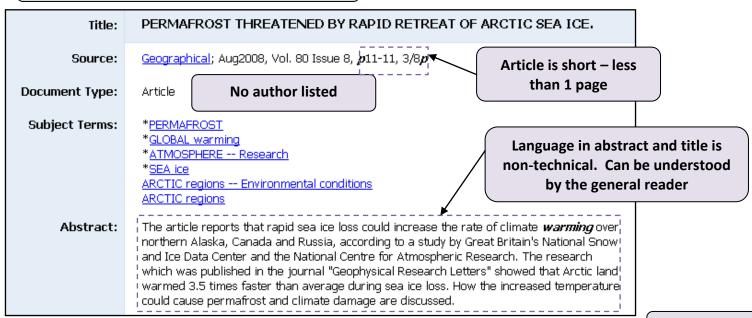
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century Southern Hemisphere response to changes in atmo-

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PERMAFROST THREATENED BY RAPID RETREAT OF ARCTIC SEA ICE

Episodes of rapid sea ice loss could cause the rate of climate warming over northern Alaska, Canada and Russia to more than triple, spelling disaster for one of the world's most fragile ecosystems, according to a new study by the National Snow and Ice Data Center and the National Centre for Atmospheric Research.

Last summer, Arctic sea ice shrank to a record low, while air temperatures over the western Arctic between August and October reached more than 2°C above the 1978–2006 average, leading researchers to explore, using computer models, the possibility that sea ice extent, land temperatures and melting of the permafrost were linked.

The research, published in Geophysical Research Letters, demonstrated that during past periods of rapid sea ice loss, land in the Arctic warmed 3.5 times faster than average rates of warming predicted by global climate models for the 21st century. This, said the researchers, could affect areas up to 1,450 kilometres inland, leading to rapid soil thaw in atrisk permafrost areas such as those found in central Alaska.

Arctic soils are thought to hold at least 30 per cent of all carbon stored in soils worldwide, which could be released into the atmosphere if the permafrost melts, with a disastrous effect on global climate.