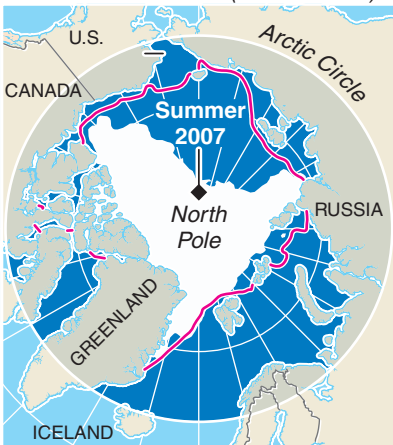


Arctic ice in retreat

Last summer saw Arctic sea ice shrink to the smallest extent ever recorded, down to 4.2 million sq km from 7.8 million sq km in 1980.

Scientists now predict ice-free Arctic summers within a decade

— Median extent (1979 to 2000)



1980	Sea ice extent	7.8m sq km
1990		6.2m sq km
2000		6.3m sq km
2007		4.2m sq km