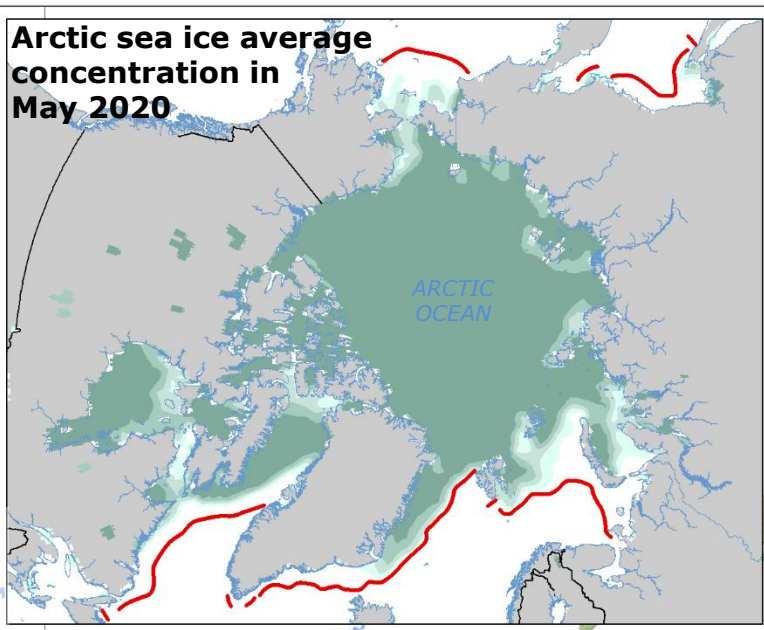
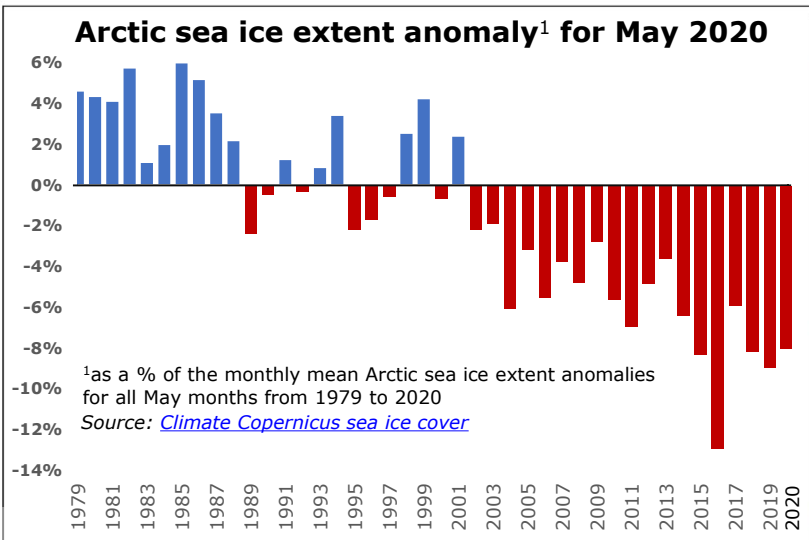
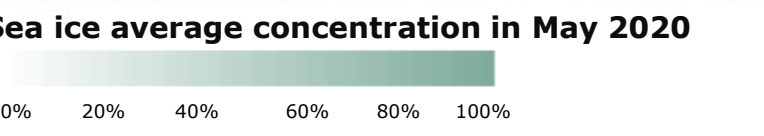
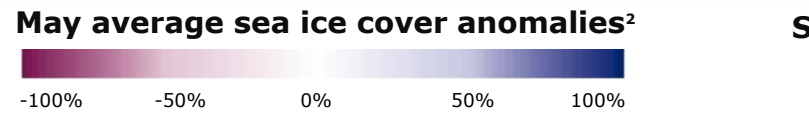
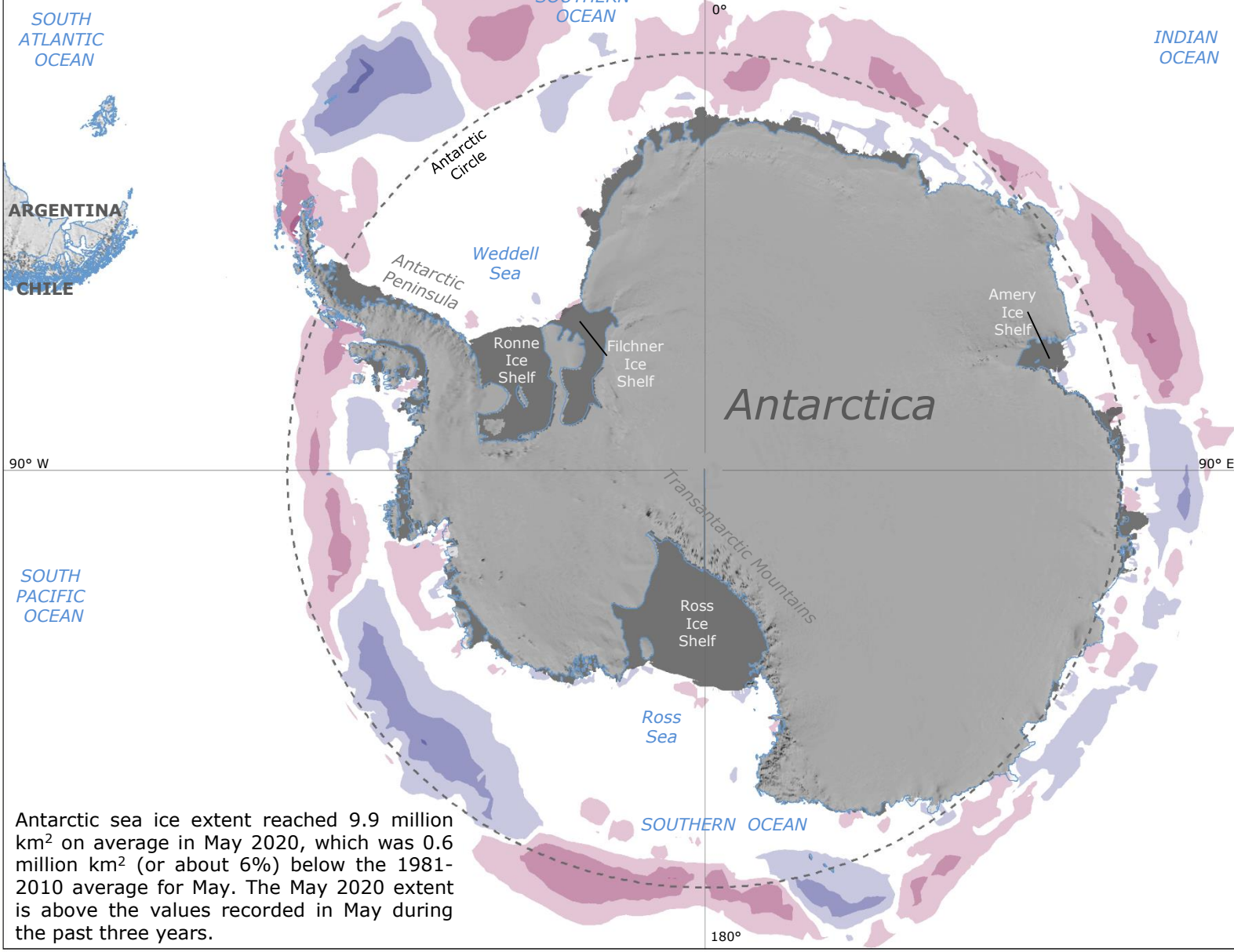
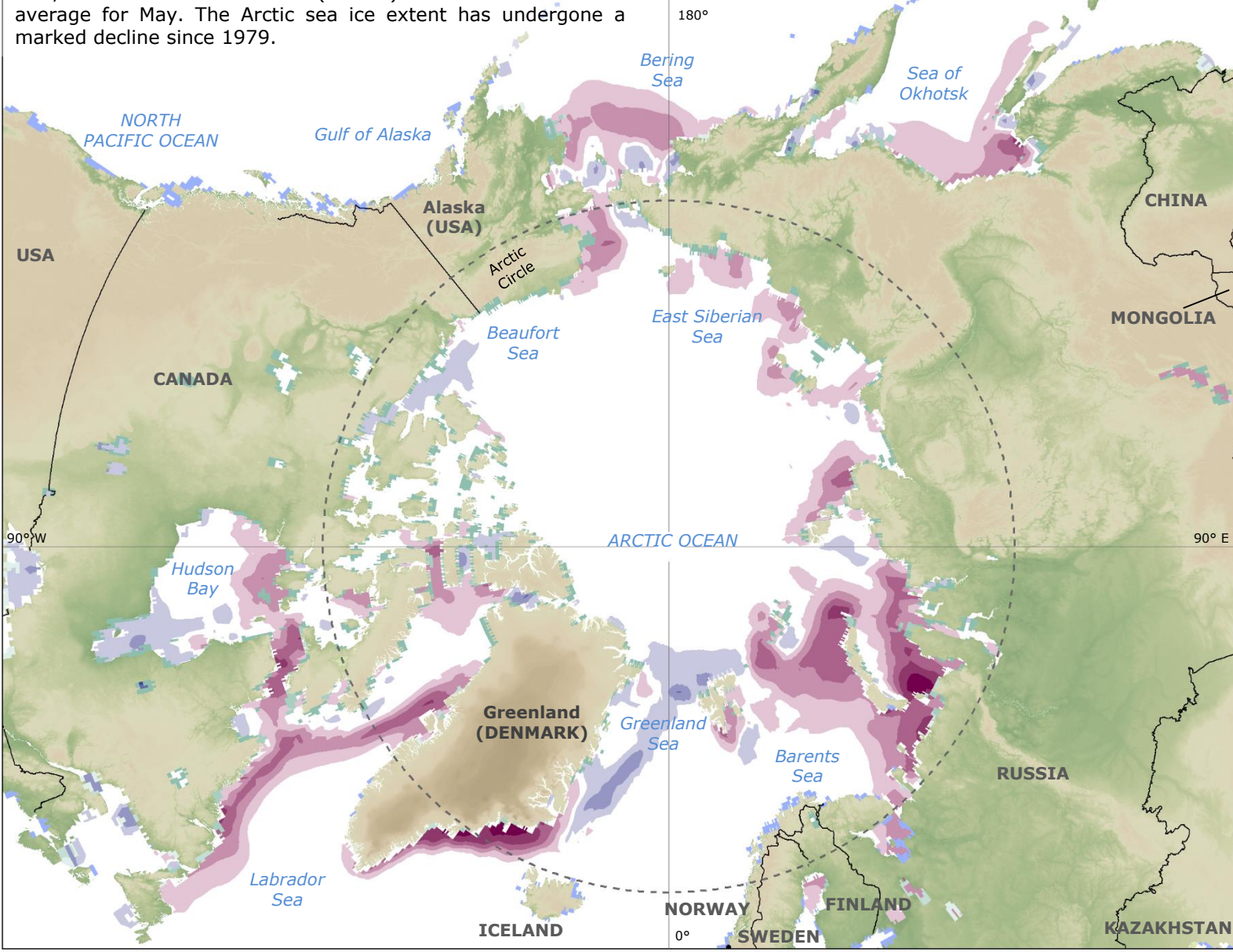
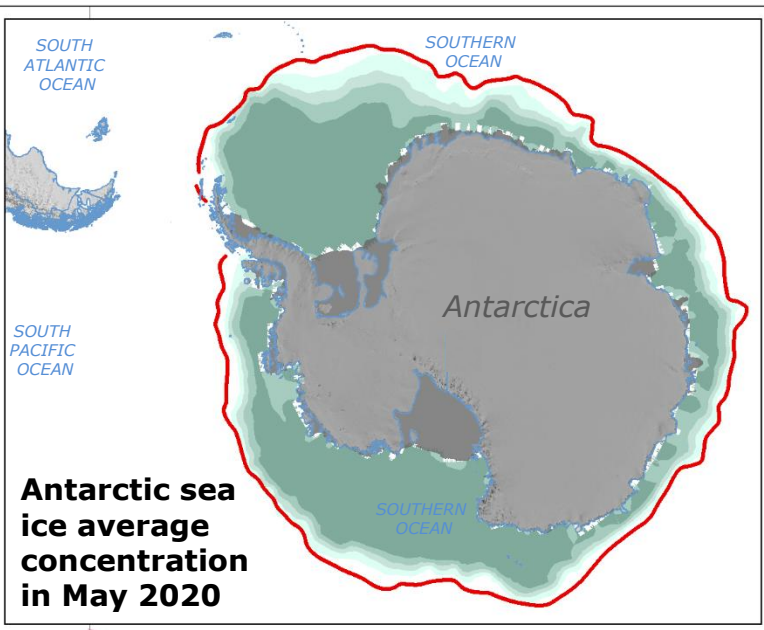
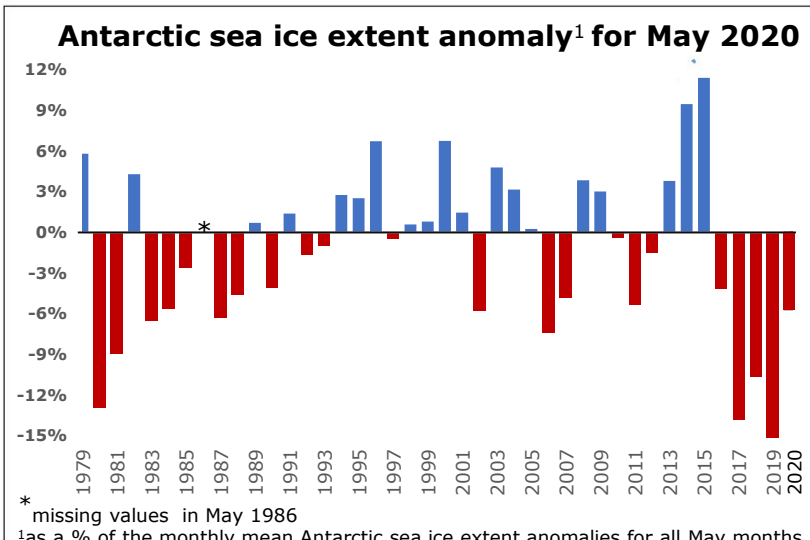


Arctic and Antarctic | Sea ice anomalies in May 2020



The average Arctic sea ice extent (the total area of the ocean with at least 15% sea ice cover) in May 2020 was 12.2 million km², that is 1.0 million km² (or 8%) below the 1981-2010 average for May. The Arctic sea ice extent has undergone a marked decline since 1979.



— Average ice edge May 1981-2010
■ Ice shelf in Antarctica

²Positive percentages indicate areas with greater than average ice concentration, whilst negative percentages indicate areas with less than average ice concentration.

Antarctic sea ice extent reached 9.9 million km² on average in May 2020, which was 0.6 million km² (or about 6%) below the 1981-2010 average for May. The May 2020 extent is above the values recorded in May during the past three years.

Additional overview maps on Arctic and Antarctic sea ice anomalies have been produced as DG ECHO Daily Maps of [28 February](#), [31 March](#), [7 May](#).

Source: [Climate Copernicus sea ice cover in May](#), [Climate Copernicus Sea Ice](#), [Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research](#).