



Understanding Historical Arctic Sea Ice Terms

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Meteorological and sea ice data were extracted from British Arctic whaling logbooks of the 18th and 19th centuries. Ice observations recorded during these voyages can be used to understand the historical state of sea ice in the Greenland Sea and Davis Strait. Sea ice types during the early 19th century were defined and published by the whaler and eminent scientist, William Scoresby Jr. These sea ice terms were consistent throughout whaling, naval and merchant shipping logbooks. In order to understand this historical vocabulary in modern terminology, contemporaneous historical literature was used to build up a glossary of terms from the earliest, tracing them up to the present day. Recreating observations using concurrent historical and modern terms and techniques has made coverage estimates to be made for historical data.