Sea Ice in Retreat

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**SUMMER SEA ICE**
This summer saw a record-breaking loss of Arctic sea ice. Experts attribute the changes to the interaction of wind, weather, ice drift, ocean currents and greenhouse gases.

**SUMMER SEA ICE EXTENT**
- 1979-2005 AVERAGE
- 4 million square miles
- 3
- 2
- 1

*Sea ice extent is the area of ocean covered by at least 15 percent ice.

**PERENNIAL SEA ICE**
Ocean within this boundary had been covered with ice year-round since satellite records began in 1979. This summer was the first time that part of the perennial sea ice was open water.