

APPENDIX C: Bering Sea ice coverage advance and retreat, 1973 -1994.

The following figures show geographically, a time series of ice coverage advance and retreat during the winter/spring months in the Bering Sea. Each year from 1973 - 1994 has two views. "Month of First Ice" shows where, by month, ice was first recorded during that season. "Month of Last Ice" shows the month that ice was last recorded at a location.

Method. For each week a polygon of the ice coverage was created including areas that contained any percentage of ice. All the polygons from a season were unioned together keeping the date of the first and last observation if ice for easy subpolygon intersection. The first and last observation dates were grouped by month for the final output.

Sources. 1973 - 94 ice data is from the "Navy/NOAA National Ice Center (NIC) Weekly Sea Ice Concentrations and Extents 1972 - 1994." NIC made weekly compilations of visible/infrared and microwave data to produce an ice concentration grid of 15 nm cell size. Coast lines are from Environmental Systems Research Institute's (ESRI) Digital Chart of the World.