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Catherine Brahic on:

Arctic currents may be warming the world

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http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg19826533.900-arctic-currents-may-be-warming-the-world.html

The article by Catherine Brahic demonstrates that there is substantial awareness of an oceanic impact on global warming. Not only ocean currents but Arctic currents may be warming the world. That sounds interesting, but only on first view. Some excerpts form the article will show that it is not at all meant as understanding the status of the oceans as the blue-print of climate. Nowhere else as in the polar region can warming by the ocean be better studied, when during the winter season the sun is not contributing. But the article explains its topic as follows:

__On top of the effect of human-made carbon emissions, natural changes in the warm ocean currents traveling to the icy north may be helping to heat up the entire northern hemisphere.

REMARK: Science says: Sun ray can easily pass through the outer atmosphere in order to reach the Earth, but much of the radiation escapes the atmosphere depends on the concentration of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide, methane etc) present.

QUESTION: What effect has CO2 at Spitsbergen during the winter season?

__Climate models produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which are tuned to reproduce the human-made greenhouse effect, predict the region should have warmed by 1.4 °C between 1960 and 2000. In fact, the Arctic's average air temperature rose by 2.2 °C.

REMARK: Not one word about the strong Arctic warming from 1919-1939

QUESTION: Can climate models work when they do not recognize nor include the warming at Spitsbergen?

__Vladimir Semenov of the Obukhov Institute of Atmospheric Physics in Moscow, Russia, says that ocean currents carrying warm water from lower latitudes into polar regions could have played a part in this increase. He analysed air temperature data from the north Atlantic, which revealed a cyclic pattern of highs and lows over the past century. He argues the length of such cycles must be explained by ocean currents, which also fluctuate over a timescale of decades.

REMARK: It is astonishing, that the transport of 'warm water into the polar region' is actually presented as if it is a new finding.

QUESTION: Is the suddenness of the warming at Spitsbergen since winter 1918/19 evidently not supporting the claim of 'cyclical pattern of currents'?

___ "It's an interesting idea - and the first time I've come across it," says Peter Wadhams, head of the Polar Ocean Physics Group at the University of Cambridge. Although the research is speculative, it is a plausible process, Wadhams says.

REMARK: The comment demonstrates where polar research stand, and how important it would be for the understanding of the climate change issue what had happened 90 years ago at the remote archipelagos of Spitsbergen.

QUESTION: Have Vladimir Semenov and Peter Wadhams ever read what Schokalsky, Brooks, Scherhag and others have said in the 1930s?

CONCLUDING REMARK: The title of Catherine Brahic's article sounds so promising, but the explanation hardly demonstrate that the mechanism in the Arctic is understood. It wouldn't have happen with more attention to the main features of the Arctic warming for two decades since the late 1910s. That is certainly not her fault.