



## Recent changes in Pan-Arctic sea ice, lake ice, and snow on/off timing

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**Abstract.** Arctic snow and ice cover are vital indicators of climate variability and change, yet while the Arctic shows overall warming and dramatic changes in snow and ice cover, the response of these high-latitude regions to recent climatic change varies regionally. Although previous studies have examined changing snow and ice separately, examining phenology changes across multiple components of the cryosphere together is important for understanding how these components, and their response to climate forcing, are interconnected. In this work, we examine recent changes in sea ice, lake ice and snow together at the pan-Arctic scale using the Interactive Multisensor Snow and Ice Mapping System 24 km product from 1997 – 2019, with a more detailed regional examination from 2004 – 2019 using the 4 km product. We show overall that for sea ice, trends towards earlier open water ( $-7.7$  d decade<sup>-1</sup>,  $p < 0.05$ ) and later final freeze ( $10.6$  d decade<sup>-1</sup>,  $p < 0.05$ ) are evident. Trends towards earlier first snow-off ( $-4.9$  d decade<sup>-1</sup>,  $p < 0.05$ ), combined with trends toward earlier first snow-on ( $-2.8$  d decade<sup>-1</sup>  $p < 0.05$ ), lead to almost no change in the length of the snow-free season, despite shifting earlier in the year. Sea ice-off, lake ice-off and snow-off parameters were significantly correlated, with stronger correlations during the snow/ice-off season compared to the snow/ice-on season. Regionally, the Bering and Chukchi Seas show the most pronounced response to warming, with the strongest trends identified toward earlier ice-off and later ice-on. This is consistent with earlier snow/lake ice-off and later snow/lake ice-on in west and southwest Alaska. In contrast to this, significant clustering between sea ice, lake ice and snow-on trends in the eastern portion of the North American Arctic show an earlier return of snow and ice. The marked regional variability in snow and ice phenology across the pan-Arctic highlights the complex relationships between snow and ice, and their response to climatic change, and warrants detailed monitoring to understand how different regions of the Arctic are responding to ongoing changes.

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## 1 Introduction

The cryosphere is the second largest component of the global climate system after the ocean, exerting significant effects on the Earth's energy balance, atmospheric circulation, and heat transport (Lemke et al. 2007; Callaghan et al. 2011; Derksen et al. 2012). The relevance for climate variability and change is based on physical properties, such as high surface reflectivity (albedo) and latent heat associated with phase changes, both of which have a strong impact on the surface energy balance (Lemke et al. 2007). The extent and duration of snow and ice cover have direct feedbacks to the climate system as they strongly influence planetary albedo (Rahmstorf, 2010; Derksen et al. 2012). Seasonal snow and ice cover are also important for Arctic ecosystems as they rely on snow and ice cover for feeding, transportation, and habitat (Derksen et al. 2012). Additionally, the traditional ways of life of many Northern residents depend on snow and ice cover for sources of food, transportation, and economic activities (Derksen et al. 2012). Recent assessments reveal strong linkages between decreasing snow and ice cover and increasing temperatures in the Arctic (e.g. Hernandez-Henriquez et al. 2015; Johannessen et al. 2016; Druckenmiller and Richter-Menge, 2020). Reductions in sea ice extent, decreases in snow cover duration, and earlier melt onset in Arctic and sub-Arctic lakes have been reported (Serreze and Stroeve, 2015; Surdu et al. 2016; Mudryk et al. 2018). Arctic surface air temperatures in 2019 were the second highest in the 120-year (1900 – present) observational record (Druckenmiller and Richter-Menge, 2020), and are projected to continue to increase well into the twenty-first century (Overland, 2020). Though the Arctic as a whole is undergoing climatic change, observations are often marked by regional differences tied in part to global connections via the atmosphere and ocean (Druckenmiller and Richter-Menge, 2020). For example, sea ice in the Alaska/Russia region has shown large reductions in sea ice extent over the past decade, which has been linked to strong warming and large sea surface temperature anomalies in this area (Druckenmiller and Richter-Menge, 2020; Perovich et al. 2020). The Canadian Arctic Archipelago (CAA), however, has been shown to exhibit earlier freeze trends during recent years (e.g. Dauginis and Brown, 2020) and weaker trends toward earlier melt onset compared to other Arctic regions (e.g. Mahmud et al. 2016; Marshall et al. 2019). Furthermore, the effect of warming on sea ice dynamics in this region can be counterintuitive as warming could result in increased ice import from the Arctic Ocean into the CAA (Melling, 2002; Howell and Brady, 2019; Moore et al., 2021). Therefore, monitoring Arctic snow and ice cover is critical to improve our understanding of this complex and variable region in the context of climate variability and change.

Monitoring Arctic snow and ice cover largely relies on the use of satellite observations, as ground-based observations are constrained by limited in situ data, large gaps and biases in surface observing networks, and limited geographic coverage (Brown et al. 2010; Brown and Duguay, 2011). Satellite-based microwave data are most commonly used in snow and ice monitoring as they provide information regardless of solar illumination and cloud cover (Brown et al. 2014). Microwave measurements have been used to estimate snow (both on land and on sea ice) and ice melt and freeze onset (e.g. Howell et al. 2006; Yackel et al. 2007; Markus et al. 2009; Wang et al. 2011; Zheng et al. 2017) at various spatial resolutions ranging from 6.25 to 25 km (Brown et al. 2014). The Special Sensor Microwave/Imager (SSM/I) and Scanning Multichannel Microwave Radiometer (SMMR) passive microwave datasets have been widely used in snow and sea ice mapping (e.g. Cho et al. 2017;



Lynch et al. 2017; Crawford et al. 2018). Passive microwave data are well-suited for snow and ice monitoring due to all-  
60 weather imaging capabilities and long available records (since the late 1970s), though the coarse resolution (25 km) limits  
their application and reduces the accuracy of estimates (Derksen et al. 2004; Gao et al. 2010; De Lannoy et al. 2012). There  
are well-documented uncertainties in using passive microwave measurements to retrieve snow water equivalent and snow  
cover extent due to differences in snow and surface cover properties (e.g. snow depth, snow grain size, topography, vegetation),  
which influence microwave emission and backscatter (Brown et al. 2010; Park et al. 2012; Tedesco et al. 2015). The coarse  
65 spatial resolution also limits the ability of the sensors to resolve small leads and polynyas and can result in errors near coastal  
areas due to pixel-based land contamination (Howell et al. 2006; Brown et al. 2014). Johnson and Eicken (2016) note that  
strong brightness temperature contrasts across pixels can result in falsely high estimates of sea ice concentration, particularly  
during the summer when there is open water near coastal areas. SMMR and SSM/I are less commonly used in lake ice  
applications as the spatial resolution limits analyses to large lakes only. Additionally, the 85 GHz channel is susceptible to  
70 considerable atmospheric interference, and the 25 km spatial resolution can result in large differences in water/land brightness  
temperatures (Cavalieri et al. 1999; Howell et al. 2009).

Optical remote sensing data have also been used to monitor Arctic snow and ice cover (e.g. Nitze et al. 2017; Young  
et al. 2018) as they provide an improved spatial resolution (e.g. 500 m Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer Snow  
Product) compared to passive microwave data. The use of optical imagery is limited to the spring and summer months in high-  
75 latitude regions as there is no source of illumination during late fall and winter due to polar darkness. Additionally, the poor  
temporal resolution of some optical data (e.g. 16 days for Landsat, 8-day MODIS snow product) can introduce uncertainty and  
inaccuracy into estimates of snow conditions on the Earth's surface. Active microwave data have been used successfully in  
snow (e.g. Brown et al. 2007), sea ice (e.g. Mortin et al. 2014), and lake ice (e.g. Howell et al. 2009) applications. Active  
microwave algorithms using synthetic aperture radar (SAR) provide high resolution (20 to 100 m) retrieval of snow and ice  
80 parameters (e.g. Surdu et al. 2016; Zhu et al. 2018; Howell and Brady, 2019). SAR estimates of snow and ice cover provide  
the highest spatial resolution compared to other products, however the moderate temporal resolution, narrow swath width, and  
limited image availability across the Arctic limits the application of SAR to smaller geographic regions (Brown et al. 2014;  
Howell et al. 2019). Multisensor approaches exploiting advantages of microwave and optical sensors have been used to  
estimate snow thickness on first year sea ice (e.g. Zheng et al. 2017) and to resolve leads and polynyas at an improved spatial  
85 resolution (e.g. Ludwig et al. 2019). The all-weather capabilities of microwave data combined with high temporal resolution  
of optical imagery can improve estimates of snow and ice parameters in the Arctic.

An alternative approach to snow and ice mapping is the use of the National Ice Center Interactive Multisensor Snow  
and Ice Mapping System (IMS) product. IMS is created using a variety of multi-sourced datasets (e.g. optical imagery,  
microwave data, ancillary data) and provides daily maps of snow and ice cover at 24 km, 4 km, and 1 km spatial resolutions  
90 (Ramsay 1998; Helfrich et al. 2007). The daily temporal resolution and all-weather monitoring capabilities make IMS suitable  
in snow cover applications (e.g. Brubaker et al. 2005; Chen et al. 2012; Yu et al. 2017) and lake ice monitoring on large lakes  
(e.g. Brown and Duguay, 2012; Duguay et al. 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015; Duguay and Brown, 2018). Though not commonly



used in sea ice applications, Brown et al. (2014) show that IMS is advantageous over several automated algorithms for monitoring sea ice phenology. IMS is also able to improve sea ice estimates by reducing land contamination and better representing coastal regions compared to passive microwave estimates (Brown et al. 2014), and to resolve finer-scale details between narrow ocean channels (Dauginis and Brown, 2020). This work expands on the work of Dauginis and Brown (2020) and examines changes in sea ice, lake ice, and snow phenology from 1997 – 2019 across the pan-Arctic. The objectives of this paper are to 1) assess changes in sea ice, lake ice, and snow phenology from 1997 – 2019 across the pan-Arctic and 2) analyze regional changes in snow and ice phenology during more recent years (2004 – 2019) across the pan-Arctic.

## 100 2.0 Methodology

### 2.1 Study regions

In this study, regions north of 56° were considered when examining pan-Arctic snow and ice phenology in the first section of the results (Figure 1). For the second section of the results, a regional approach was taken. For snow and lake ice, phenology parameters were considered on a hemispheric scale (i.e. North America and Eurasia). Further regional subdivisions are provided in Table 4 for the snow and lake ice trends. For sea ice, phenology parameters were examined in three broad regions (with some subregions included in Table 4): Canadian Arctic, Alaska/Far East Russia, and Eurasian Arctic. ‘Canadian Arctic’ includes Baffin Bay, Hudson Bay, and the CAA; ‘Alaska/ Far East Russia’ includes the Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering seas; ‘Eurasian Arctic’ includes the East Siberian, Laptev, Kara, Barents, and Greenland seas. These regions were grouped based on their broadly similar ice-phenology characteristics.

### 110 2.2 Data

Snow and ice data were obtained from the National Ice Center Interactive Multisensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (IMS) snow and ice product. IMS is an operational product used to map daily snow and ice cover over the Northern Hemisphere at 1 km (2014 – present), 4 km (2004 – present), and 24 km (1997 – present) spatial resolutions (<https://www.natice.noaa.gov/ims/>). Analysts use a variety of multi-sourced datasets (for a complete list of data sources, see National Snow and Ice Data Center, <https://nsidc.org/data/g02156>) to subjectively produce maps with discrete values assigned to land, snow-covered land, water, and ice. Snow mapping primarily relies on visible imagery; however, if visible imagery is unavailable due to cloud occlusion or low solar illumination, microwave data is used instead (Helfrich et al. 2007; Brown et al. 2010). As misidentification errors associated with microwave data can occur, analysts rely more on snow climatology compared to microwave data to estimate high latitude snow cover during winter months (Chang et al. 1996; Foster et al. 2005; Helfrich et al. 2007; Derksen 2008; Brown et al. 2010). Ice cover analysis primarily relies on AVHRR or MODIS observations, however microwave-based retrievals and ice climatology are used when visible imagery is unavailable, with microwave retrievals representing approximately 30-35% of the ice cover input (Helfrich et al. 2007).





125 Temperature data are from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ERA5 global  
reanalysis and were compared to changes in snow and ice phenology. ERA5 provides coverage of the entire Arctic at a spatial  
resolution of approximately 31 km (0.25°). Monthly 2 m temperature data were used to calculate temperature trends from 2004  
– 2019.

### 2.3 Methodology

130 The 24 km and 4 km IMS products were used to examine changes in snow and ice phenology dates across the pan-  
Arctic following the methodology of Brown et al. (2014) and Dauginis and Brown (2020). For each pixel, consecutive days of  
IMS imagery were compared to determine the first and last changes between snow/ice and land/water to determine the timing  
of the snow/ice-on and off parameters examined. The phenology parameters used in this study and their definitions can be  
found in Table 1. The 24 km IMS product was used to examine trends in mean snow and sea ice phenology dates across the  
pan-Arctic from 1997 – 2019. For lake ice, only the 4 km IMS product (2004 – 2019) was used since the 24 km product can  
only detect very large lakes (Figure 2). In addition to detecting more lakes, the 4 km IMS product can also provide more  
135 detailed information on lake ice phenology within each lake, as shown in Figure 2.

To investigate the relationship between phenology parameters and temperature, correlations between variables were  
examined using Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient ( $\rho$ ) as this method describes the overall strength of the relationship  
between two variables and does not require data to follow independent normal distributions (non-parametric) (Hauke and  
Kossowski, 2011). Datasets were detrended prior to correlation analysis to ensure relationships were not a result of a shared  
140 trend, but rather driven by actual relationships between variability in phenology parameters and temperature (Pizzolato et al.  
2014). Data were detrended using the “pracma” package in R (<https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=pracma>) which removes  
the linear trend from a given dataset by computing the least-squares fit of a straight line to the data and subtracting the resulting  
function from the data (Borchers, 2019). The detrended data were then used to calculate Spearman correlation coefficients  
between phenology parameters and temperature.

145 To evaluate spatial trends in snow and ice phenology and temperature, 4 km IMS phenology dates and 2 m  
temperature data were analyzed using the “zhang” method of trend analysis, available in the “zyp” package in R (Bronaugh  
and Werner 2019). This method of trend analysis was proposed by Zhang et al. (2000) and has been successfully used to  
represent trends in temperature and precipitation (Zhang et al. 2000) lake ice phenology (Murfitt and Brown 2017) and sea ice  
and snow phenology (Dauginis and Brown, 2000). The “zhang” method is suitable for analyzing spatial trends in this study as  
150 it employs non-parametric tests and accounts for autocorrelation. The linear trend is removed from the time series if it is  
significant and the autocorrelation computation repeats until the differences in the estimates of the slope and autoregressive  
model in two consecutive iterations is smaller than 1% (Bronaugh and Werner 2019). The Mann-Kendall test is applied to the  
resulting time series and the Sen’s slope of the trend is computed (Bronaugh and Werner 2019). The final result is the Sen’s  
slope (amount of increase or decrease) at each location over the given time period, as well as the significance of each trend  
155 (Bronaugh and Werner 2019). Interannual and regional variability in snow and ice conditions will inherently affect phenology



parameters, particularly for sea ice, which may not entirely clear out of some regions in a particular season leading to no ice-off or -on phenology detected for that year (Dauginis and Brown, 2020). Pixels with less than 14 years of phenology data (e.g. regions where ice-off only occurs occasionally) are treated as No Data, meaning the spatial extent of the trend examination represents the geographic region where snow/ice-off has occurred in at least 14 of the last 16 years.

160 Finally, clustering in the trend data was explored using local indicators of spatial association (Anselin, 1995) through ESRI ArcGIS. The statistically significant clusters of high and low values (trend strengths) were mapped to highlight regions where the phenology variables were responding similarly over the study period.

### 3 Results and Discussion

#### 165 3.1 Trends and Correlations

Mean snow, sea ice, and lake ice phenology dates across the pan-Arctic are shown in Figure 3 (4 km IMS, 2004 – 2019). Sea ice open water dates range from mid-March to late September and snow-off dates range from mid-March to late August (Figure 3a, b). Lake ice-off ranges from late March to late August (Figure 3a, b). Sea ice freeze dates range from mid-September to late April and snow onset dates range from mid-August to late January (Figure 3c, d). Lake ice-on dates range  
170 from early September to early February (Figure 3c, d).

Mean snow, sea ice, and lake ice phenology dates for the 24 km (1997 – 2019) and 4 km (2004 – 2019) IMS products are shown in Figure 4. Overall, the pan-Arctic shows trends toward a longer snow and ice-free season (Figure 4) from 1997 – 2019, with trends toward earlier snow-off and ice-off and later freeze detected. While the annual variability is similar between the 24 km and 4 km mean phenology dates, a small offset of 3.5 days later for ice-off and 3.4 days earlier for ice-on (average)  
175 is evident in the sea ice phenology as a result of the resolution differences, mainly attributed to the improved ability of the 4 km product to resolve smaller-scale features and changes in the ice cover extent than the 24 km product can detect (e.g. leads, polynyas, near-shore conditions, and changes at the ice edges) (Brown et al. 2014; Dauginis and Brown, 2020). The overall agreement between the products is < 1 day for the snow phenology dates.

Sea ice open water dates both show significant negative (earlier) trends (Figure 4a), with a larger negative trend  
180 detected for first open water (FOWs,  $-7.72 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) compared to water clear of ice (WCIs,  $-3.31 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Both sea ice-off parameters are most strongly correlated with temperature in September ( $\rho = -0.69$  and  $-0.60$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ; Table 2), followed by June ( $\rho = -0.6$  for both,  $p < 0.05$ ), July ( $\rho = -0.58$  and  $-0.57$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), and April ( $\rho = -0.50$  and  $-0.57$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Snow-off dates show similar trends to ice-off parameters, with both first snow-off (first<sub>SOFF</sub>,  $-4.90 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and final snow-off (final<sub>SOFF</sub>,  $-3.21 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ) becoming earlier (Figure 4b), and with first snow-off  
185 significantly correlated to temperatures in June and July ( $\rho = -0.46$  and  $-0.49$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ; Table 2). While the first open water



and first snow-off dates are not significantly correlated, the final snow/ice-off parameters are (sea ice water clear of ice and final snow-off dates,  $\rho = 0.46$  and  $0.64$ ,  $p < 0.05$ , for 24 and 4 km IMS products respectively) (Table 3).

During the snow/ice-off season, lake ice first open water (FOWL) and water clear of ice (WCL) dates are significantly correlated with their equivalent snow and sea ice-off parameters from 2004 – 2019 (Table 3). Stronger relationships are identified between lake ice and sea ice off parameters ( $\rho_{\text{FOW Sea Ice and Lake Ice}} = 0.62$  and  $\rho_{\text{WCI Sea Ice and Lake Ice}} = 0.72$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) compared to lake ice and snow ( $\rho_{\text{first snow-off and FOW Lake Ice}} = 0.55$  and  $\rho_{\text{final snow-off and WCI Lake Ice}} = 0.51$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Trends for lake ice first open water and water clear of ice dates from 2004 – 2019 are negative ( $-0.76$  and  $-0.02$  d decade<sup>-1</sup>,  $p > 0.05$ , though neither are statistically significant. We acknowledge that the 16-year time series (Figure 4c) does not provide a comparative time-span to the other trends examined; however, it should be noted that the direction of the trends are negative (earlier) and therefore follow a similar pattern observed in snow and sea ice trends during the 1997 – 2019 melt season.

Sea ice freeze onset (FO<sub>S</sub>) shows a slightly positive (later) trend ( $0.36$  d decade<sup>-1</sup>,  $p > 0.05$ ), while the continuous ice cover (CIC<sub>S</sub>) trend is much larger and statistically significant ( $10.60$  d decade<sup>-1</sup>  $p < 0.05$ ) (Figure 4d). Freeze onset shows significant correlations with air temperature in October ( $0.48$   $p < 0.05$ , Table 2), while no significant correlations are identified between air temperature and continuous ice cover. Both first and final snow-on (first<sub>SON</sub>, final<sub>SON</sub>) trends are negative, indicating that the pan-Arctic is seeing earlier snow onset over the 1997 – 2019 study period. First snow-on is becoming earlier by  $2.79$  d decade<sup>-1</sup> ( $p < 0.05$ ) while final snow-on is becoming slightly earlier by  $0.64$  d decade<sup>-1</sup> ( $p > 0.05$ ) (Figure 4e). Neither snow-on parameter is significantly correlated with monthly air temperature, though the strongest correlation is identified in October at  $0.41$  ( $p > 0.05$ , Table 2). Snow-on dates show small positive correlations with sea ice freeze parameters, though none are statistically significant (Table 3). Lake ice freeze onset (FO<sub>L</sub>) and continuous ice cover (CIC<sub>L</sub>) exhibit trends toward later freeze ( $4.97$  and  $4.44$  d decade<sup>-1</sup>,  $p > 0.05$ ; Figure 4f), and although caution should be taken with the short timespan, it should again be noted that lake ice freeze dates show an overall shift toward later freeze. No significant correlations are detected between lake ice/sea ice and lake ice/snow parameters during the freeze season, though similar to the snow/ice-off season, stronger correlations are detected between lake ice and sea ice freeze compared to lake ice-on and snow-on (Table 3).

Overall, snow and ice cover are coming off earlier across the pan-Arctic, while trends during the freeze season vary for sea ice, lake ice, and snow. Earlier sea ice water clear of ice dates contribute to longer open water duration detected across the pan-Arctic ( $4.85$  d decade<sup>-1</sup>,  $p > 0.05$ ; Figure 5). Non-significant trends are detected in lake ice parameters, with the resulting open water duration in Arctic lakes increasing by  $6.86$  d decade<sup>-1</sup> from 2004 – 2019 ( $p > 0.05$ ) (Figure 5). Almost no trend in snow-free duration is identified ( $-0.27$  d decade<sup>-1</sup>,  $p > 0.05$ ; Figure 5), despite first snow-off trending significantly earlier (Figure 4b).

Examining snow and ice cover at the pan-Arctic scale provides important information on how the cryosphere is responding to climate change as a whole, however the large degree of spatial variability warrants further investigation into snow and ice conditions at regional scales. For example, Dauginis and Brown (2020) demonstrate that the CAA is responding differently to warming compared to other regions of the Arctic; their findings show later summer clearing of ice and earlier sea ice freeze and snow onset since 2004, in line with findings from previous studies that showed no significant trends toward



220 earlier sea ice melt onset dates in the CAA (e.g. Mahmud et al. 2016; Marshall et al. 2019). Other Arctic regions (e.g. Baffin  
Bay, Eastern Greenland, Barents Sea, Beaufort Sea, and Chukchi Sea) have shown significantly earlier sea ice melt onset by  
2.3 to 6.9 d decade<sup>-1</sup> (e.g. Stroeve et al. 2014). The response of snow cover to changes in climatic and hydrologic regimes also  
varies regionally, with northern Canada and eastern Siberia experiencing increased snowfall, while Scandinavia and regions  
around the Greenland ice sheet are experiencing increasing rainfall (Box et al. 2019). Additionally, ice cover duration in Arctic  
225 lakes since 2004 shows interannual and regional variability, with lakes in western Russia showing anomalies ranging from 59  
days shorter to 57 days longer, while smaller anomalies were identified in Canadian Lakes (Duguay and Brown, 2018).  
Therefore, the following section will examine regional variability in sea ice, lake ice, and snow phenology from 2004 – 2019  
using the 4 km IMS product as the higher spatial resolution (compared to the 24 km product) allows finer-scale changes in  
snow and ice cover to be detected.

## 230 3.2 Regional Variability

### 3.2.1 Snow and Ice-off season

Short-term trends in sea ice, snow, and lake ice phenology from 2004–2019 are presented in Figures 6 (snow/ice-off)  
and 7 (snow/ice-on) along with maps identifying significant local clustering in the trends. Median values of the spatial trends  
in Figures 6 and 7 for regions defined in Figure 1 are reported throughout the following section and included in Table 4.  
235 Correlations with 2 m air temperature for the three main sea ice regions and two main snow/lake ice regions (Figure 1) are  
presented in Table 5. Overall, sea ice, snow, and lake ice show tendencies toward earlier melt, with the exception of 1) Eurasian  
snow-off parameters, which show little change from 2004–2019 compared to other Arctic regions and 2) sea ice first open  
water in the Canadian Arctic. The Alaska/ Far East Russia region exhibited the largest trends toward earlier sea ice-off  
(median<sub>First Open Water Sea Ice</sub> = 23 days) and North America showed larger trends toward earlier snow-off and lake ice-off compared  
240 to Eurasia (North America: median<sub>First snow-off</sub> = 8 days, median<sub>First Open Water Lake Ice</sub> = 4 days; Eurasia median<sub>First snow-off</sub> = 0 days,  
median<sub>First Open Water Lake Ice</sub> = 1 day).

Overall, sea ice is clearing out of the Canadian Arctic earlier (WCIs median trend = 7 days), while the first detection  
of open water (FOW<sub>s</sub>) shows a later trend, albeit with considerable regional variability. Significant negative correlations  
between sea ice-off dates and 2 m temperature are identified in the Canadian Arctic (FOW<sub>s</sub> June through September:  $\rho = -$   
245 0.62, -0.55, -0.82, and -0.70; and WCIs May through September:  $\rho = -0.61, -0.69, -0.67, -0.77, \text{ and } -0.56$ , Table 5), indicating  
that earlier sea ice-off dates here are related to air temperature during the ice-off season. In the CAA, earlier first open water  
is detected (median = 4 days), though changes toward earlier water clear of ice are mostly confined to the southern channels,  
where temperature increases are larger in August and September (Figure 8h, i). Regions of later WCIs are also evident, for  
example the Eastern Parry Channel (Dauginis and Brown, 2020). The surrounding area (Cornwallis Island, Bathurst Island,  
250 and Northern Somerset Island) shows significant clustering between the sea ice and snow trends (no lakes are large enough to  
be detected at 4 km resolution in this region) (Figure 6c, d), further highlighting this local region of later ice/snow-off. The



Baffin Bay / Davis Strait region overall shows a median trend of 1 day earlier, however, the northern portion (Baffin Bay) and southern portion (Davis Strait) show opposite trend directions (9 days earlier vs. 24 days later, respectively) (Figure 6a, Table 4). Warming trends are identified over the northern region of Baffin Bay in July and August ranging from 0.01 to 3°C (Figure 8g, h) where the notable trends toward earlier ice-off are detected (Figure 6a, b). Later first open water trends are evident for Hudson Bay (median = 2 days), with earlier water clear of ice trends (median = 7 days). The median temperature increase during July over Hudson Bay is 0.55°C, though while the majority of the northern and western portions showing warming trends, the eastern and more southern portions show cooling (Figure 8g). These regions of cooling correspond with the region of predominantly later FOWs trends (median = 2 days). Significant clustering is shown in the ice and snow-off trends along the southern stretches of Hudson Bay and near-onshore regions (Figure 6c, d).

Earlier trends for snow and lake ice-off parameters are detected across North America (first<sub>SOFF</sub>: 8 days, final<sub>SOFF</sub>: 6 days, FOW<sub>L</sub> and WCL<sub>L</sub>: 4 days). First snow-off is significantly correlated with 2 m temperatures in March, April and May ( $\rho = -0.52, -0.54, -0.62, p < 0.05$ ), while final snow-off is significantly correlated with May only ( $\rho = -0.55, p < 0.05$ ). Lake ice-off parameters are significantly correlated to April, June, and August 2 m temperatures (FOW<sub>L</sub>  $\rho = -0.52, -0.53, -0.76$  and WCL<sub>L</sub>  $\rho = -0.51, -0.55, -0.76, p < 0.05$ , Table 5).

Looking at the western mainland areas of the Canadian Arctic, snow-off trends are predominantly earlier over the 2004–2019 period (median first<sub>SOFF</sub> = 11 days, median final<sub>SOFF</sub> = 10 days, Table 4). Links between the sea ice trends and the snow/lake ice trends are evident in the region spanning east from Victoria Island into the central mainland Arctic region, where significant local clustering is identified, with more clustering evident during first snow and ice-off events. Lake ice first open water and water clear of ice are both trending earlier here as well (median = 5 days for both), with larger trends detected in the eastern portions, likely related to strong warming over the region in May and June (Figure 8e, f). Examining Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake indicates that trends for water clear of ice are 4 and 8 days (median values) earlier, consistent with negative ice cover duration anomalies (shorter ice cover duration) for 9 of the last 14 years identified by Duguay and Brown (2018). Lake ice-off dates in northern Quebec (bordered by Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay) show later trends, with both ice-off parameters showing median trends of 9 days later, which corresponds to a widespread cooling pattern over northern Quebec in July from 2004–2019 (Figure 8g). North of this region, the two large lakes on Baffin Island, Nettilling Lake and Amadjuak Lake, show trends for first open water are 3 days (median values) earlier for both lakes, though from 2004–2018 these lakes have shown positive ice cover duration anomalies for 7 of the last 14 ice seasons, with most of the longer ice cover duration anomalies observed during the last six seasons (Duguay and Brown, 2018). Lake Hazen, in the far north, indicates trends towards earlier first open water and water clear of ice overall; however, while the eastern portion of the lake shows earlier ice-off trends, the western portion does indicate later ice-off trends (with ice cover remaining latest on the western portion of the lake in several years).

Sea ice in the Alaska/ Far East Russian coastal region shows large trends toward earlier ice-off, with first open water trends indicating 30 days earlier in the Beaufort Sea, 25 days earlier in Chukchi Sea, and 34 days earlier in the Bering Sea (median values, with slightly larger values for WCI<sub>s</sub>). The Chukchi and Bering Seas have shown larger sea surface temperature



warming trends in August compared to the Arctic-wide August mean, and September sea ice extent in the Chukchi Sea was well below the 1981 – 2010 median in 2012, 2018, and 2019 (Druckenmiller and Richter-Menge, 2020; Perovich et al. 2020). Significant correlations between sea ice-off dates and temperature are identified in these regions only in September ( $\rho = 0.54$ ,  $p < 0.05$ , Table 5), however warming patterns are present over the Bering/Chukchi Seas for almost all months since 2004 (Figure 8). First snow-off trends across Alaska/Far East Russia (median = 3 days earlier) are smaller than compared to Canada, though western Alaska shows strong trends toward earlier snow-off. Strong warming over western Alaska from 2004–2019 during April (Figure 8d) may contribute to earlier snowmelt in the region. The median lake ice first open water date shows trends of 18 days earlier in the Alaska/Far East Russia region, though southwestern Alaska shows some of the largest trends toward earlier ice-off (both FOWL and WCI<sub>L</sub>) across the pan-Arctic (Figure 6a, Table 4). Significant local clustering in this western region shows that the on-land and sea ice parameters are changing similarly. Focusing on the more northern regions of Alaska, first snow-off trends across North Slope Alaska (NSA) are towards earlier dates (median = 8 days), though final snow-off trends are considerably smaller (median = 1 day). Lake ice-off across NSA is trending later, with both first open water and water clear of ice showing median dates of 3 days later. Arp et al. (2013) found that the Arctic Coastal Plain (northern Alaska) and Beringia (western Alaska) areas experienced the latest ice-out timing from 2007–2012 compared to other lakes across Alaska, as climatology in these regions is influenced by sea-ice conditions along the Arctic Ocean coast. Though long-term trends (1950 – 2011) indicate earlier ice break-up and shorter ice seasons in NSA (Surdu et al. 2014), the trends toward later ice-off in northern Alaska identified in this study from 2004-2019 (Figure 6a) may be reflecting interannual variability and the complex responses of lake ice to changes in temperature, sea ice, and snow cover conditions. Little to no significant clustering between the snow and ice trends are identified in this region, other than some limited near-shore regions.

Trends in sea ice first open water range from 11 to 16 days earlier while water clear of ice ranges from 24 to 34 days earlier across the Eurasian Arctic seas (Table 4). Warming patterns over the Eurasian seas are detected in July and August (with the strongest warming over the Laptev and Barents Seas in both months), though no significant correlations between sea ice first open water dates and temperature were detected in Eurasia. Water clear of ice for the Eurasia Seas is only significantly correlated with April temperatures ( $\rho = -0.59$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) which coincides with strong warming and earlier ice-off for the Barents Sea region (Figure 3, Table 5). The earlier ice-off trends detected in this study across the Eurasian Arctic are consistent with Bliss and Anderson (2018), who report negative (earlier) trends in sea ice melt onset across Eurasia from 1979–2017 of  $-9.45 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$  (East Siberian),  $-7.3 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$  (Laptev),  $-8.19 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$  (Kara),  $-8.47 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$  (Barents), and  $-2.37 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$  (Greenland). Furthermore, earlier ice-off trends in these regions are consistent with large reductions in September sea ice extent in the East Siberian and Laptev Seas from 1979–2016 (Onarheim et al. 2018). Significant local clustering is identified in the sea ice trends near the Laptev and Kara Seas region and the snow/lake ice trends in the northern region of Central Eurasia (Figure 6c, d).

Overall, snow-off across the broad Eurasian region shows no trend, though both first and final snow-off are significantly correlated to air temperature for April, May and July, with the strongest correlations in May (first<sub>SOFF</sub>  $\rho = -0.60$ ,  $-0.91$ ,  $-0.68$ ; final<sub>SOFF</sub>  $\rho = -0.56$ ,  $-0.77$ ,  $-0.56$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Only NW Eurasia shows notable trends in the snow-off timing, with





320 first snow-off and final snow-off 5 and 3 days later respectively (Figure 6a, b). Lake ice shows quite a bit of variability across  
the regions, with  $\pm 2$  days (median) or less detected across the regions with the exception of Central Eurasia where the ice cover  
shows trends towards 7 (FOW<sub>L</sub>) and 9 days earlier (WCI<sub>L</sub>). Lake Onega (northwest Russia) shows earlier first open water  
(median = 5 days) and both Onega and nearby Lake Ladoga show earlier water clear of ice trends (Onega median = 6 days,  
Ladoga median = 9 days). From 1955 – 2015, total ice cover duration in Lake Onega decreased by 50 days, though decreases  
325 were mostly attributed to delayed freeze (Filatov et al. 2019). Earlier break-up dates have been detected in 40 lakes across  
Finland from 1963 – 2014 (Kuusisto, 2015), however our recent short-term trends show that lake ice-off is becoming slightly  
later (median = 2 days) in Finnish lakes nearby to Lake Ladoga and Onega. Mean 4 km IMS imagery shows that the average  
break-up dates range from mid-April to mid-May in this region, though temperature trends are only negative (cooler) in  
southwestern Finland during April and positive (warmer) over all of Finland during May (Figure 8d, e).

### 330 3.2.2 Snow and Ice-on season

Sea ice freeze onset in the Canadian Arctic shows trends towards earlier timing (median = 11 days), while sea ice within the  
Alaska/ Far East Russia region and Eurasian regions shows delays in freeze (trends of 8 and 7 days later respectively for freeze  
onset) (Figure 7a, b). On land, the North American Arctic and the Eurasian regions both show trends towards earlier first snow-  
on (median<sub>North America</sub> = 8 days and median<sub>Eurasia</sub> = 9 days) and final snow-on (median<sub>North America</sub> = 3 days and median<sub>Eurasia</sub> = 7  
335 days), though spatial variability is evident. Unlike the snow/ice-off season where lake ice-off trends were larger over North  
America compared to Eurasia, overall trends toward later lake ice freeze onset are larger across Eurasia (median = 8 days) than  
North America (median = 2 days) (Figure 6c). Local clustering is again evident across the Arctic (Figure 7c, d), however less  
sea ice/snow clusters are evident in the freeze maps, with the exception of southern Alaska and northern Quebec (Nunavik),  
particularly for final freeze. A more detailed regional break down follows.

340 Earlier sea ice freeze and snow-on trends are detected across the Canadian Arctic. Both the first and final sea ice  
parameters are significantly correlated with 2 m temperature from September through December, with the strongest  
correlations identified in November (FOs:  $\rho = 0.82$  and CICs:  $\rho = 0.77$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Sea ice shows freeze onset trending earlier  
by 8 days in the CAA, and 10 days in Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay (median values) (Figure 6c). For the North American region  
overall (Alaska and Canada, Figure 1), first snow-on dates are significantly correlated with August, September (strongest  
345 correlation) and October air temperature ( $\rho = 0.53, 0.77, 0.53$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) (final snow-on with only October,  $\rho = 0.63$ ,  $p < 0.05$ )  
(Table 5). First snow-on across the western mainland Canada shows earlier trends (median = 5 days), though delayed snow  
onset can be identified along north and northwest regions of Canada (south of the Western Arctic Waterway) (Figure 7a, b).  
Snow-on also shows earlier trends in northern Quebec (median<sub>first snow-on</sub> = 8 days, median<sub>final snow-on</sub> = 16 days) and corresponds  
to both earlier lake ice and sea ice freeze onset trends identified in this region. A large cooling pattern can be seen over eastern  
350 Canada in October which may contribute to the earlier snow and ice-on dates in this region (Figure 8j). Earlier snow-on dates  
in the Canadian Arctic are consistent with observed increases in precipitation across all seasons in Canada from 1948 – 2012  
(Vincent et al. 2015). Global climate models project increases in Arctic precipitation over the twenty-first century due to





enhanced local surface evaporation resulting from sea ice loss; however, recent projections show a shift toward a rain-dominated Arctic, particularly during summer months (Bintanja and Selten, 2014; Bintanja and Andry, 2017). Nettilling Lake shows trends towards earlier freeze onset (median = 3 days) and continuous ice cover (median = 1 day), though there is considerable variability in freeze-up as the east shows trends toward earlier freeze and west shows trends toward later freeze. Great Slave Lake, Great Bear Lake, Amadjuak Lake and Lake Hazen all show trends toward later freeze onset, consistent with later ice formation across Arctic Lakes from 2002 – 2015 (Du et al. 2017; Derksen et al. 2019). Increases in mean monthly lake surface temperatures in August have been reported to delay freeze-up by 0.3 d decade<sup>-1</sup> on Lake Hazen from 2000 – 2012 (Lehnerr et al. 2018), and warming air temperature trends are evident in the August ERA-5 data from 2004 – 2019 as well (Figure 8h). Interestingly, from 2004–2019, freeze onset is showing later trends across most of Lake Hazen, while final freeze is showing earlier trends across the entire lake despite the delayed start to the freeze season. September 2 m temperature trends show slight cooling trends for the pixels covering the lake ranging from -0.6°C to -1.4°C and would correspond to the time of complete freeze over.

Delayed sea ice freeze is identified throughout the Alaska/ Far East Russia region, while there is considerable variability in snow onset and lake ice freeze (Figure 7a, b). Trends towards later freeze (FOs = 6 days median, CICs = 8 days) in the Beaufort Sea are consistent with multi-year ice losses and lengthening of the open water season in this region (Galley et al. 2016). The Chukchi and Bering Seas both show trends toward later freeze onset (median<sub>Chukchi Sea</sub> = 8 days and median<sub>Bering Sea</sub> = 27 days) and continuous ice cover (median<sub>Chukchi Sea</sub> = 19 days and median<sub>Bering Sea</sub> = 52 days), with the Bering Sea representing the region with the largest delay in sea ice freeze across the pan-Arctic. During the ice cover season in 2017/2018 the Bering Sea ice extent was lower than any previous winter in the reconstructed or observed record, attributed to warmer sea surface temperatures, delayed freeze, and frequent storms (Thoman et al. 2020). In 2019 the Bering Sea also had extremely low ice cover during the winter and may have acted as a precursor to low summer ice conditions in the Chukchi Sea (Perovich et al. 2020). Sea ice did not completely freeze over in the Chukchi Sea until December 24 in 2019 (approximately a month later than average), with only 2007 and 2016 showing similar freeze patterns since satellite observations began in 1979 (Perovich et al. 2020). Strong warming trends observed over the Bering and Chukchi Seas from October through January (+1 – +6 °C) likely contribute to the delayed freeze detected (Figure 8 j, k), though no significant correlations between FOs or CICs and 2 m temperatures from October to January are identified in this region. First snow-on trends for Alaska are becoming earlier (median = 5 days), while final snow-on is showing smaller changes (median = 1 day later). The largest trends toward later snow cover are evident in western Alaska, with 3 days later for first snow-on and 22 days later for final snow-on. Wendler et al. (2017) report a 17% increase in mean snowfall across Alaska from 1946 – 2014, with the largest increases occurring in west and southwest Alaska. More snowfall here may be tied to warming in this region identified during almost all months from 2004 – 2019 (Figure 8), as warmer air is able to sustain more moisture which can thus facilitate increases in precipitation (Thackeray et al. 2019). First snow-on in the NSA region is becoming earlier (median = 21 days), whereas final snow-on shows no change overall due to the mix of earlier and later trends throughout the region. Lake ice within the NSA region shows trends toward earlier freeze (FO<sub>L</sub> = 8 days and CIC<sub>L</sub> = 9 days).



In Eurasia, sea ice freeze onset is becoming later, though the trends in freeze (Figure 7a, b) are smaller in magnitude than the trends for sea ice-off (Figure 6a, b). The later freeze coincides with warming over the region in September and October (Figure 8i, j), and freeze onset is significantly correlated with October 2 m air temperature ( $\rho = 0.57$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 5), while  
390 no significant temperature correlations were identified with complete ice cover. Snow-on shows predominantly earlier trends across all regions of Eurasia ranging from 4 to 13 days (medians) earlier and has strong significant correlations with both October and January air temperatures for first and final snow-on ( $\rho = 0.85$ ,  $0.84$  and  $\rho = 0.81$ ,  $0.81$  respectively,  $p < 0.05$ ). Lake ice shows similar patterns to snow onset, with earlier freeze detected over the Eurasian regions, with the exception of the Scandinavian/Northern Europe region where freeze onset shows delays of 28 days (median value) and continuous ice cover  
395 shows delays of 19 days (median value) later. Large freeze-up anomalies in this region were also identified through previous lake ice research (e.g. Duguay and Brown, 2018), for example the 2017/2018 freeze season showed delayed freeze up by approximately 2 – 5 weeks compared to the 2004 – 2018 mean. Using data from 1890 – 2015, Karetnikov et al. (2017) show that the number of winters with complete freeze over of Lake Ladoga decreased after 1950 and that the ice season has become shorter. Ice cover trends for first open water and complete ice cover are not included for Lake Ladoga in this study as a  
400 complete ice cover did not form in several of the examined years. Trends for water clear of ice (full open water) and freeze onset (first detection of ice) are detectable and included in Table 4.

#### 4 Conclusion

This paper examined sea ice, snow, and lake ice phenology across the pan-Arctic using the Interactive Multisensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (IMS) snow and ice products. Using IMS, we were able to examine both long-term snow and  
405 ice-on/off trends (1997 – 2019) at a 24 km spatial resolution, as well as more recent short-term trends in snow and ice phenology (2004 – 2019) at an improved resolution of 4 km. Our results show that the Arctic is moving toward a longer snow and ice-free season, with trends toward earlier snow/ice-off and later freeze detected. Sea ice showed the largest trends toward earlier ice-off and later freeze, with FOWs timing becoming earlier by  $7.72 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$  and CICs becoming later by  $10.60 \text{ d decade}^{-1}$ . Lake ice and snow-off parameters are also showing earlier trends, though not as large as those detected for sea ice.  
410 Lake ice-off showed significant correlations with snow-off and sea ice-off, while no significant correlations were found between any snow/lake ice/sea ice parameters during the freeze season. This likely reflects the strong influence of surface air temperature on snow and ice off timing, whereas during the freeze season, precipitation plays an important role in determining the timing of snow onset and lake size/volume is an important determinant for freeze timing.

Sea ice in the Canadian Arctic is clearing earlier overall, though regional variability does indicate some regions of  
415 later clearing, while during the freeze season, sea ice-on trends are predominantly earlier (11 and 9 days median for first and final ice cover), showing opposite trends compared to other regions across the pan-Arctic. Snow-off and lake ice-off show predominantly earlier trends across North America with some regional exceptions in the east. Snow onset also shows earlier trends across North America, with snow-on trends moving earlier by 4 to 16 days. Lake ice shows a mixed response, with later



freeze in the west and earlier freeze in the east – reflective of the cooling air temperature trends over the eastern regions. The  
420 largest trends toward earlier sea ice-off were detected in the Alaska/Far East Russia region, with trends towards ice clearing a  
month later. Snow and lake ice-off timing in this region also shows earlier trends, with some of the largest snow and lake ice  
trends identified in the Western Alaska region. Delays in sea ice freeze were also observed here (trends of 8 and 14 days later  
for first and final freeze) with much stronger trends in the Bering Sea region. This is consistent with delayed snow onset over  
land and delayed freeze onset in lakes across most of Alaska. These phenology trends are likely related to strong temperature  
425 increases, as trends in 2 m temperature are positive during most months from 2004 – 2019 in this region. Sea ice on the Eurasian  
side of the Arctic is showing larger trends towards earlier ice-off than later ice-on (roughly a month later ice-off, 1-2 weeks  
later freeze). No trend in first snow-off dates was detected in Eurasia and only a small change toward earlier final snow-off  
(median = 1 day) was identified; though larger trends toward earlier snow-off were detected in northwest Eurasia compared to  
the east. Lake ice shows a similar east-west pattern, with Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega showing larger earlier first open water  
430 trends compared to northeast Eurasia. Snow onset is also trending earlier over Eurasia, consistent with previous studies that  
have documented increases in total annual precipitation during cold seasons over the Arctic (Box et al. 2019).

By examining multiple components of the cryosphere together, we can better understand how warming affects snow  
and ice cover and how these components are interrelated. As the Arctic continues to experience unprecedented change as a  
response to increasing temperatures, continuous monitoring of changes in snow and ice cover is essential to improve our  
435 understanding of climate variability and changes occurring at not only the pan-Arctic scale but at the regional-scale as well.

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### Data

All data sets used in this study are freely available online.

### Author Contributions

Project conceptualization and methodology were designed by AD and LB, with the formal data analysis carried out by AD.  
445 Original draft was prepared by AD, with review and editing from both AD and LB.



## Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest

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**Sea Ice Regions**

- Eurasia
- Alaska / Far East Russia
- Canadian Arctic

**Snow and Lake Ice Regions**

- Lakes
- Eurasia
- 1 Eastern Eurasia
- 2 Central Eurasia
- 3 Eastern Eurasia
- 4 Scandinavia / Northern Europe

- North America
- 5 Far east Russia
- 6 Western Alaska
- 7 North Slope Alaska
- 8 Canadian Arctic Archipelago
- 9 Canadian Mainland (west)
- 10 Northern Quebec

**Figure 1.** Map of the study area, including the main Sea Ice, Snow and Lake Ice regions (coloured), and subregions (numbered) included in Table 4.



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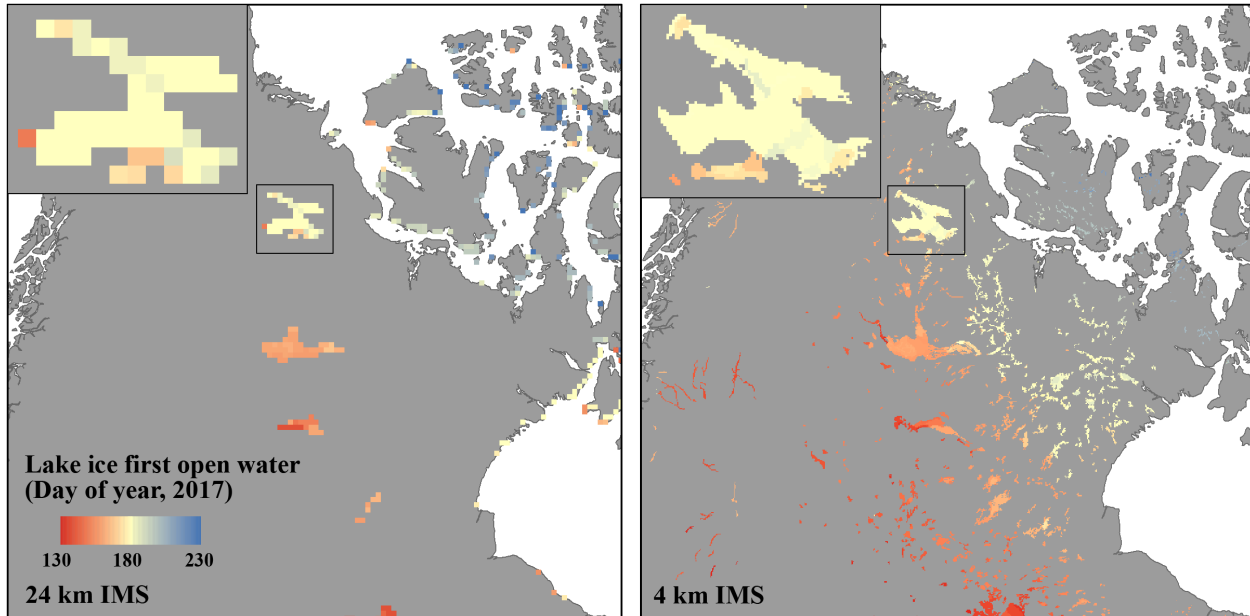
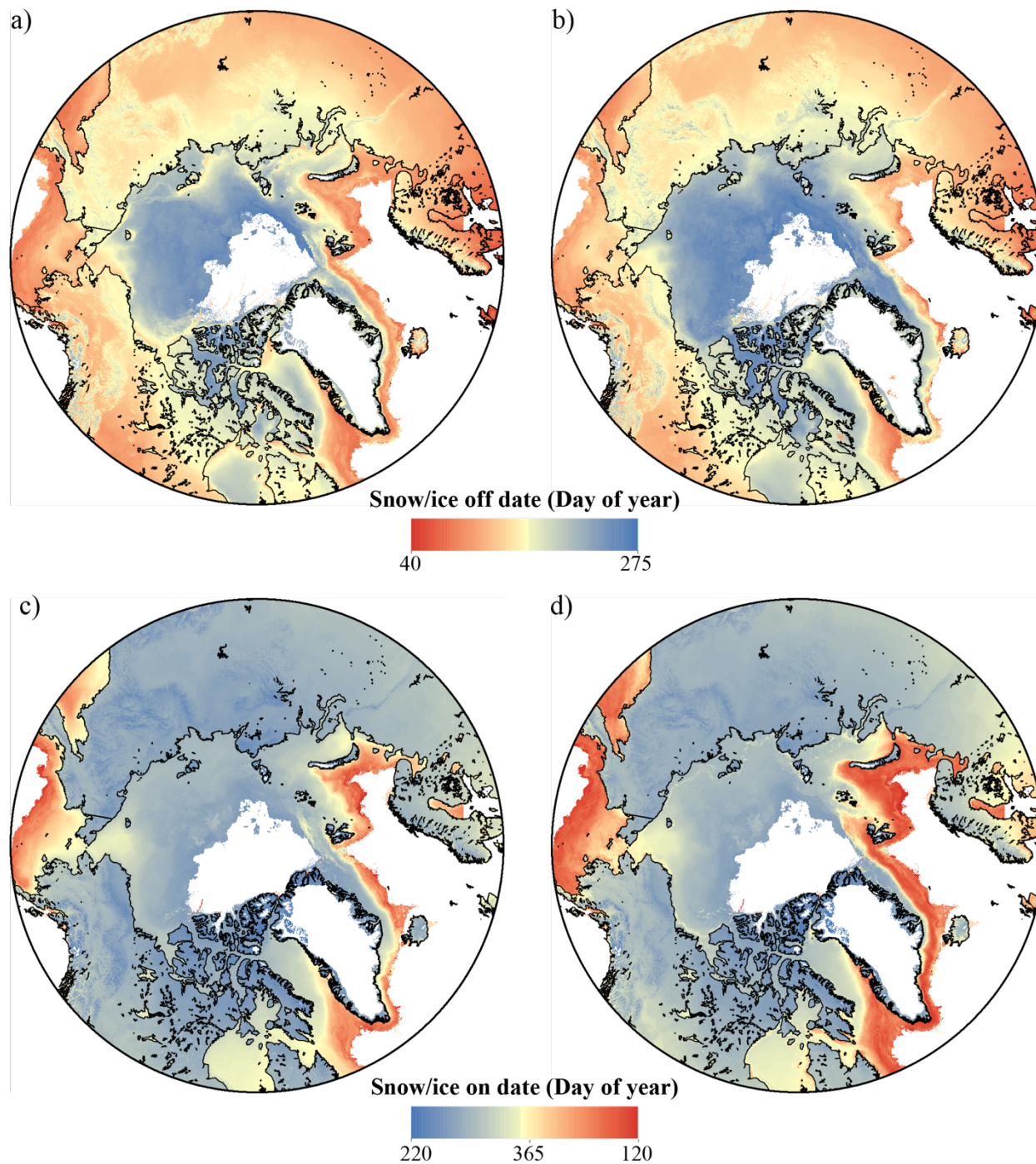


Figure 2. Comparison of 24 km (left) and 4 km (right) lake ice first open water in 2017.

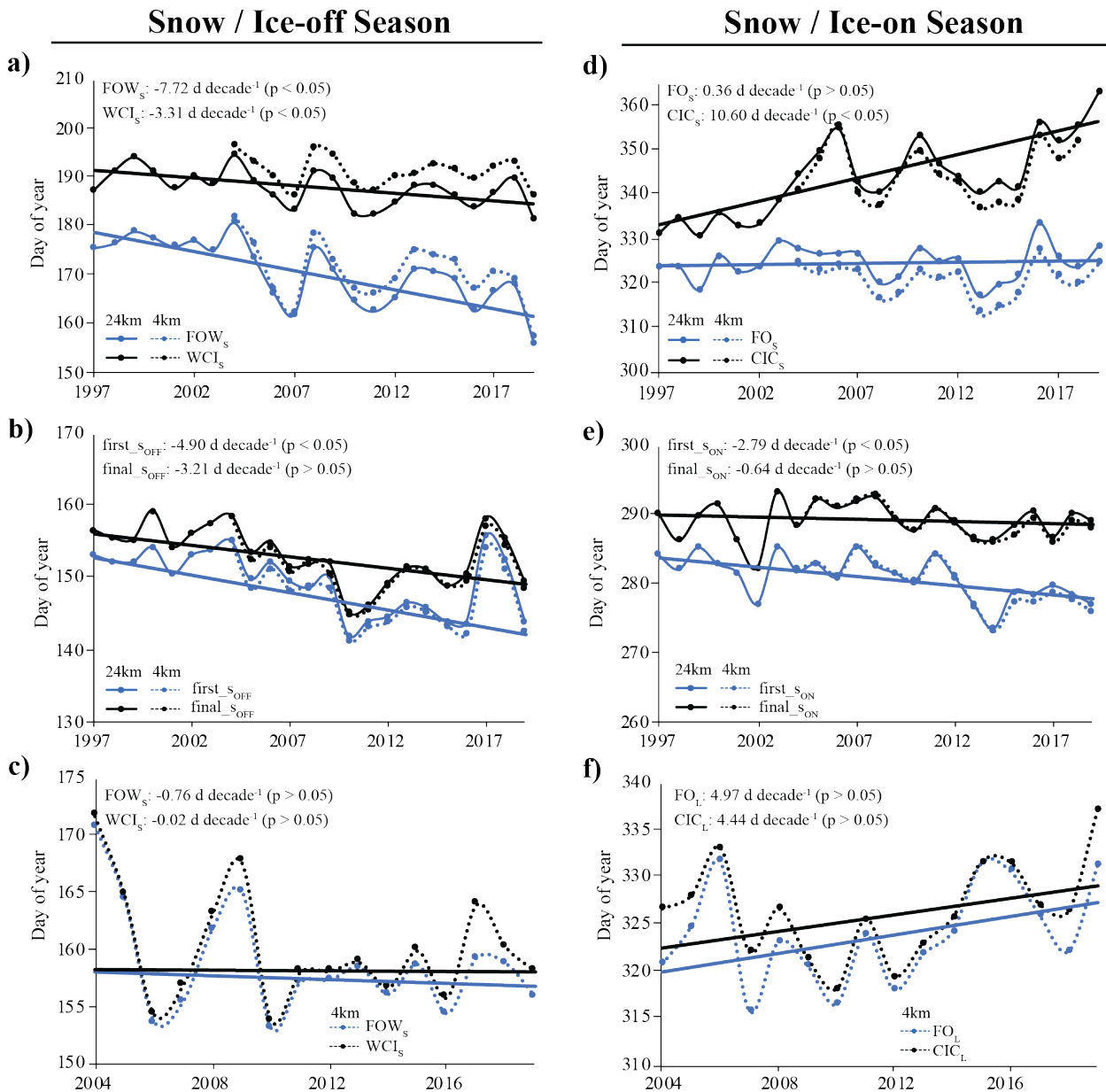




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Figure 3. Mean 4 km IMS (2004 – 2019) sea ice first open water (FOW<sub>S</sub>), first snow-off (first<sub>SOFF</sub>), and lake ice first open water (FOW<sub>L</sub>) (a), sea ice water clear of ice (WCI<sub>S</sub>), final snow-off (final<sub>SOFF</sub>), and lake ice water clear of ice (WCI<sub>L</sub>) (b), sea ice freeze onset (FO<sub>S</sub>), first snow-on (first<sub>SON</sub>), and lake ice freeze onset (FO<sub>L</sub>) (c), and sea ice continuous ice cover (CIC<sub>S</sub>), final snow-on (final<sub>SON</sub>), and lake ice continuous ice cover (CIC<sub>L</sub>) (d).



670 **Figure 4.** Mean 24 km (1997 – 2019) and 4 km (2004 – 2019) IMS sea ice first open water ( $FOW_S$ ) and water clear of ice ( $WCI_S$ ) (a), first snow-off ( $first\_s_{OFF}$ ) and final snow-off ( $final\_s_{OFF}$ ) (b), lake ice first open water ( $FOW_L$ ) and water clear of ice ( $WCI_L$ ) (c), sea ice freeze onset ( $FO_S$ ) and continuous ice cover ( $CIC_S$ ) (d), first snow-on ( $first\_s_{ON}$ ) and final snow-on ( $final\_s_{ON}$ ) (e), and lake ice freeze onset ( $FO_L$ ) and continuous ice cover ( $CIC_L$ ) (f). Sen's slope and significance are indicated for each phenology parameter using the 24 km IMS product. Note that for lake ice, only the 4 km IMS product was used in this study.





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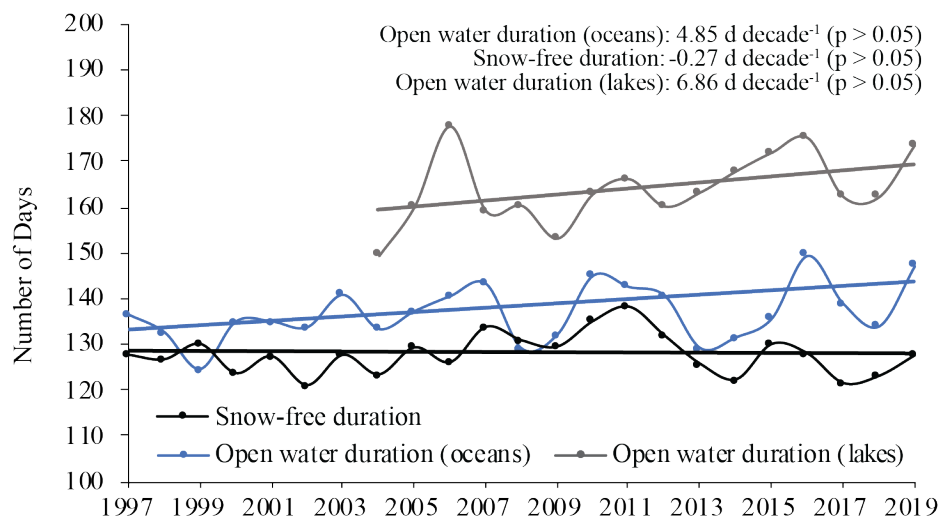


Figure 5. Pan-Arctic open water duration for oceans (1997 – 2019), snow-free duration (1997 – 2019) over land, and open water duration for lakes (2004 – 2019). Sen's slope of the trend and significance are shown.

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## Snow / Ice-off Season

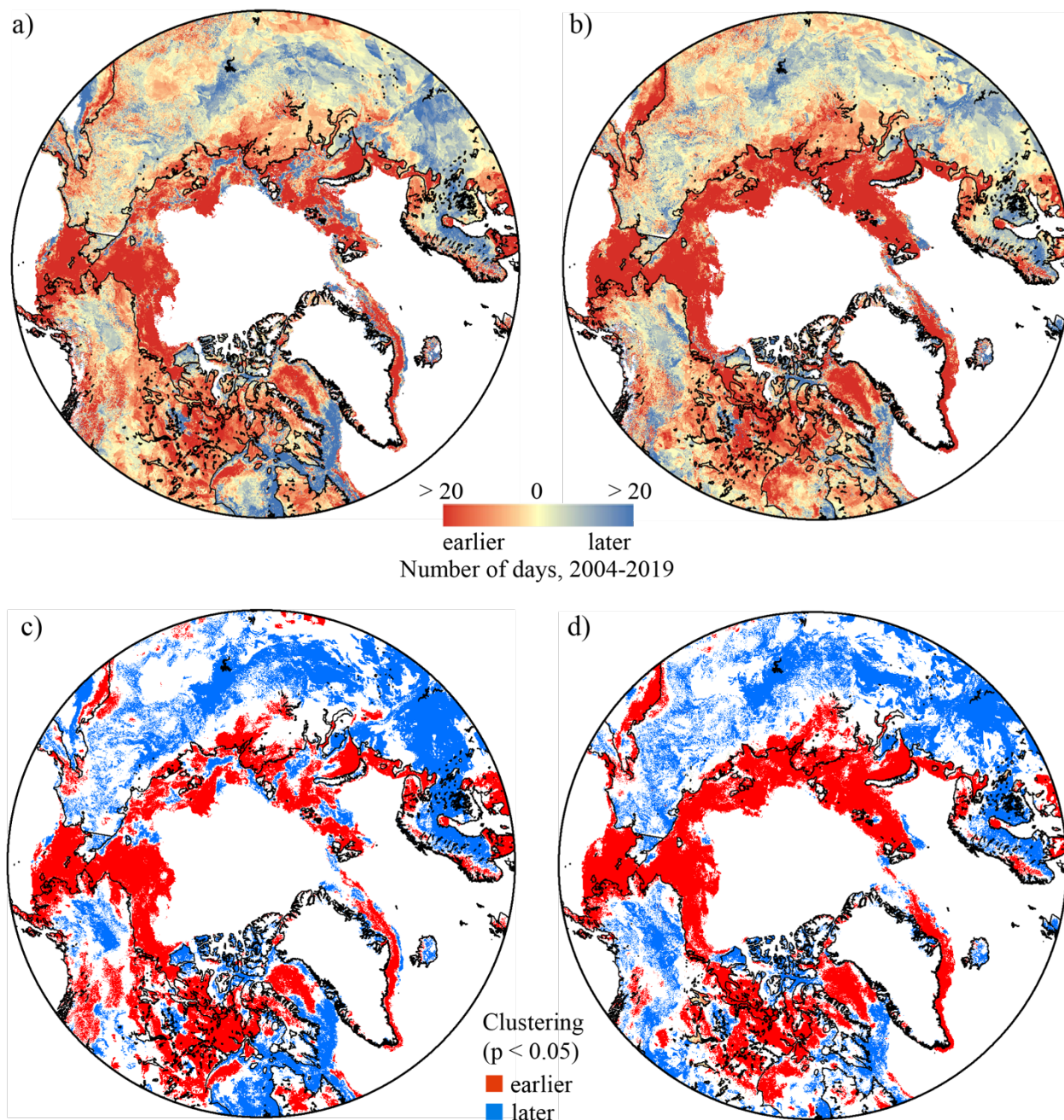


Figure 6. Trends in 4 km IMS (2004 – 2019) sea ice first open water ( $FOW_S$ ), first snow-off ( $first_{SOFF}$ ), and lake ice first open water ( $FOW_L$ ) (a), sea ice water clear of ice ( $WCI_S$ ), final snow-off ( $final_{SOFF}$ ), and lake ice water clear of ice ( $WCI_L$ ) (b), significant trend clusters in  $FOW_S$ ,  $FOW_L$  and  $first_{SOFF}$  (c), and significant trend clusters in  $WCI_S$ ,  $WCI_L$ , and  $final_{SOFF}$  (d).



## Snow / Ice-on Season

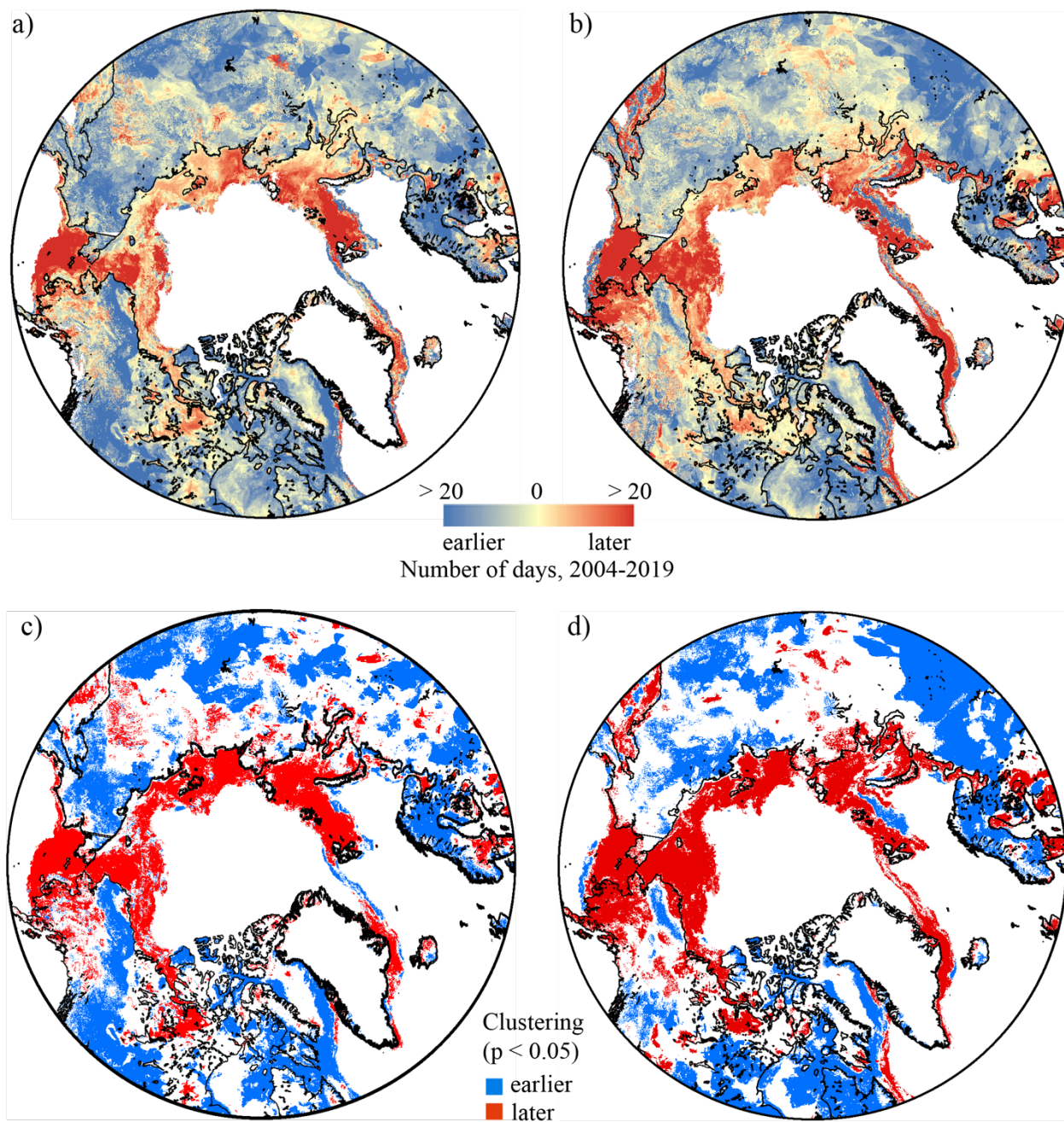
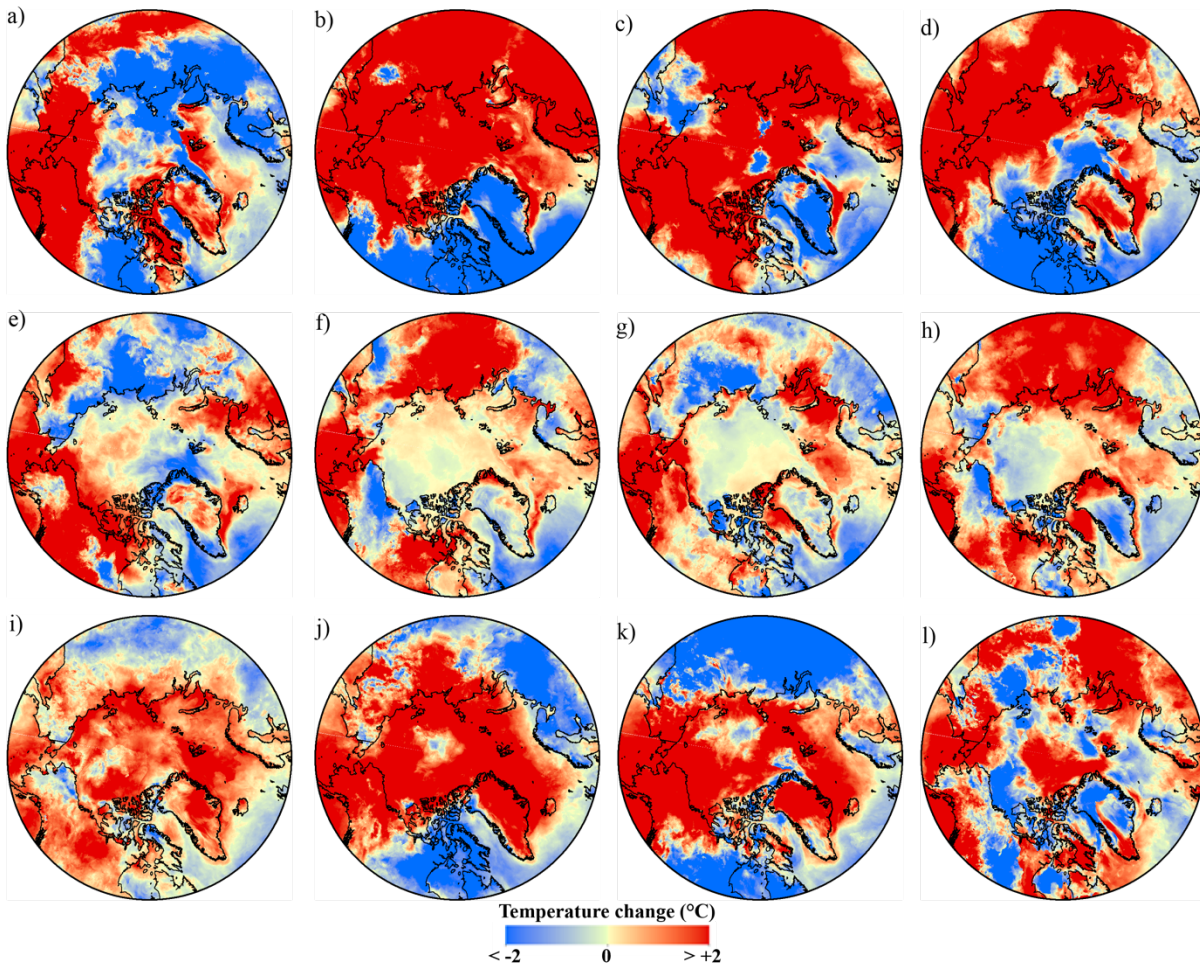


Figure 7. Trends in 4 km IMS (2004 – 2019) sea ice freeze onset (FO<sub>s</sub>), first snow-on (first\_son), and lake ice freeze onset (FO<sub>L</sub>) (a), and sea ice continuous ice cover (CIC<sub>s</sub>), final snow-on (final\_son), and lake ice continuous ice cover (CIC<sub>L</sub>) (b), significant trend clusters in FO<sub>s</sub>, FO<sub>L</sub> and first\_son (c), and significant trend clusters in CIC<sub>s</sub>, CIC<sub>L</sub>, and final\_son (d).





**Figure 8.** Trends in monthly 2 m temperature from 2004 – 2019 in January (a), February (b), March (c), April (d), May (e), June (f), July (g), August (h), September (i), October (j), November (k), and December (l).



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**Table 1. Sea ice, lake ice, and snow phenology parameters and definitions in this study.**

Parameter		Definition
FOW <sub>S</sub>	First open water (sea ice)	The first change from ice to water for a given pixel
FOW <sub>L</sub>	First open water (lake ice)	
WCI <sub>S</sub>	Water clear of ice (sea ice)	The last change from ice to water, signaling ice-free conditions for the remainder of the season
WCI <sub>L</sub>	Water clear of ice (lake ice)	
FO <sub>S</sub>	Freeze onset (sea ice)	The first detection of ice for a given pixel
FO <sub>L</sub>	Freeze onset (lake ice)	
CIC <sub>S</sub>	Continuous ice cover (sea ice)	The date of the last change from water to ice
CIC <sub>L</sub>	Continuous ice cover (lake ice)	
first <sub>SOFF</sub>	First snow-off	The first change from snow-covered land to snow-free land for a given pixel
final <sub>SOFF</sub>	Final snow-off	The last change from snow-covered to snow-free land, signalling snow-free conditions for the remainder of the season
first <sub>SON</sub>	First snow-on	The first change from snow-free land to snow-covered land
final <sub>SON</sub>	Final snow-on	The last change from snow-free to snow-covered land



700 **Table 2. Pan-Arctic Spearman rank correlations ( $\rho$ ) for snow and sea ice phenology dates and monthly 2 m temperature from 1997 - 2019 using 24 km IMS. Months were selected for each phenology parameter based on mean phenology dates in Figure 3. \* represents statistically significant correlations at the 95% confidence level.**

	Sea Ice				Snow			
	<i>Melt</i>		<i>Freeze</i>		<i>Melt</i>		<i>Freeze</i>	
	<b>FOW<sub>s</sub></b>	<b>WCI<sub>s</sub></b>	<b>FO<sub>s</sub></b>	<b>CIC<sub>s</sub></b>	<b>first SOFF</b>	<b>final SOFF</b>	<b>first SON</b>	<b>final SON</b>
Jan	-	-	0.28	0.26	-	-	0.23	0.34
Feb	-	-	0.09	0.15	-	-	-	-
Mar	-0.22	-0.31	0.04	-0.19	-0.31	-0.08	-	-
Apr	-0.50*	-0.57*	0.34	0.22	-0.34	-0.36	-	-
May	-0.39	-0.33	-	-	-0.26	-0.11	-	-
Jun	-0.60*	-0.60*	-	-	-0.46*	-0.34	-	-
Jul	-0.58*	-0.57*	-	-	-0.49*	-0.41	-	-
Aug	-0.33	-0.32	-	-	-0.17	-0.18	0.03	-0.06
Sep	-0.69*	-0.60*	0.40	0.21	-	-	0.25	0.25
Oct	-	-	0.48*	0.41	-	-	0.28	0.41
Nov	-	-	0.19	0.14	-	-	0.06	0.08
Dec	-	-	0.00	-0.05	-	-	0.16	0.10



705 **Table 3. Pan-Arctic Spearman rank correlations ( $\rho$ ) for snow and ice phenology dates using the 24 km (1997 – 2019) and 4 km (2004 – 2019) IMS products. \* represents statistically significant correlations at the 95% confidence level.**

<i>rho</i> ( $\rho$ )		
<b><i>First melt</i></b>		
	first <sub>SOFF</sub>	FOW <sub>L</sub>
FOW <sub>S</sub>	0.38 (24 km) 0.38 (4 km)	0.62* (4 km)
FOW <sub>L</sub>	0.55* (4 km)	-
<b><i>Final melt</i></b>		
	final <sub>SOFF</sub>	WCI <sub>L</sub>
WCI <sub>S</sub>	0.46* (24 km) 0.64* (4 km)	0.72* (4 km)
WCI <sub>L</sub>	0.51* (4 km)	-
<b><i>First Freeze</i></b>		
	first <sub>SON</sub>	FO <sub>L</sub>
FO <sub>S</sub>	0.15 (24 km) 0.08 (4 km)	0.23 (4 km)
FO <sub>L</sub>	-0.27 (4 km)	-
<b><i>Final Freeze</i></b>		
	final <sub>SON</sub>	CIC <sub>L</sub>
CIC <sub>S</sub>	0.37 (24 km) 0.24 (4 km)	0.37 (4 km)
CIC <sub>L</sub>	0.19 (4 km)	-





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**Table 4. Regional analysis (see Figure 1) of the median trend strength (days/15years?) and direction (- earlier, + later) for all of the phenology parameters: First open water (FOW, subscript S denotes sea ice, L denotes Lake ice), Water clear of ice (WCI, subscript S denotes sea ice, L denotes Lake ice), Freeze onset (FO, subscript S denotes sea ice, L denotes Lake ice), Complete ice cover (CIC, subscript S denotes sea ice, L denotes Lake ice), first and final snow-off ( $_S$ OFF), first and final snow-on ( $_S$ ON).**

	<i>Melt</i>		<i>Freeze</i>	
	<b>FOW<sub>S</sub></b>	<b>WCI<sub>S</sub></b>	<b>FO<sub>S</sub></b>	<b>CIC<sub>S</sub></b>
<b><i>Sea Ice</i></b>				
<b>Canadian Arctic Region</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-9</b>
Canadian Arctic Archipelago	-4	-7	-12	-8
Hudson Bay	+2	-7	-10	-10
Baffin Bay	-9	-18	-7	-6
Davis Strait	+24	+11	-22	-10
<b>Alaska/ Far East Russia Region</b>	<b>-23</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>+14</b>
Beaufort Sea	-30	-37	+6	+8
Chukchi Sea	-25	-31	+8	+19
Bering Sea	-34	-41	+27	+52
<b>Eurasia Region</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>+10</b>
Eastern Siberian Sea	-15	-24	+5	+7
Laptev Sea	-11	-28	+8	+8
Kara Sea	-16	-32	+7	+10
Barents Sea	-15	-34	+16	+13
Greenland Sea	-13	-25	+2	+15

	<i>Melt</i>				<i>Freeze</i>			
	<b>First<sub>S</sub>OFF</b>	<b>Final<sub>S</sub>OFF</b>	<b>FOW<sub>L</sub></b>	<b>WCI<sub>L</sub></b>	<b>First<sub>S</sub>ON</b>	<b>Final<sub>S</sub>ON</b>	<b>FO<sub>L</sub></b>	<b>CIC<sub>L</sub></b>
<b><i>Snow / Lake Ice</i></b>								
<b>North American Arctic</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>0</b>
Canada Mainland West	-11	-10	-5	-5	-5	-4	+5	+1
Northern QC	-7	-5	+9	+9	-8	-16	-4	-2
Alaska/ Far East Russia	-3	0	-18	-19	-5	+1	+9	+11
Western Alaska	-17	-15	-22	-27	+3	+22	+33	+25
North Slope	-8	-1	+3	+3	-21	0	-8	-9
Far East Russia	0	1	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	-9	-4	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>
Nettling Lake			-3	+2			-3	-1
Amadjuak Lake			-1	0			+3	+2
Great Slave Lake			-6	-4			+3	+1
Great Bear Lake			-4	-8			+8	+6
Lake Hazen			-1	-4			+3	-11
<b>Eurasia</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>+8</b>
Scandinavia/Northern Europe	0	0	-1	-1	-13	-9	+28	+19
NW Eurasia	+5	+3	+1	-2	-8	-13	-4	-6
Central Eurasia	0	0	-7	-9	-9	-4	-2	-4
NE Eurasia	-1	-1	+2	+2	-9	-8	-6	-9
Lake Ladoga*			<i>N/A</i>	-9			+13	<i>N/A</i>
Lake Onega			-5	-6			+28	+15

715 \* FOW<sub>L</sub> and CIC<sub>L</sub> are not included for Lake Ladoga as the lake did not fully freeze in several of the study years.



720

**Table 5. Regional Spearman rank correlations ( $\rho$ ) for snow and ice phenology dates and monthly 2 m temperature from 2004 - 2019 using 4 km IMS. For sea ice, ‘Canadian Arctic’ includes Baffin Bay, Hudson Bay, and the CAA; ‘Alaska/Far East Russia’ includes Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering seas; ‘Eurasian Arctic’ includes East Siberian, Laptev, Kara, Bering, and Greenland seas (See Figure 1). Months were selected for each phenology parameter based on mean phenology dates in Figure 3. \* represents statistically significant correlations at the 95% confidence level.**

<b>Sea Ice</b>								
<i>Melt</i>	<i>Canadian Arctic</i>		<i>Alaska/Far East Russia</i>		<i>Eurasian Arctic</i>			
	FOW <sub>S</sub>	WCI <sub>S</sub>	FOW <sub>S</sub>	WCI <sub>S</sub>	FOW <sub>S</sub>	WCI <sub>S</sub>		
Mar	-0.19	-0.20	-0.37	-0.55*	-0.17	-0.07		
Apr	-0.41	-0.40	-0.11	-0.19	-0.43	-0.59*		
May	-0.44	-0.61*	-0.05	0.22	-0.12	-0.35		
Jun	-0.62*	-0.69*	-0.20	0.05	-0.06	-0.44		
Jul	-0.55*	-0.67*	-0.43	-0.12	0.28	-0.20		
Aug	-0.82*	-0.77*	-0.50	-0.22	0.43	-0.03		
Sep	-0.70*	-0.56*	0.54*	0.67*	0.10	-0.10		
<i>Freeze</i>	<i>Canadian Arctic</i>		<i>Alaska/Far East Russia</i>		<i>Eurasian Arctic</i>			
	FO <sub>S</sub>	CIC <sub>S</sub>	FO <sub>S</sub>	CIC <sub>S</sub>	FO <sub>S</sub>	CIC <sub>S</sub>		
Sep	0.57*	0.64*	-0.20	-0.17	0.44	-0.02		
Oct	0.58*	0.61*	-0.24	0.02	0.57*	0.27		
Nov	0.82*	0.77*	0.36	0.33	0.35	0.13		
Dec	0.54*	0.70*	-0.04	-0.11	0.49	0.16		
Jan	0.15	-0.22	-0.18	0.03	0.22	0.08		
Feb	0.64*	0.50	0.29	0.34	0.26	0.12		
Mar	0.52*	0.29	0.29	0.37	0.12	-0.27		
Apr	0.30	0.31	-0.04	-0.19	0.07	0.20		
<b>Snow and Lake Ice</b>								
<i>Melt</i>	<i>Eurasia</i>				<i>North America</i>			
	first <sub>SOFF</sub>	final <sub>SOFF</sub>	FOW <sub>L</sub>	WCI <sub>L</sub>	first <sub>SOFF</sub>	final <sub>SOFF</sub>	FOW <sub>L</sub>	WCI <sub>L</sub>
Mar	0.12	0.15	-0.25	-0.18	-0.52*	-0.40	-0.33	-0.29
Apr	-0.60*	-0.56*	-0.44	-0.53*	-0.54*	-0.32	-0.52*	-0.51*
May	-0.91*	-0.77*	-0.19	-0.43	-0.62*	-0.55*	-0.32	-0.33
Jun	-0.40	-0.32	0.12	-0.07	-0.39	-0.07	-0.53*	-0.55*
Jul	-0.68*	-0.56*	-0.04	-0.36	-0.36	-0.42	-0.32	-0.30
Aug	0.28	0.18	-0.30	-0.12	-0.15	-0.14	-0.76*	-0.76*
<i>Freeze</i>	<i>Eurasia</i>				<i>North America</i>			
	first <sub>SON</sub>	final <sub>SON</sub>	FO <sub>L</sub>	CIC <sub>L</sub>	first <sub>SON</sub>	final <sub>SON</sub>	FO <sub>L</sub>	CIC <sub>L</sub>
Aug	0.03	0.37	-	-	0.53*	0.44	-	-
Sep	0.43	0.58*	0.30	0.27	0.77*	0.45	0.14	0.18
Oct	0.85*	0.81*	-0.41	-0.28	0.53*	0.63*	0.16	0.20
Nov	-0.17	-0.17	0.10	0.06	-0.28	0.14	0.56*	0.52*
Dec	-0.02	0.12	0.14	0.11	0.33	-0.01	-0.03	0.02
Jan	0.84*	0.81*	-0.25	-0.16	0.14	0.08	0.05	0.15



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Feb	-	-	0.34	0.39	-	-	0.06	0.09
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