

Ocean-Cryosphere Exchanges in Antarctica: Impacts on the Climate and the Earth System

Andrew Meijers, British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK The OCEAN RACE 2022-23 – Genova Grand Finale 27 June 2023



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Ice sheets are losing mass due to ocean driven melting



IceSat(-2) thickness change (2003-19) Smith et al., 2020, Science



Future ice sheet mass loss is one of the greatest climate uncertainties



IPCC AR6 (2021), Summary for policy makers high impact storyline from an expert survey and structured expert judgement (i.e. not modelled)



Antarctic feedbacks contribute to global impacts



Future climate is slightly cooler with melting ice sheets

...but the warmer subsurface has the potential to accelerate melt (Bronselaer et al., 2018)

Climate tipping points add even more uncertainty, and many are polar



(McKay et al., 2022)



Combines expertise in ice sheets, instability, ocean circulation and model development





8 MEURO project, co-funded by Horizon Europe (with 4.9 MEURO) and United Kingdom Research and Innovation 4 years, starting in November 2022 17 partners from the EU and UK Many participating international supporting organisations

Coordination team:

- Horizon Europe Project coordinator: Danish Meteorological Institute, Ruth Mottram (<u>rum@dmi.dk</u>)
- UKRI coordinator at UKRI-BAS: Andrew Meijers (andmei@bas.ac.uk)
- EU grant project manager: Chiara Bearzotti







Ocean processes around (1)Antarctica (WP1) Antarctic ice sheet-ocean 2 interactions (WP2) Antarctic ice sheet modelling 3 and freshwater fluxes (WP3) Future fluxes and stability (4) of Antarctic ice sheet (WP4) Ice sheet impact on global 5 ocean circulation (WP5) Ice sheet-ocean-climate 6 impacts and tipping points (WP6) Scientifically and socially Drelevant impacts and dissemination (WP7-9)

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- 2: Ice shelf dynamics, supporting;





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- 7: Climate assessments and advice to policymakers and public

What OCEAN: ICE will produce



- New projections of sea level rise
- New assessments polar tipping point risk
- New observations under different types of ice shelves
- Improvements to global climate models
- The first projections of global climate indicators with active ice sheets
- Direct collaboration with regional modellers and policy makers for long term planning



OCEAN:ICE Partners









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