

A very weak state of the Oyashio in recent years:
its relationships with the subarctic gyre in the North Pacific

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How should we understand the current climate change under global warming?

Keywords

(1) Conventional/Stationary change

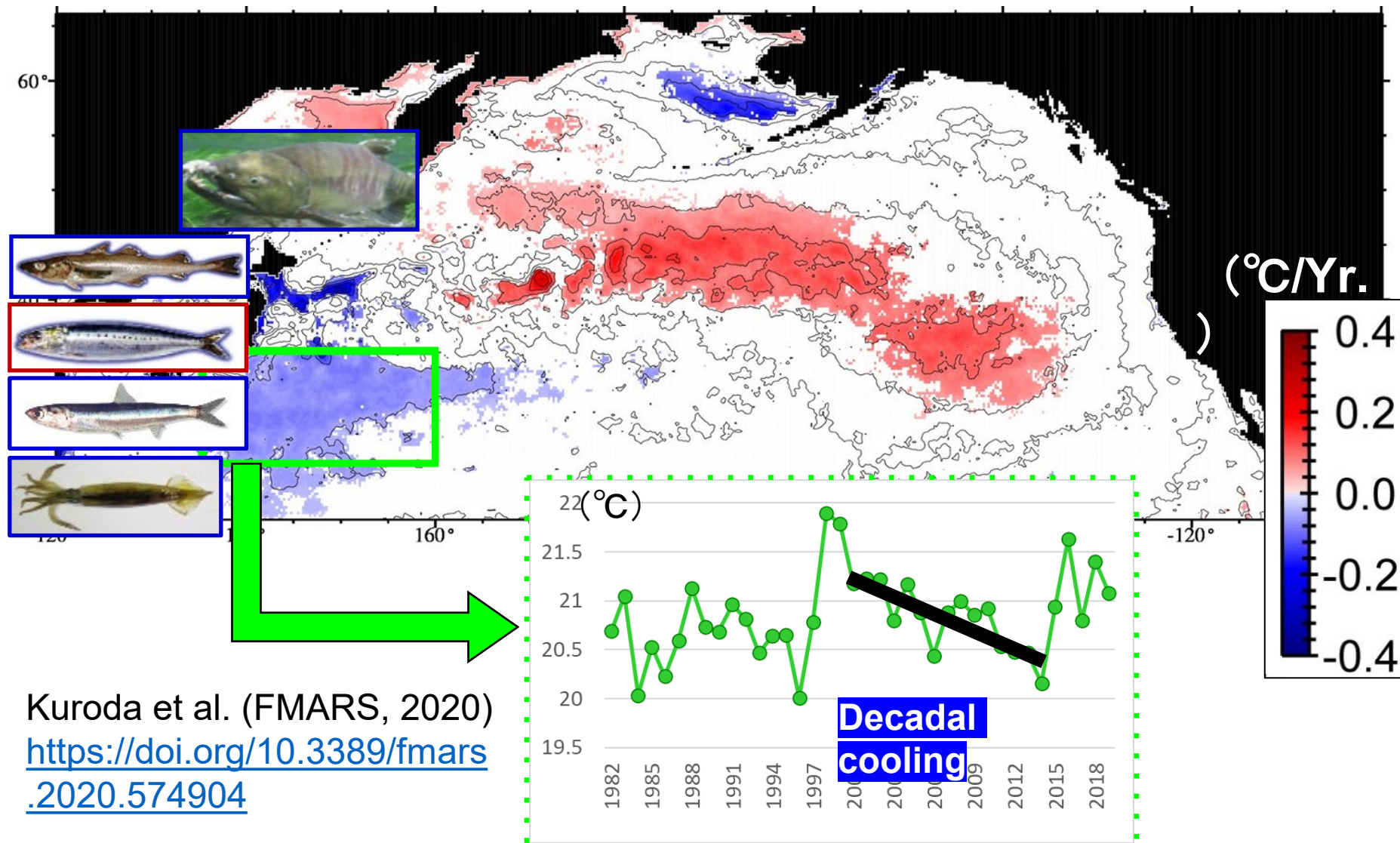
(1) Unconventional/Nonstationary change

Example of “unconventional change”

Decadal trend of winter–spring SSTs in 2000–2014

Red : Increase

Blue : Decrease



Kuroda et al. (FMARS, 2020)
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2020.574904>

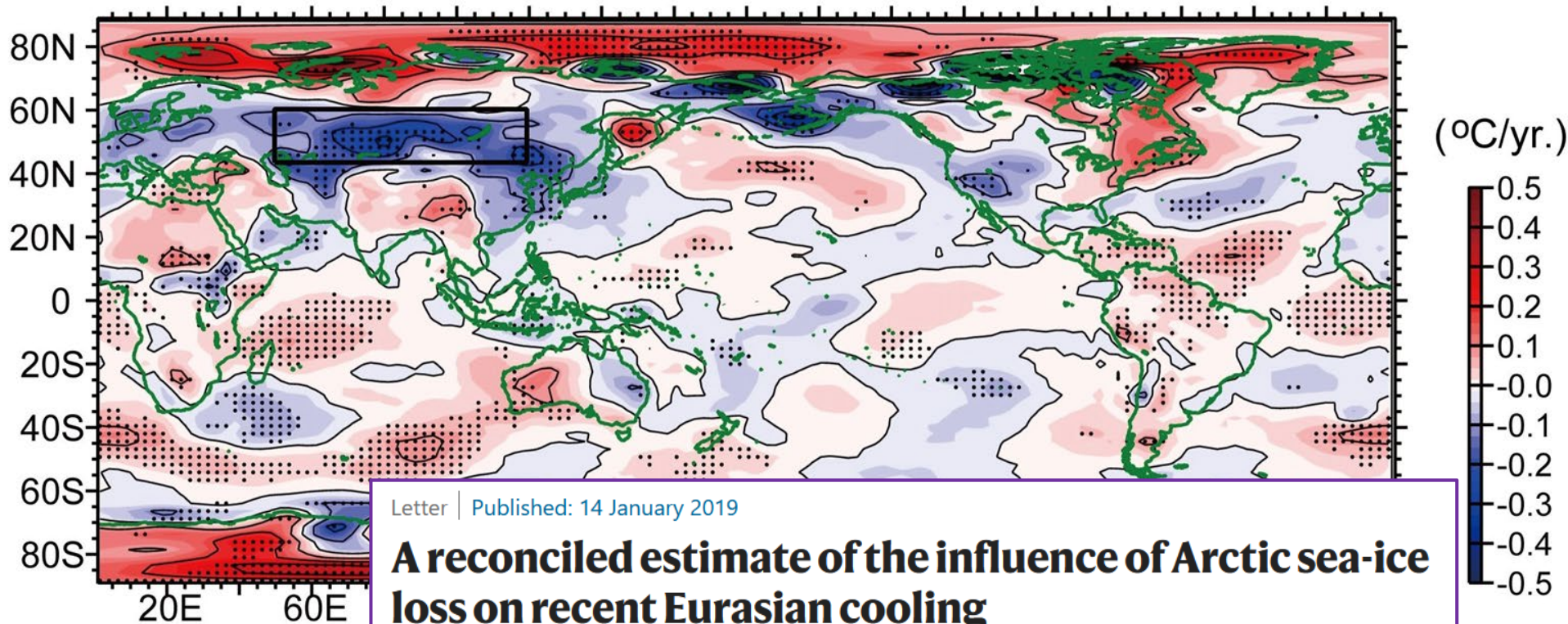
Example of “unconventional change”

Decadal trend of winter–spring air temperatures in 2000–2013

Red : Increase

Blue : Decrease

(A) Trends of surface air temperatures in 2000-2013 (winter-spring)



Letter | Published: 14 January 2019

A reconciled estimate of the influence of Arctic sea-ice loss on recent Eurasian cooling

Masato Mori , Yu Kosaka, Masahiro Watanabe, Hisashi Nakamura & Masahide Kimoto

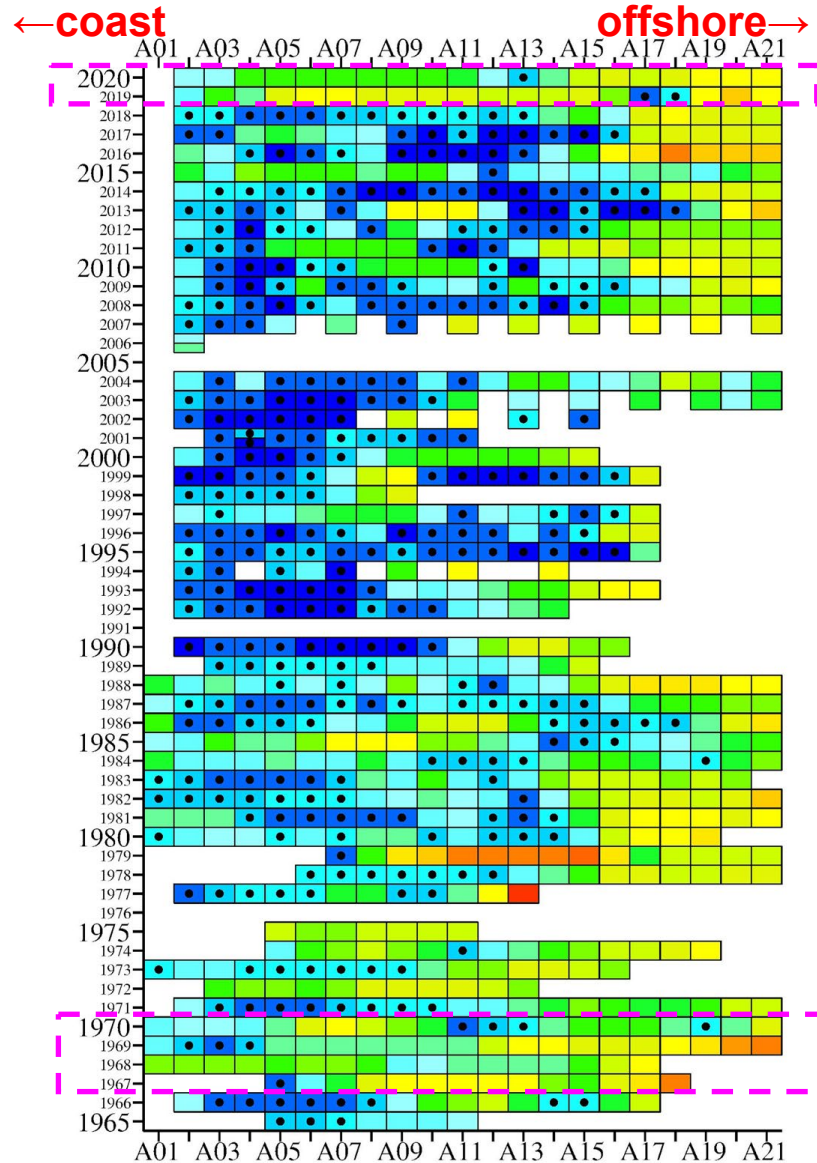
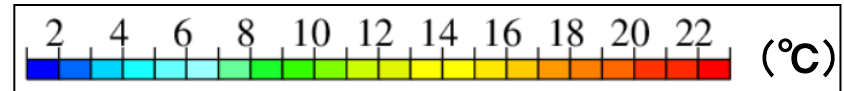
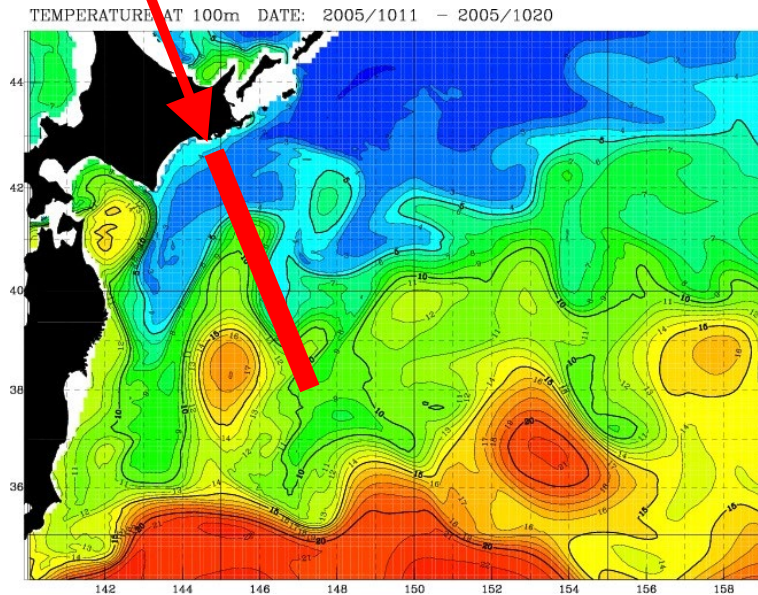
Nature Climate Change **9**, 123–129 (2019) | [Cite this article](#)

5518 Accesses | 79 Citations | 111 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Conventional? or Unconventional?

100-m temperature
in October
along the A-line
(● : Oyashio water <math>< 5^{\circ}\text{C}</math>)

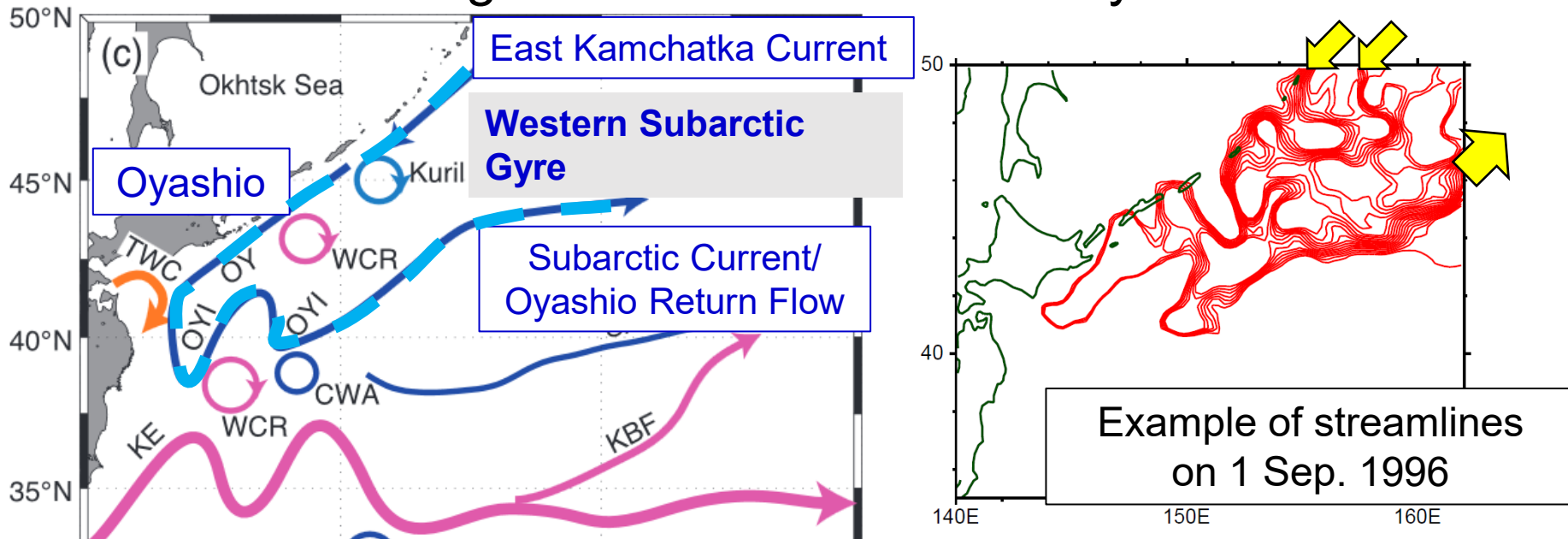
A-line (our monitoring line)



Temperatures
digitized from analog
maps

Conventional? or Unconventional?

Altimetry-derived geostrophic surface streamlines along the Western Subarctic Gyre



Detection method

Isolines were detected from daily absolute dynamic topography (ADT)

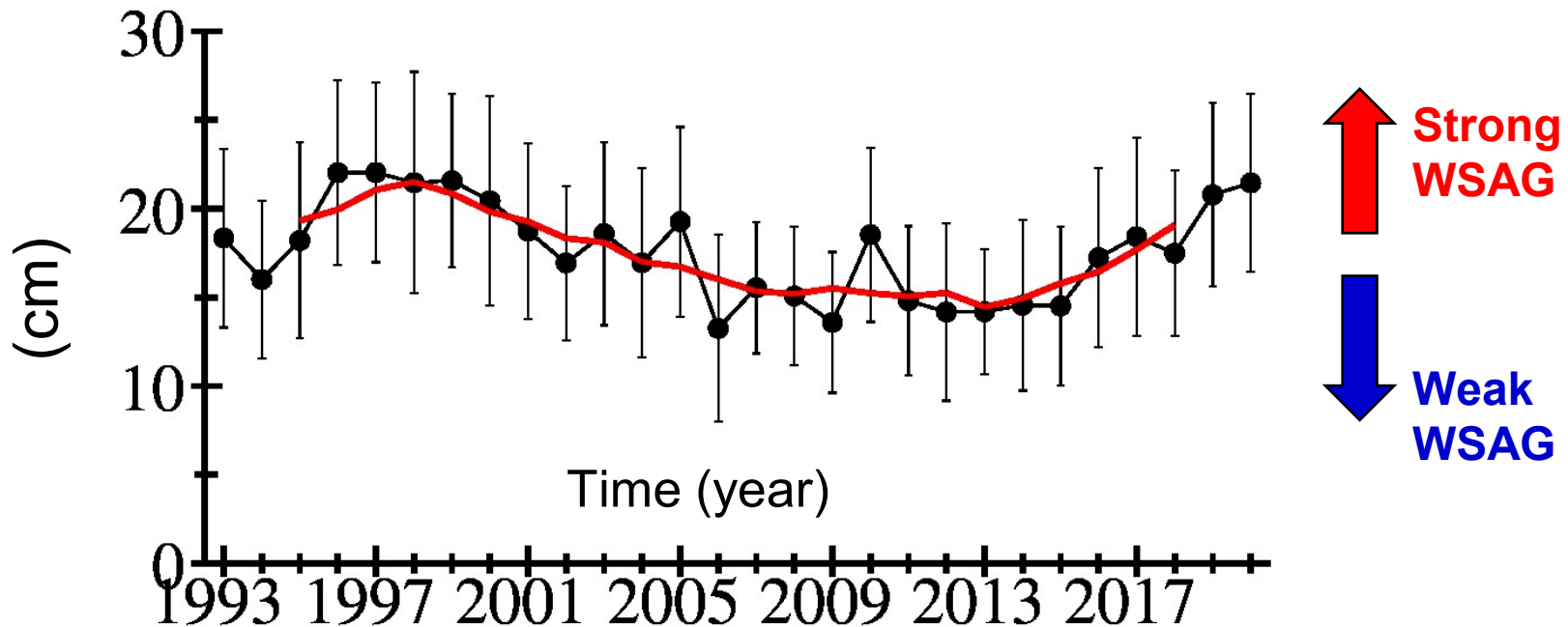
Conditions of detected streamlines

- ① The isolines pass through the northern and eastern boundaries of a rectangular region of 140-162°E, 35-50°N (see upper-right panel)
- ② The isolines do not intrude deeply into the Sea of Okhotsk
- ③ The isolines do not contact with Japanese Islands

Kuroda et al. (2021, DSR-1, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2020.103461>)

Conventional? or Unconventional?

Intensity of the Western Subarctic Gyre
(differences of ADT between the outermost and innermost GS streamlines)



The long baroclinic Rossby waves of the first mode that were forced by basin-scale wind stress over the North Pacific could, to first approximation, account for the interdecadal sea level rises within the WSAG (not shown).

Conventional? or Unconventional?

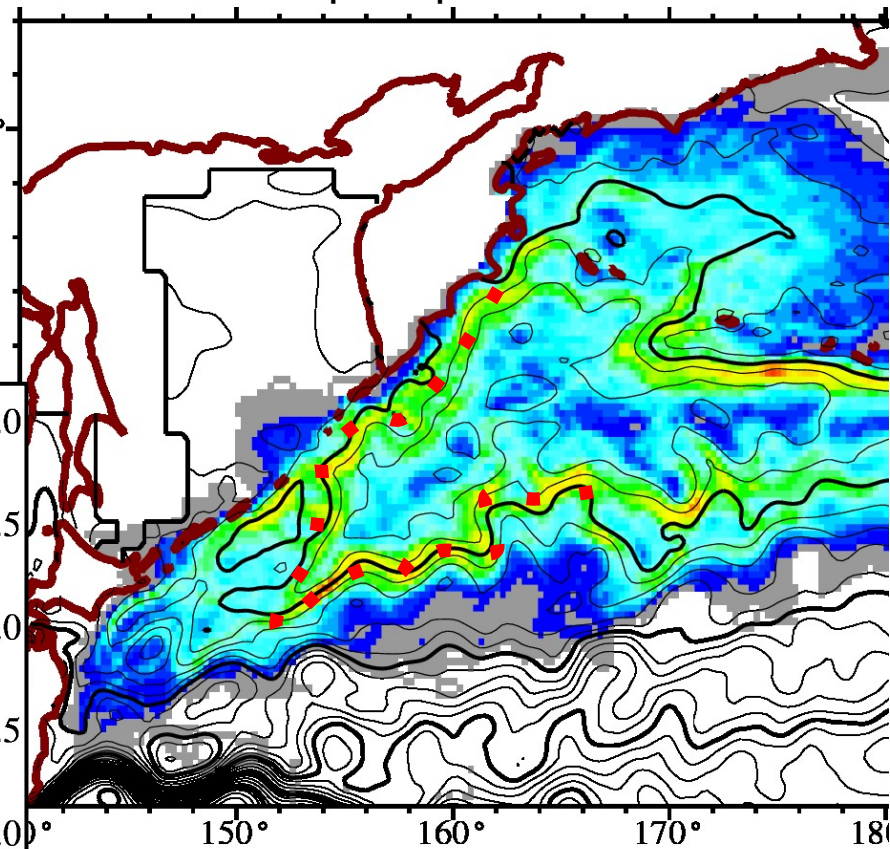
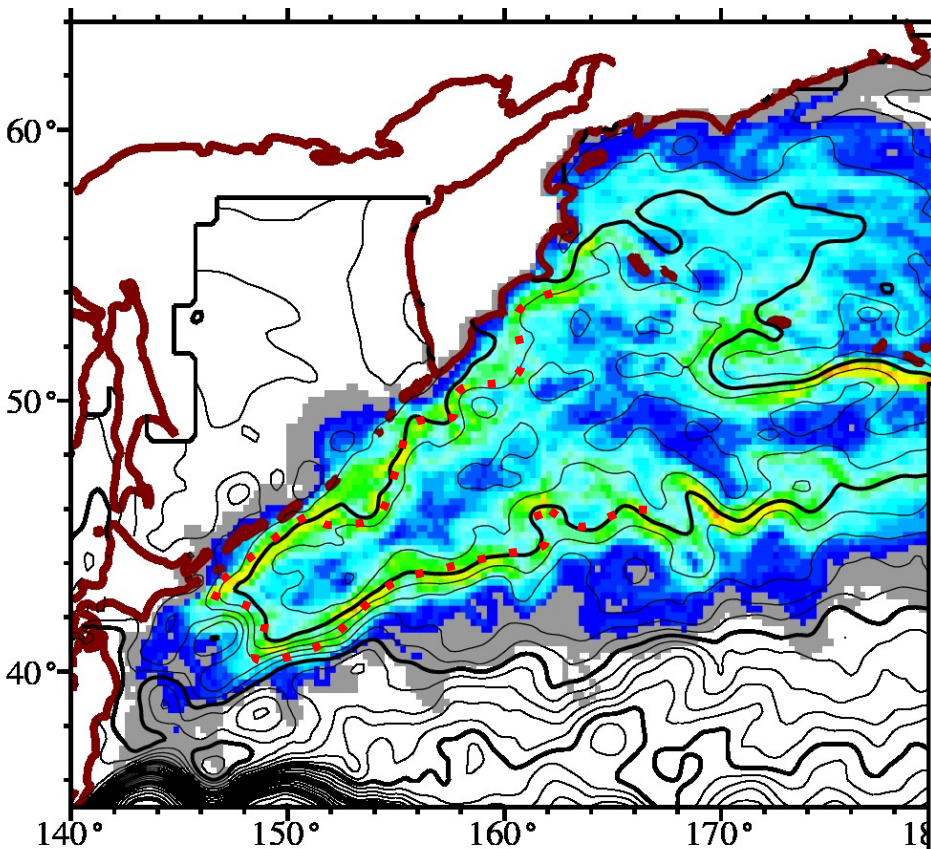
Density of streamlines (color) & Absolute dynamic topography (contour)

Density : the number of streamlines per day in each $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$ quadrat.



Average over 2014-2016
(The weakest state of WSAG)

Average over 2017-2019
(Spin-up of WSAG)

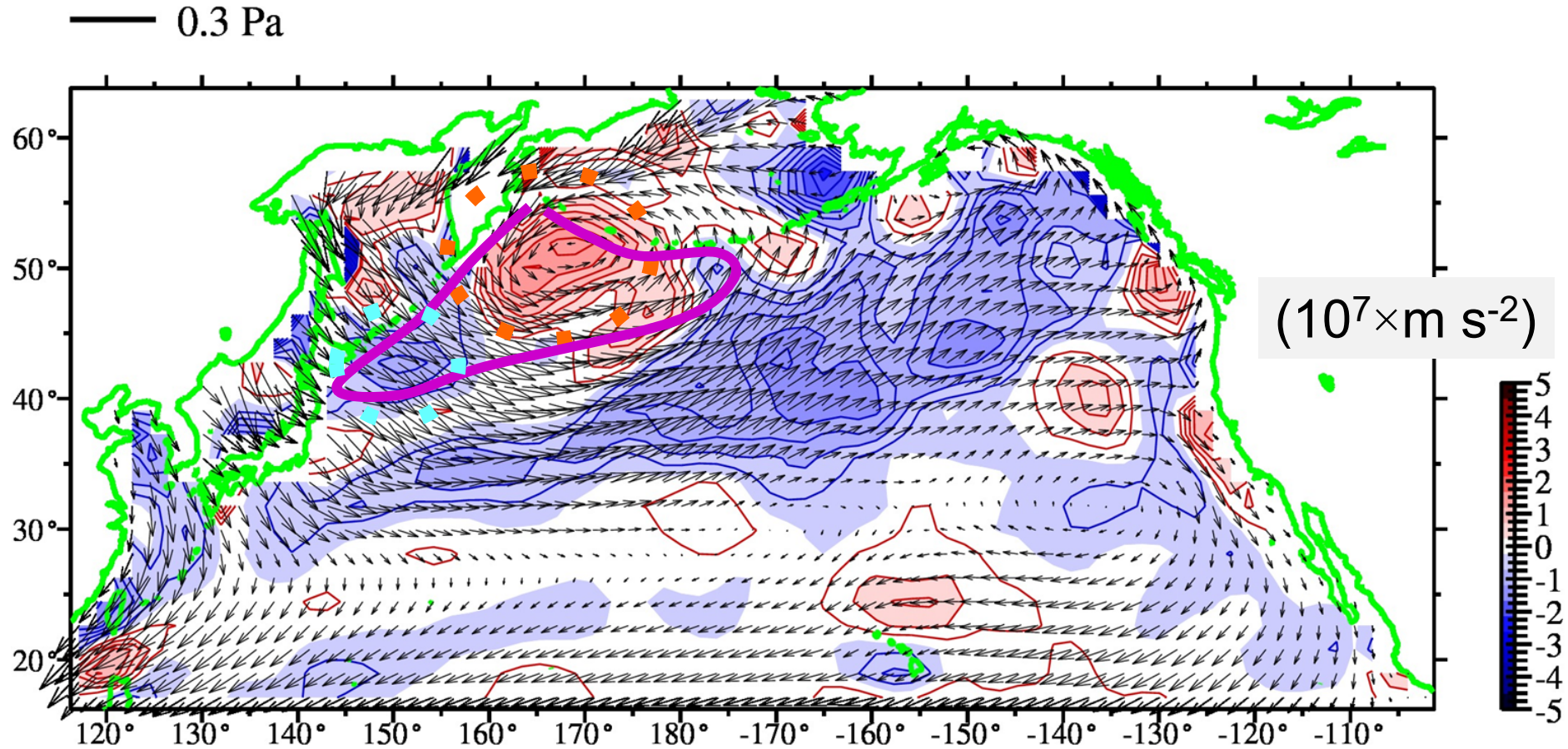


Weakest Oyashio stream reached Hokkaido

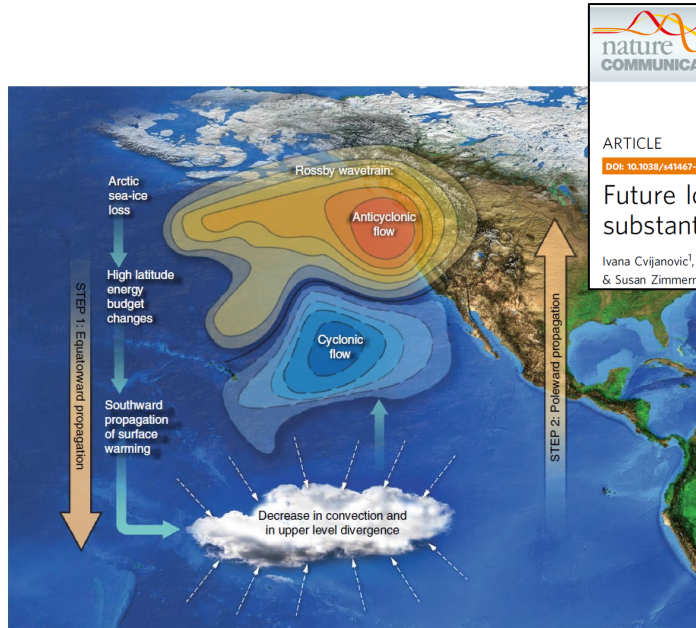
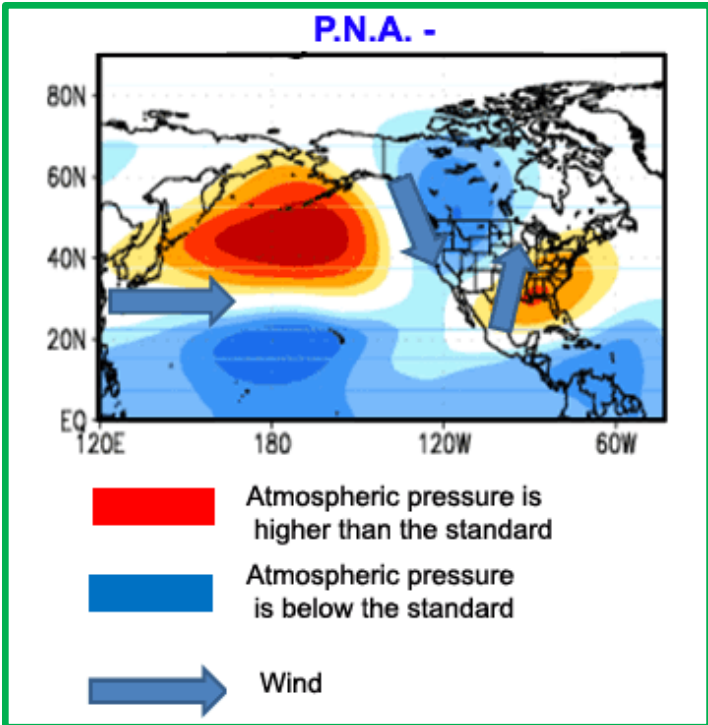
Accelerating Oyashio stream returned
(shortcut) before reaching Hokkaido

Conventional? or Unconventional?

Anomalies of wind stress (vectors) &
Anomalies of wind stress curl (contours and shading)



Conventional? or Unconventional?



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DOI: 10.1038/s41467-017-01907-4 OPEN

Future loss of Arctic sea-ice cover could drive a substantial decrease in California's rainfall

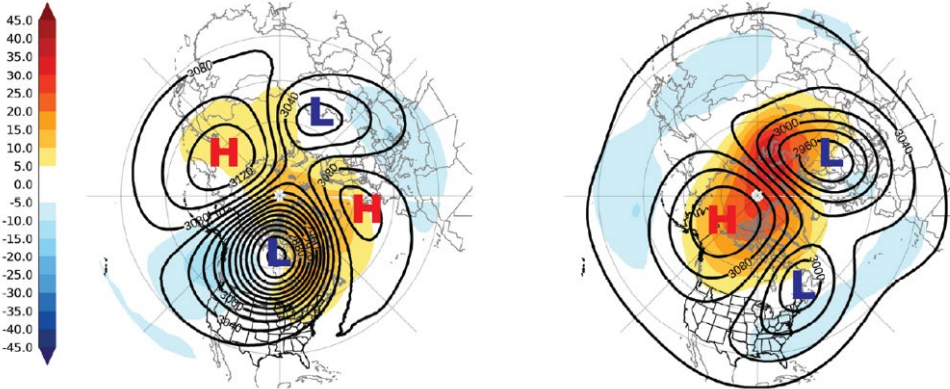
Ivana Cvijanovic¹, Benjamin D. Santer¹, Céline Bonfils¹, Donald D. Lucas¹, John C.H. Chiang² & Susan Zimmerman³

mechanisms of the two-step teleconnection. In step 1 (equatorward propagation), Arctic sea-ice loss induced high-latitude changes propagate into the tropics, generating tropical circulation and convection response. Decreased convection and decreased upper-level divergence in the tropical Pacific in turn lead to poleward-propagating Rossby wave train with anticyclonic flow forming in the North Pacific. This ridge is responsible for steering the wet tropical weather away from California

Polar Vortex split (2018 & 2019)

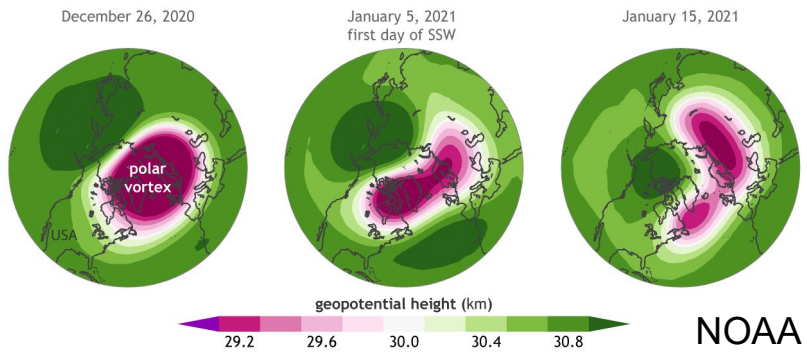
(b) 2018: February 7-14

(c) 2019: January 2-9



Polar Vortex collapsing (2021 Jan.)

Disruption of stratospheric polar vortex in early January 2021



Summary

(1) Decadal cooling of SSTs around Japan in 2000–2014
with a regionality and seasonality

maybe, unconventional changes

(2) Very weak state of the Oyashio off Japan
after 2010, particularly after the late 2010s

still unclear, unconventional or conventional changes