**Analyzing the Impact of CryoSat-2 Ice Thickness Initialization on Seasonal Arctic Sea Ice Prediction**

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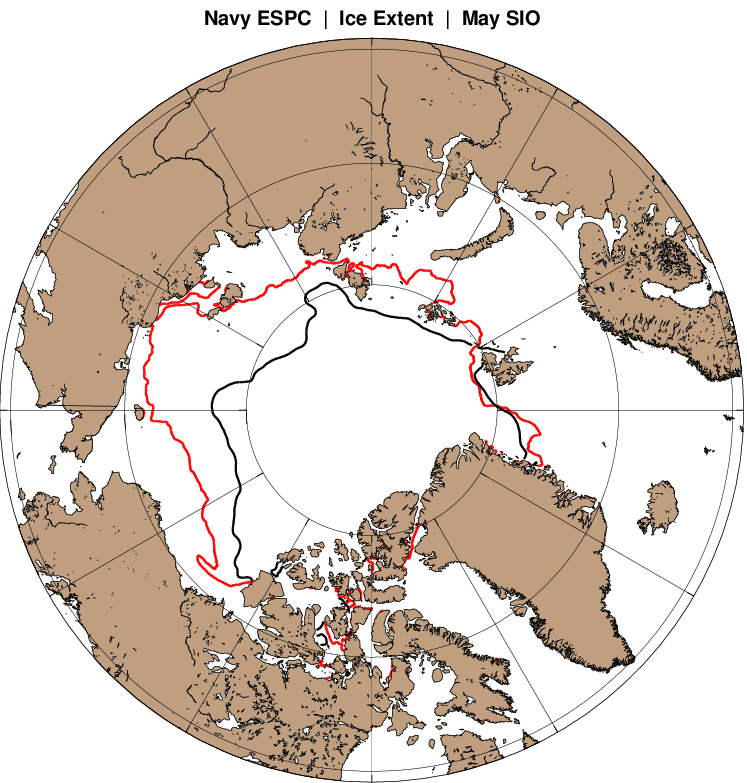
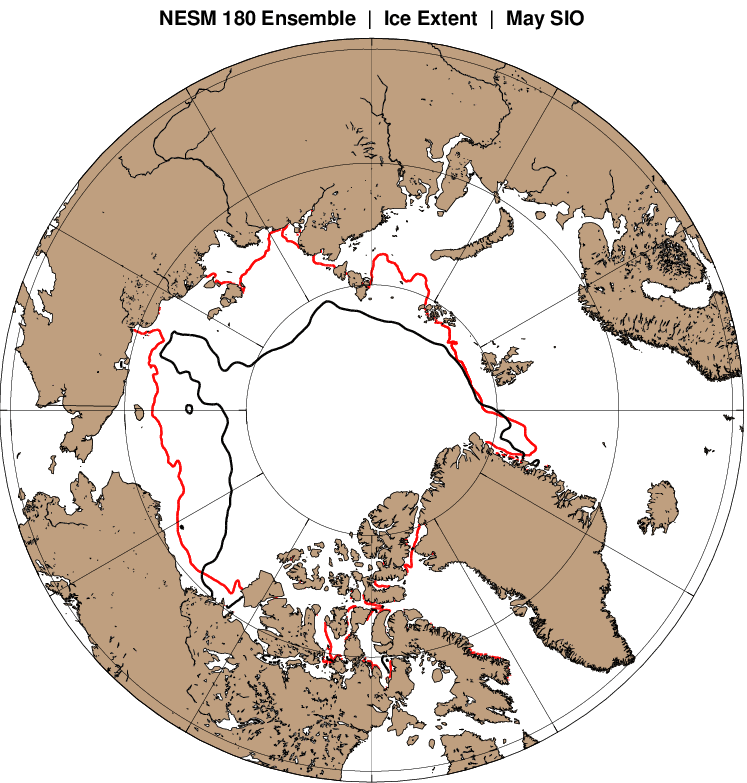
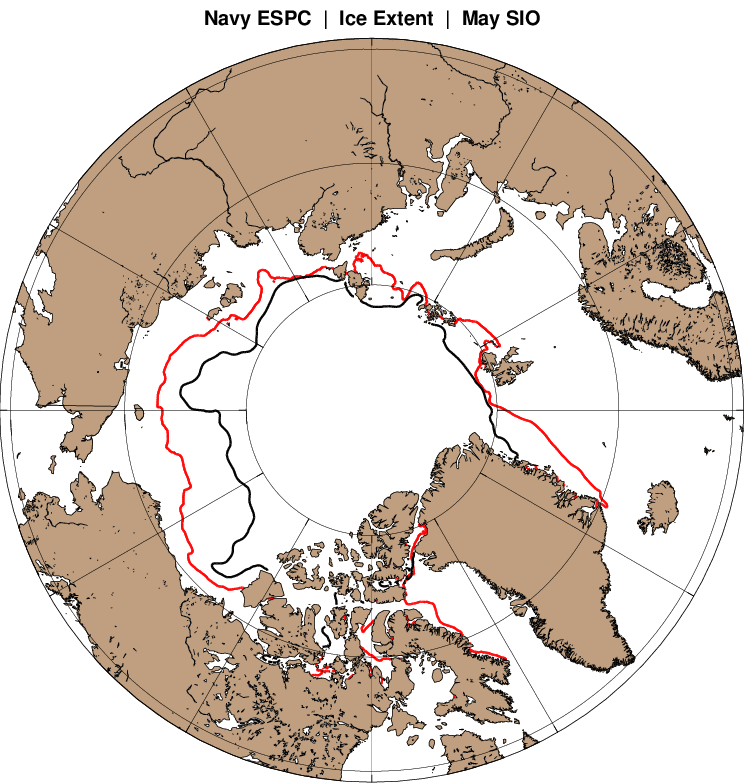
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**a**

**b**

**c**

**Fig. S1** September observed mean minimum ice extent (black) versus ESPC minimum extent (red) for a) 2017, b) 2018, and c) 2019. None of the ESPC results shown above were initialized with CS2 ice thickness.

a