

Ice Terms

sea water freezes at -1.8°C (28.8°F)
but depends upon salinity (\uparrow salt = \downarrow freezing temp.)

Freshwater Ice:

- ice shelf** a large slab of ice flowing on the sea but remaining attached to, and partly fed by, land-based ice
- glacier** a mass of ice, irrespective of size, derived from snow and continuously moving from higher to lower ground, or spreading over the sea
- iceberg** a piece of ice of the order of tens of metres or more across that has been shed by a glacier into a lake or the sea

Types of icebergs:

- grounded berg** where the iceberg has run into shallow coast and is unable to move
- tabular berg** flat topped iceberg, usually derived from an ice shelf, may drift for years before melting
- rolled berg** iceberg that has literally rolled over as a result of becoming top-heavy from the lower section melting in the sea water; tend to have a smooth, rounded shape
- calving** the process of detachment of blocks of ice from a glacier into water
- bergy bit** piece of floating glacier ice up to several metres across commonly derived from the disintegration of an iceberg
- growler** a piece of glacier ice almost awash, up to a few metres across but smaller than a bergy bit
- brash ice** small fragments of glacier ice, smaller than growlers

Seawater Ice:

- sea-ice** ice that forms by the freezing of the sea
- grease ice** early ice that forms as the temperature falls and small ice crystals clump together into congealed greasy ice slicks
- pancake ice** ice spins around in waves and thickens into free floating ice disks, some reaching 3 m in diameter
- pack-ice** formed from ice floes freezing together
- polynya** area of open water within pack-ice, caused by local wind and current patterns
- fast-ice** ice attached to land
- tide crack** crack in the fast-ice caused by tidal movement of the ocean