

# Discover News Today

Price:£1.24p

Date:02 march 2007

## Ignoring the ice caps?

Scientists from the British Antarctic Survey (Bas) say the rise in sea levels around the world caused by the melting may have been under-estimated.

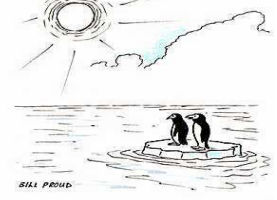
It is thought that over 13,000 sq km of sea ice in the Antarctic Peninsula has been lost over the last 50 years.



Over the past five years, studies have found that melting Antarctic ice caps contribute at least 15% to the current global sea level rise of 2mm (0.08in) a year.

Jonathan Gregory, a climatologist at reading university claims that the damage after 50 years will be “irreversible this side of a new ice age”

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Bill Proud

“I remember when this was all ice fields”

## The consequences

The consequences of such a massive meltdown of northern ice would be dramatic, according to the study.

- Low-lying coastal areas in Florida and Louisiana could be flooded by the sea. A 1.5 feet (50-centimeter) rise in sea level could cause the coastline to move 150 feet (45 meters) inland, resulting in substantial economic, social, and environmental impact in low-lying areas.
- The health and food security of some indigenous peoples would be threatened, challenging the survival of some cultures.
- Should the Arctic become ice-free in summer, it is likely that polar bears and some seal species would become extinct.
- The melting of so much ice, and the resulting addition of so much fresh water to the ocean, could impact the circulation of currents and affect regional climate.