

Sea ice is changing, impacting habitats and food webs

Reduced amount and thickness of sea ice changes the habitat, diet, and movement of many species.

Strong winds can move weakened ice and trap marine mammals.

Less sea ice can increase phytoplankton and zooplankton productivity.

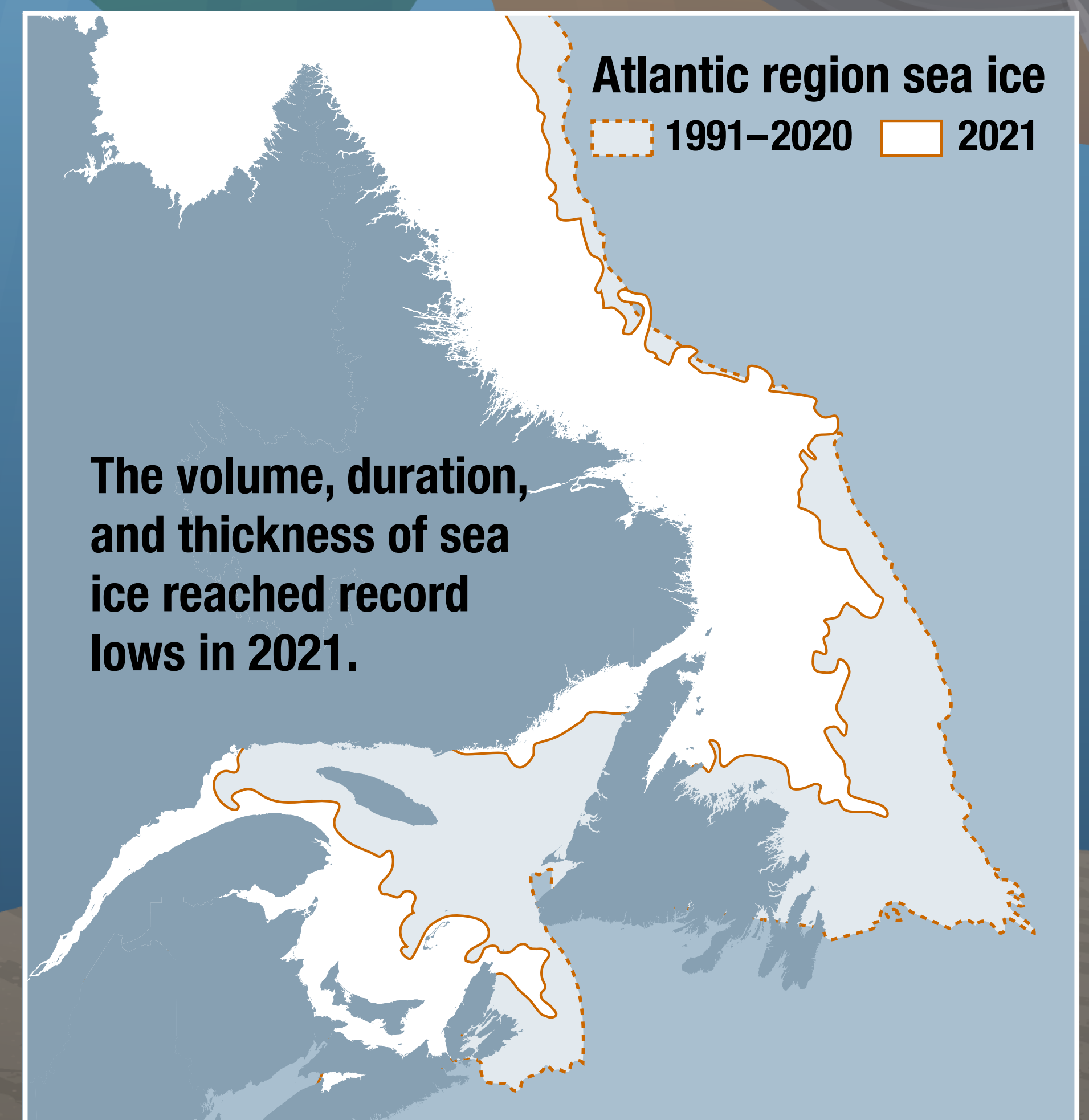
Increased zooplankton density could draw whales to formerly ice-covered areas.

Important species of the sea ice food web are losing habitat, which reduces food for marine mammals and seabirds. Arctic Cod and amphipods are an important food source for Harp Seals and Thick-billed Murres.

Harp Seals are moving to different areas to have their pups.

Without sea ice to protect from winter storms, waves agitate the bottom of mud flats.

Young clams then struggle to settle and burrow in the disturbed mud flats.



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