

From BBC News...

Science & Environment

“Milne Ice Shelf: Satellites capture Arctic ice split”

By Jonathan Amos

BBC Science Correspondent

11 August 2020

[Climate change](#)

“The Planet Earth-observation company has just released new imagery of the broken Milne Ice Shelf in the Arctic.”

“Located on the northern margin of Canada's Ellesmere Island, the ice platform split on 30/31 July to form a free-floating bloc some 80 sq km (30 sq miles) in area.

“By 3 August, this berg, or “ice island”, had itself ruptured in two, with both segments then seen to drift out into the Arctic Ocean.

“Ice shelves are the floating fronts of glaciers that have flowed off the land into the sea.

Ellesmere Island was once bounded by extensive shelves that had melded into a single structure.

- [Satellites record history of Antarctic melting](#)
- [Coronavirus severely restricts Antarctic science](#)

“At the beginning of the 20th Century, this covered 8,600 sq km. But by the turn of the millennium, a rapidly warming climate had reduced and segmented the floating ice cover to just 1,050 sq km. Further break-up events in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2012, and now in 2020, mean the shelf area is currently under 500 sq km.

“Milne itself now measures only 106 sq km.

“The pictures from the Californian Planet company come from its Dove satellites. The imagery was acquired on 26 July (“before”) and 31 July (“after”).

Interesting to note are the numerous melt ponds that cover the surface of the shelf. The presence of such liquid water can be problematic for ice platforms.

“If it fills crevasses, it can help to open them up. The water will push down on the fissures, driving them through to the base of the shelf in a process known as hydrofracturing. This will weaken an ice shelf.”

READ MORE AT: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-53737138>

From Google...

Milne Ice Shelf

Ice shelf in Canada

“Description

The Milne Ice Shelf, a fragment of the former Ellesmere Ice Shelf, is located in the Qikiqtaaluk Region, Nunavut, Canada. It is the second largest ice shelf in the Arctic Ocean. Situated on the north-west coast of Ellesmere Island, it is located about 270 km west of Alert, Nunavut. [Wikipedia](#)”

READ MORE AT:

https://www.google.com/search?gs_ssp=eJzj4tTP1TcwTc7IMzVg9OLMzczJS1XITE4FAEe7Bpw&q=milne+ice&rlz=1C1ARAA_enUS431US436&oq=milne+ice&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j46j0l6.8483j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

From NPR...

ENVIRONMENT

“Trump Administration Moves Closer To Allowing Oil Drilling In Arctic Refuge”

August 17, 2020 1:46 PM ET
Heard on [Morning Edition](#)

Updated 5:10 p.m. ET

“The Trump administration is pushing ahead with plans to allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The first leases to drill for oil and gas in the area could be sold by the end of 2020, Interior Department Secretary David Bernhardt said as his agency formally announced its leasing program on Monday.

“Laying out the terms of a leasing program is one of the last steps in a controversial plan to tap into the gas and oil resources in the region that has been fought over for decades. It's backed by Republicans and opposed by environmental groups and some members of Alaska's Indigenous communities.

“The move applies to some 1.57 million acres of the refuge's coastal plain.”

READ MORE AT: <https://www.npr.org/2020/08/17/903239366/trump-administration-sets-plan-for-oil-drilling-in-arctic-refuge>

From...



“Russia Doubles Down On Its Arctic Oil & Gas Agenda”

By Vanand Meliksetian - Aug 18, 2020, 12:00 PM CDT

“The late senator John McCain once [said](#) about Russia, “the country is a gas station masquerading as a state.” Although the politician is speaking from a biased American position, the truth is that Russia's massive hydrocarbon reserves give some truth to his opinion. Since the early days of the industry more than a century ago, oil and gas have been flowing from wells in Western Russia and Siberia. To maintain its position globally, Moscow is putting all its cards on the development of the Arctic.”

READ MORE AT: <https://oilprice.com/Energy/General/Russia-Doubles-Down-On-Its-Arctic-Oil-Gas-Agenda.html>

From The Washington Post...

“An oil spill in Russia’s Arctic exposes risks for Moscow’s Far North plans”

“Thawing permafrost in the rapidly warming region leaves Moscow’s ambitious Arctic expansion proposals literally on shaky ground

“The fuel storage tank that ruptured at a Norilsk Nickel power station in the Russian Arctic, spilling 21,000 tons of diesel into a fragile ecosystem of rivers and wetlands. (Yuri Kozyrev/NOOR)”

READ MORE AT: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2020/07/28/an-oil-spill-russias-arctic-exposes-problems-moscows-big-plans-far-north/?arc404=true>