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RIPR News

8:21 AM FRI NOVEMBER 23, 2012

URI prof uses giant pool to study ice

By SUMMER E. ALLEN

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. – University of Rhode Island professor Brice Loose is using a frosty lab in New Hampshire to study greenhouse gases.

Imagine a swimming pool filled with sea water inside a giant meat locker. For Brice Loose and URI graduate student Ann Lovely this is a lab. Loose and his Columbia University collaborators Wade McGillis and Chris Zappa want to know how ice and weather conditions impact the movement of gas between the ocean and the atmosphere. To study this, they grew eight inches of ice on top of the giant tank. They modeled the seasons in the Arctic by breaking up the ice and moving it around with wind.

This model is particularly relevant in the context of climate change. "The most obvious place is of course in the Arctic where the sea ice cover has significantly reduced over the last decade or even couple of decades" says Brice. "And so we want to know: is that really just going to lead to direct enhancement in the amount of gas exchange?"

Brice is now in a rush to finish modeling all of the seasons before they must leave the lab -as you can imagine renting that lab is expensive.

Do you have insight or expertise on this topic? Please email us, we'd like to hear from you. news@ripr.org (<mailto:news@ripr.org>).



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