

# IceBridge - Arctic 2011

05.17.11

## Arctic 2011 Science Flights Complete



*Tracy Gletscher glacier. Credit: NASA/Michael Studinger*

Teams and crew in Thule, Greenland, await the arrival of a part for the P-3 before flying back to Wallops Island, Va., and concluding the Arctic 2011 campaign of Operation IceBridge.

The campaign's final science flight on May 16 avoided coastal clouds and flew survey lines more than 40 miles from the margin of the Greenland Ice Sheet. The new baseline data are expected to help researchers identify how thinning propagates inland. The P-3 also surveyed two glaciers in west Greenland including Tracy Gletscher.

As of May 15, the P-3 had flown more than 75,000 miles on science missions during the Arctic 2011 deployment, equal to a distance of three times around Earth at the equator.

On May 13, conditions were unusually free of low clouds and fog along coastal areas in Greenland's northwest, allowing for a science flight there over some of the region's glaciers.

Poor weather on May 12 took IceBridge south to Canada, where the P-3 surveyed Barnes Ice Cap on Baffin Island (above), followed by another centerline run over Bylot Island.

On May 11, clouds obscured most of the remaining science targets including Greenland's northwest coastal areas, but the teams managed to complete two glacier runs further inland.

Weather was better on May 10 over the Canadian Arctic for a survey of several glaciers and small ice caps on Ellesmere Island, Axel Heiberg Island and Meighen Island, including the Prince of Whales Ice Field and the Agassiz Ice Cap. Visit the IceBridge blog for a [recap of the campaign's ice cap surveys](#).

On May 9, the P-3 flew along the centerlines of several glaciers in northern Greenland, including Steensby, Ryder, and Hagen Glacier.