



NSIDC DAAC Data Sets and Services for the IPY

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The International Polar Year offers an opportunity to the science community for ground breaking science. The data sets required by the IPY projects described in the submissions list on the IPY website span studies to be conducted by individual scientists to international consortia of programs and across many geophysical disciplines. Satellite data will no doubt play an important role in these proposed studies.

The National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC) is a repository for snow and ice data products from the US NASA Earth Observing System satellites. These satellites and sensors provide a significant advancement over their predecessors and are providing a wealth of information on snow and ice. The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) onboard the Aqua and Terra spacecraft and the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer for EOS (AMSR-E) on the Aqua spacecraft provide improved visible/infrared and passive microwave imagery and products. The Geoscience Laser Altimeter System (GLAS) on the Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite (ICESat) is the first satellite-borne laser altimeter and represents an entirely new technology for ice remote sensing. Specifically the NSIDC DAAC archives and distributes data from the MODIS sensors on AQUA and TERRA, the GLAS instrument in ICESat, and the AMSR-E instrument on AQUA. All of these data products will be of interest to some degree to IPY research programs.

This paper will describe the data products distributed by the NSIDC DAAC and offer suggestions as to how these data can be acquired by IPY research programs. NSIDC's philosophy is to work with our science clientele in the distribution of data and data products and in the modification of distribution approaches based on user comment.

In addition to distribution of data sets and products, NSIDC is involved in several IPY

projects. This paper will briefly describe our involvement in the Global Inter-agency IPY Polar Snapshot Year (GIIPSY) and the IPY Data and Information Service (IPY-DIS) efforts, with emphasis on the role NSIDC DAAC data sets play in these projects.