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# USA Update to FARO 2022

Dr. Jennifer L. Mercer, Section Head Arctic Sciences

U.S. National Science Foundation  
Geosciences Directorate (GEO)  
Office of Polar Programs (OPP)

# COVID-19 Management



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- Achieved goal of NOT being a COVID-19 vector into Arctic. Utilized rigorous testing, Infection Protection Equipment (IPE), and mandatory quarantines.
  - Zero positive cases out of over 100 personnel deployed to Greenland
  - One positive case caught (and kept) in quarantine on way to Alaska
- Worked with Arctic communities to understand entry requirements/concerns
- Established a Cepheid PCR test lab in Kangerlussuaq to support program requirements without straining local resources. Collaborated with Greenland Government Corona Secretariat to contract with Sisimiut-based nurses. Lab is available for use by local community.
- Continued outreach with less/no contact – use of translators for social media, podcasts, etc.



*Kangerlussuaq Site Supervisor Colleen Hardiman assists warehouse ECW issue from arrival quarantine.  
Photo Tracy Sheeley.*



*Creamean and team interview. Staff photo*

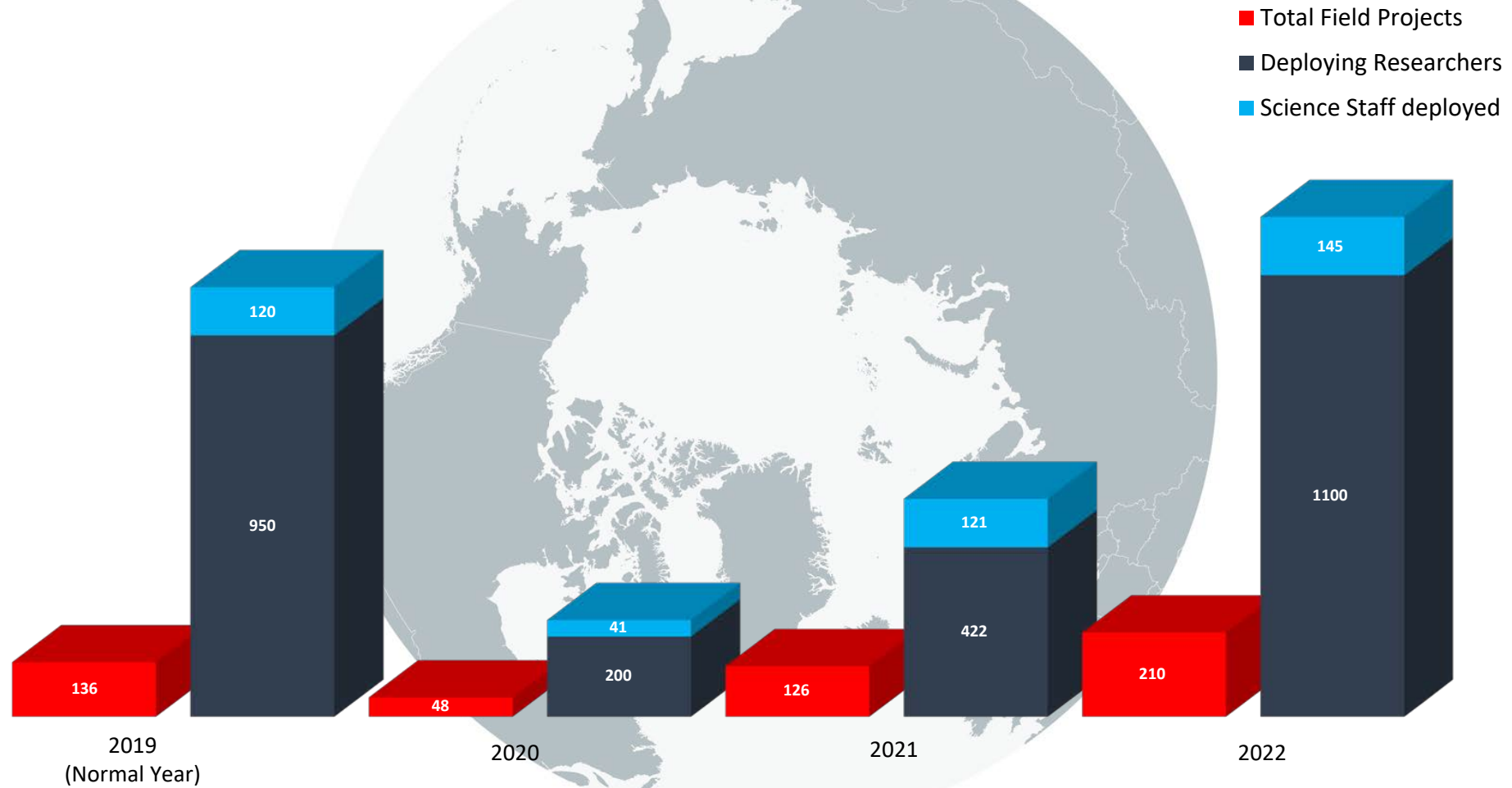


*Minninguaq Olsen analyzes samples.  
Photo: Tracy Sheeley*

# Arctic Section Field Activity and Contractor Support



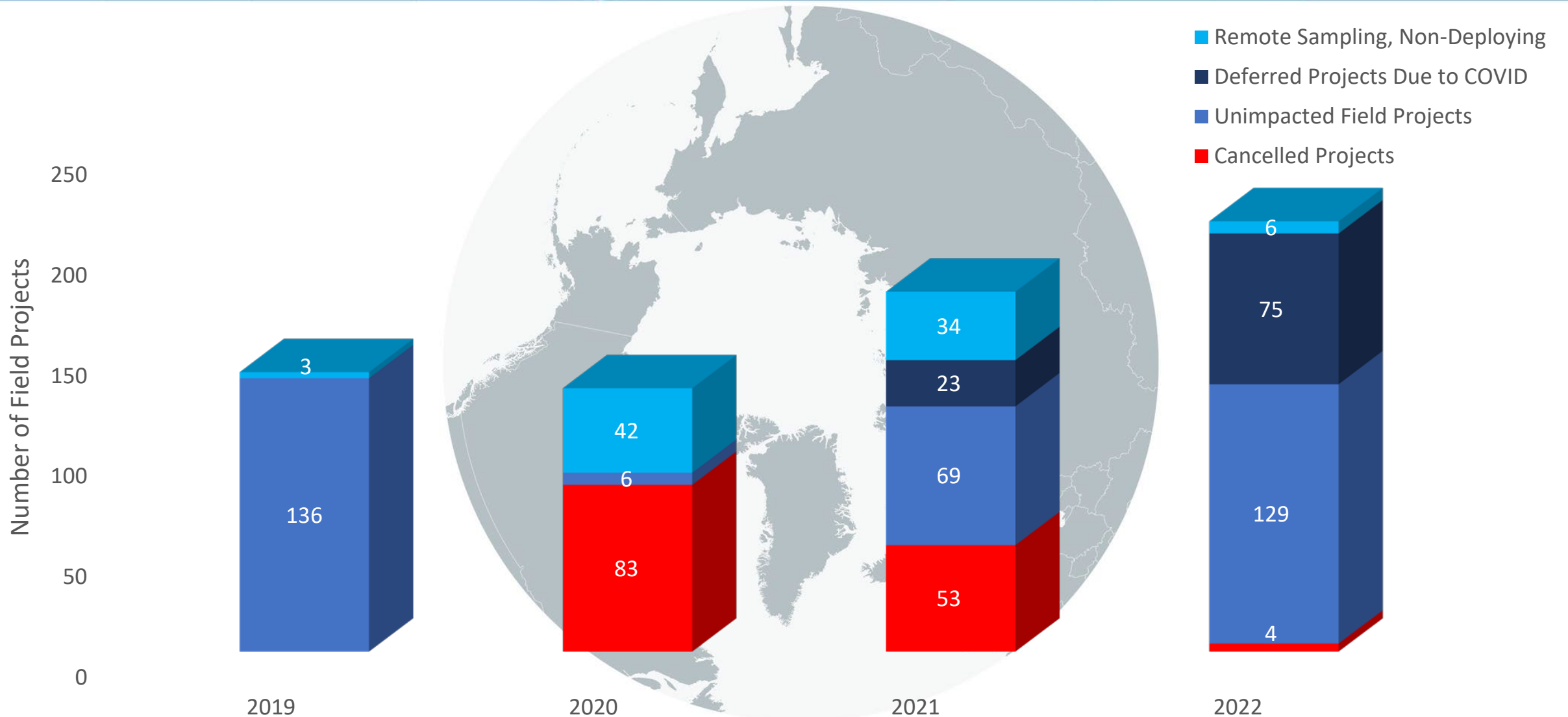
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# Arctic Section Field Activity and Contractor Support



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- 5-year [Arctic Research Plan](#) 2022-2026 recently released.
- Recapitalization of Summit Station Greenland.
- Newly established joint NASA/NSF workshop: **Future of Greenland Ice Sheet Science (FOGSS)**. Better coordinate and optimize synergies of Greenland fieldwork between NASA and NSF.
- Cooperation between NOAA/NSF that led to the Distributed Biological (DBO)/Ecosystems and Fisheries-Oceanography Coordinated Investigations (EcoFOCI) makeup cruise on the R/V Sikuliaq.
- The U.S. Navy concluded its Ice Exercise (ICEX) 2022 this week, wrapping up nearly three weeks of research and training on, above and below Arctic Ocean ice. Royal Canadian Air Force and Navy, and the United Kingdom Royal Navy also participated.
- Plans to build three Polar Security Cutters are underway for delivery in 2024-2026.
- Design phase – new Ice Core Storage Facility

- **Rigor/1951762** – *Collaborative Research: Coordination, Data Management and Enhancement of the International Arctic Buoy Program (IABP), and US Interagency Arctic Buoy Program (USIABP)*
  - Utilized contracted indigenous whalers in Utqiagvik to tag an iceberg that was grounded with landfast sea ice in March. Allowed researchers to track its path once it was released in June well into the fall.
  - Buoy deployments were conducted by contracted vessel operators. The R/V Ukpik deployed five buoys in the Beaufort Sea, approximately 50 nm offshore of Prudhoe Bay. And in Utqiagvik, UICS' Munson boat deployed seven to nine buoys in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, approximately 50 nm offshore



- **Smith/80NSSC19K0942** Representing surface meltwater runoff in Greenland ice sheet models
  - Utilized contracted vendor to conduct instrument repairs near Thule Air Base and at a remote installation at Inglefield Land in NW Greenland.
  - The science team and members of Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) were able to ship parts, prepare training materials, and discuss repairs over teleconference.
  - The repairs were timely as instrumentation was fixed within 1-2 days of the ice sheet discharge starting, a critical point to capture for project goals.

