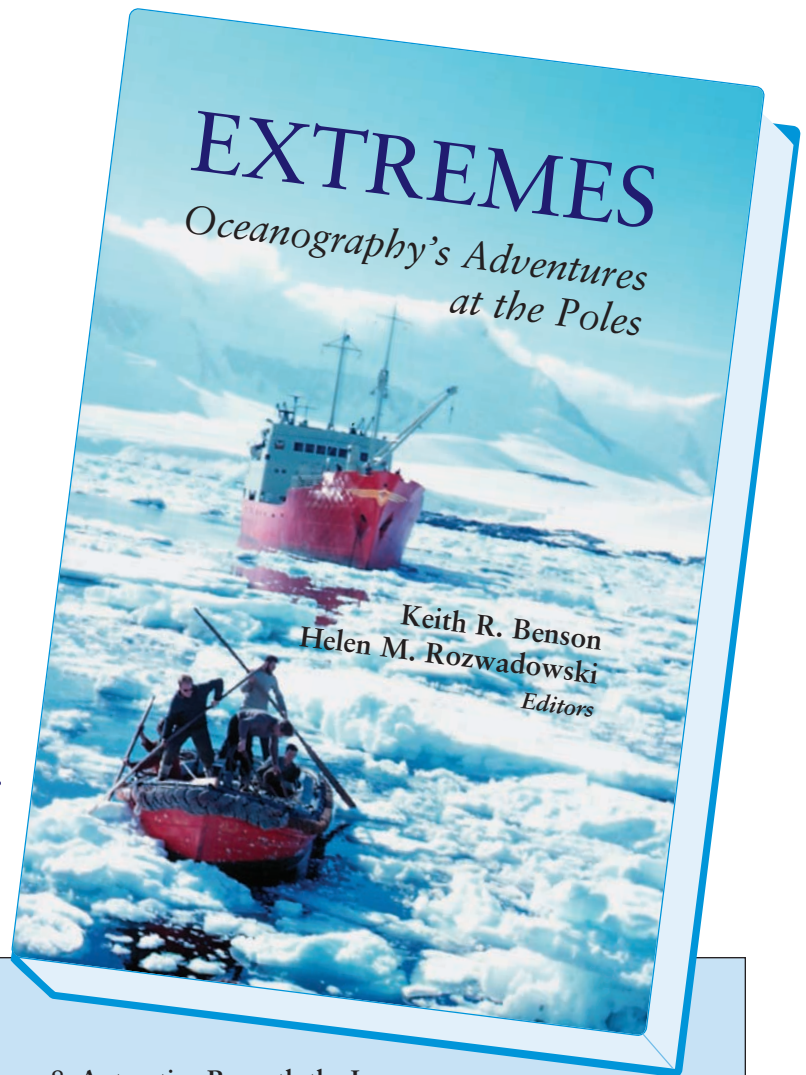


# Prepublication Announcement

The long-standing Western fascination with the polar regions resonates anew with the growing concerns over global climate change. Scientists exploring the role of the extreme latitudes now recognize the importance of polar oceans and sea ice for our climate. While the exploits of polar explorers are well-told stories, scientists' efforts to comprehend the polar oceans are for the first time chronicled in this volume. Its authors reveal how our past encounters with the poles have influenced scientists' investigation of the Arctic and Antarctic oceans, as well as how economics, geopolitics, and culture are reflected in scientific endeavors on and in the polar seas.

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