Sag River Flooding, North Slope Alaska

Presented by Horacio Toniolo

During the 2015 Spring breakup, the Dalton Highway, the only access to those oil fields located in the northern part of Alaska, was closed to traffic for approximately 3 weeks due to extensive flooding near Prudhoe Bay. It is speculated that the origin of this extraordinary flood event, the first one since the road construction in 1974, was related to the watershed’s extremely wet conditions during the previous summer.

University of Alaska Fairbanks researchers conducted field activities during Spring 2015 and 2016. Dr. Toniolo will present and discuss these findings.

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