

**POLAR ICE** Scientists monitor polar ice conditions through a number of geodetic observations including GPS measurements of Earth's surface motion, studies of Earth's gravity field, and satellite lidar measurements of ice sheet elevations. Knowing the status of polar ice is important to understanding the interconnectivity of our global system, as ice affects global temperatures, ocean circulation, climate, weather, and wildlife.

*Photo: Iceberg off the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica by Nicolas Bayou, UNAVCO*

MEASURING THE  
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a monthly series on the how and why of geodesy