

The Swiss Glaciers

2007/08 and 2008/09

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2007/2008 and 2008/2009

Glaciological Report No. 129/130

Edited by

Andreas Bauder¹, Simon Steffen¹ and Stephanie Usselmann¹

With contributions from

Andreas Bauder¹, Martin Funk¹, Martin Hoelzle²,
Matthias Huss^{1,2}, Giovanni Kappenberger³, Frank Paul⁴

¹ Laboratory of Hydraulics, Hydrology and Glaciology (VAW), ETH Zurich

² Department of Geosciences, University of Fribourg

³ 6654 Cavigliano

⁴ Department of Geography, University of Zurich

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c/o Laboratory of Hydraulics, Hydrology and Glaciology (VAW)
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Imprint of author contributions:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Andreas Bauder | : | Chapt. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, App. A, B, C |
| Martin Funk | : | Chapt. 1, 4 |
| Martin Hoelzle | : | Chapt. 6 |
| Matthias Huss | : | Chapt. 2, 4 |
| Giovanni Kappenberger | : | Chapt. 4 |
| Frank Paul | : | Chapt. 7 |

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Summary

During the 129th and 130th year under review by the Cryospheric Commission, Swiss glaciers continued to lose both length and mass. The dominant weather conditions of this measurement period and the effects of global warming left clear traces. In autumn 2008, a length variation was determined for 88 of the 110 glaciers observed, and one year later for 92 of 112 glaciers. In the two observation periods, 2007/08 and 2008/09, Swiss glaciers experienced further losses in length. Most of the measurement values lie between 0 and -30 m in both of these periods. In the two measurement periods, several glaciers displayed remarkably high retreat values in a single year. These can be attributed either to the separation of a protruding mass of dead ice, or to the melting of sections of the glacier that had constantly been growing thinner over many years.

Detailed mass balance figures were obtained for the five glaciers Basòdino, Findelen, Gries, Pizol and Silvretta, and point measurements were taken at several additional glaciers. The glaciers suffered significant mass losses in both periods. In the long-term statistics, the two periods rank as the third and fourth most negative years, exceeded only by the two extreme periods 2002/03 and 1997/98.

Flow measurements were taken at selected glaciers in the Mauvoisin and Mattmark regions as well as for the Aaregletscher. The trend continued toward diminishing ice velocities, a clear reflection of the reduction in ice thickness due to lasting negative mass balances of the glaciers.

A periodic update, with recent results from measurements of englacial temperatures at the Colle Gnifetti (Gornergletscher, Monte Rosa Massif), is presented here.

Published Reports

Annual reports of the Swiss glaciers started in the year of 1880 by F.A. Forel (1841-1912).

Authors of the annual reports:

| | No. | Year |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| F.A. Forel et L. Du Pasquier | 1 - 17 | 1880 - 1896 |
| F.A. Forel, M. Lugeon et E. Muret | 18 - 27 | 1897 - 1906 |
| F.A. Forel, E. Muret, P.L. Mercanton et E. Ar-gand | 28 | 1907 |
| F.A. Forel, E. Muret et P.L. Mercanton | 29 - 32 | 1908 - 1911 |
| E. Muret et P.L. Mercanton | 33 - 34 | 1912 - 1913 |
| P.L. Mercanton | 35 - 70 | 1914 - 1949 |
| P.L. Mercanton et A. Renaud | 71 - 75 | 1950 - 1954 |
| A. Renaud | 76 - 83 | 1955 - 1961/62 |
| P. Kasser | 84 - 91 | 1962/63 - 1969/70 |
| P. Kasser und M. Aellen | 92 - 104 | 1970/71 - 1982/83 |
| M. Aellen | 105 - 115 | 1983/84 - 1993/94 |
| M. Aellen, M. Hoelzle und D. Vonder Mühl | 116 | 1994/95 |
| M. Hoelzle und D. Vonder Mühl | 117 | 1995/96 |
| M. Hoelzle, D. Vonder Mühl, A. Bauder und G.H. Gudmundsson | 118 | 1996/97 |
| M. Hoelzle, D. Vonder Mühl und M. Maisch | 119 | 1997/98 |
| M. Hoelzle, D. Vonder Mühl, M. Schwikowski und H.W. Gäggeler | 120 | 1998/99 |
| A. Bauder, A. Vieli und M. Hoelzle | 121 | 1999/00 |
| A. Bauder und M. Hoelzle | 122 | 2000/01 |
| A. Bauder, C. Schär und H. Blatter | 123 - 124 | 2001/02 - 2002/03 |
| A. Bauder, J. Faillettaz, M. Funk und A. Pralong | 125 - 126 | 2003/04 - 2004/05 |
| A. Bauder | 127 - 130 | 2005/06 - 2008/09 |

Authors and editors of the glaciological two year reports:

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| P. Kasser, M. Aellen und H. Siegenthaler | 95/96 - 99/100 | 1973/74 - 1978/79 |
| M. Aellen | 101/102 | 1979/80 - 1980/81 |
| M. Aellen und E. Herren | 103/104 - 111/112 | 1981/82 - 1990/91 |
| E. Herren und M. Hoelzle | 113/114 | 1991/92 - 1992/93 |
| E. Herren, M. Hoelzle und M. Maisch | 115/116 - 119/120 | 1993/94 - 1998/99 |
| E. Herren, A. Bauder, M. Hoelzle und M. Maisch | 121/122 | 1999/00 - 2000/01 |
| E. Herren and A. Bauder | 123/124 | 2001/02 - 2002/03 |
| A. Bauder and R. Rüegg | 125/126 | 2003/04 - 2004/05 |
| A. Bauder and C. Ryser | 127/128 | 2005/06 - 2006/07 |
| A. Bauder, S. Steffen and S. Usselmann | 129/130 | 2007/08 - 2008/09 |

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1 Introduction

Systematic and long-term records of glacier changes in Switzerland started in 1880 with annual length change measurements of selected glaciers. At that time these measurements were motivated by questions about past and future ice ages. In the meantime, the goals of the worldwide glacier monitoring programs have evolved and multiplied. Glacier change data are primarily necessary for investigations of the glacier-climate interactions. The data are also important for the assessment of water resources, sea level rise and natural hazards. Finally, the broad public manifests an increasing interest in glacier changes.

The main focus of the ongoing Swiss Glacier Monitoring Network is to collect the following data: (1) mass balance, (2) surface flow speed, (3) length variation, (4) glacier parameters (e.g. surface area) and (5) englacial temperature. The program for glacier monitoring in Switzerland (GLAMOS) has been adopted by the Cryospheric Commission in March 2007. A detailed description about the aims, current status and perspectives of the monitoring program was presented in chapter 1.1 of "The Swiss Glaciers" volume number 125/126.

The results of the Swiss glacier monitoring contribute also to the international efforts to document glacier fluctuations as part of global environmental monitoring initiatives of the Global Terrestrial Network for Glaciers (GTN-G) within the Global Terrestrial and Climate Observing System (GTOS/ GCOS) and are reported to the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS).

This report is the new volume No. 129/130 in the series "The Swiss Glaciers" and presents the results of the two observational periods 2007/08 and 2008/09. It carries on the long tradition of yearbooks documenting monitored fluctuations of Swiss glaciers since 1880 (see page iv). Data and digital versions of the present and earlier volumes can be found at <http://glaciology.ethz.ch/swiss-glaciers>. Thanks to continuous efforts of many people, public and private organisations in Switzerland, long time-series of data related to glacier changes do exist.

The present data-report expands the short overview of general outcomes published in German and French in the magazine "Die Alpen - Les Alpes" of the Swiss Alpine Club (Bauder et al., 2008) with detailed facts and figures.

2 Weather and Climate

In this section the weather and climate conditions for the two periods under review 2007/08 and 2008/09 are described. The focus is on the variables that are most relevant for glacier mass balance, namely temperature and precipitation. In general, glacier mass balance is largely determined by the amount of snow fall in winter and the temperature during summer. Additionally, particular climate conditions can have an important influence. High temperatures in April, May or June can reduce the winter snow pack rapidly and expose the much darker ice surface already in July. During July and August solar radiation receipts are very high and melting of the unprotected ice can reach extreme values. When these two factors are combined it will lead to very negative mass balances like in the period 2002/03. On the other hand, snow fall down to low elevations (2000 m) during summer protects the glacier surface from melting and will lead to less negative mass balances. Precipitation that falls as rain influences the mass balance negatively.

We have selected the four high-elevation climate stations at Grand St-Bernard (2472 m), Jungfraujoch (3580 m), Säntis (2502 m) and Weissfluhjoch (2690 m) to illustrate the monthly anomalies in air temperature (Figure 2.1) and 15 stations (Airolo, Château-d'Oex, Disentis, Engelberg, Elm, Grand St-Bernard, Grimsel Hospiz, Montana, Lauterbrunnen, Säntis, Scuol, Sils-Maria, Weissfluhjoch, Zermatt) throughout all regions of the Swiss Alps for monthly anomalies in precipitation (Figure 2.2) in the two reporting periods. For the two parameters of annual precipitation and mean summer temperature, the long-term record since 1880 is shown in Figures 2.3 and 2.4 as a mean of 12 homogenized climate stations (Begert et al., 2005). The description of the weather conditions in the two reporting periods refer to the figures and the annual and monthly reports of the meteorological conditions by MeteoSwiss. Data are taken from different stations of the observational networks maintained by MeteoSwiss.

2.1 Weather and Climate in 2007/08

The month of October, characterized by the presence of high-pressure cells, was followed in mid-November by a period of abundant snowfall and the early onset of winter. During the first part of December it snowed in all regions north of the main Alpine ridge. January experienced unusually frequent advection situations, which led to heavy snowfalls – right down to lower elevations. The dominant foehn conditions of this period caused major snow redistribution. From February 8th to 19th there was no precipitation in all of Switzerland. By contrast, the first half of March was subject to storm activity from the west. At times during this extremely dynamic period the snowfall

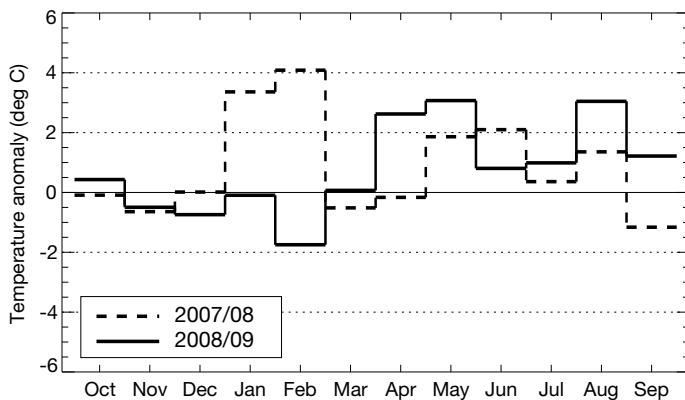


Figure 2.1: Mean monthly anomaly of temperature from the long-term climatic mean (period 1961-1990) for four selected stations of the MeteoSwiss network. Anomalies in the two reporting periods 2007/08 and 2008/09 are shown.

limit lay at over 2000 m a.s.l., while at other times, typical winter conditions predominated down to the lower regions. April was marked by continuous periods of precipitation (Figure 2.2), raising hopes that these massive amounts of snow would to some extent slow down glacier recession in 2007/08. However, the above-average high temperatures of May and June caused intensive snowmelt (Figure 2.1). As a result, the glaciers were exposed to summer sun very early in the year, and became snow-free even at high elevations. Snowfall occurred in July, but had little effect due to the warm temperatures in August. This warm period gave way to a cold September with abundant precipitation

Summertime temperatures were 1.1°C higher than the long-term mean (Figure 2.4). Positive deviations of approx. one degree have been common since the 1990s. Deviations of three percent from the mean annual precipitation amounts can, on the other hand, be considered as rather small (Figure 2.3).

2.2 Weather and Climate in 2008/09

A sudden burst of winter weather at the end of October caused abundant snow to fall in low-lying regions. Frequent advection situations from the south determined the development of meteorological conditions in November and December 2008. This triggered abundant snowfall at the end of December and values were one-and-a-half to two times greater than usual (in particular the Upper Valais, the southern slopes of the Alps, Engadine and the central Grisons). The first half of January was sunny and precipitation-free, followed by a distinctly warm period which began in November and lasted to the end of March, bringing with it rain up to elevations of over 2000 meters (in the northwest). After another intensive advection situation in early February with more than 1 m of new snow in the central region of the southern slopes of the Alps, maximum snow

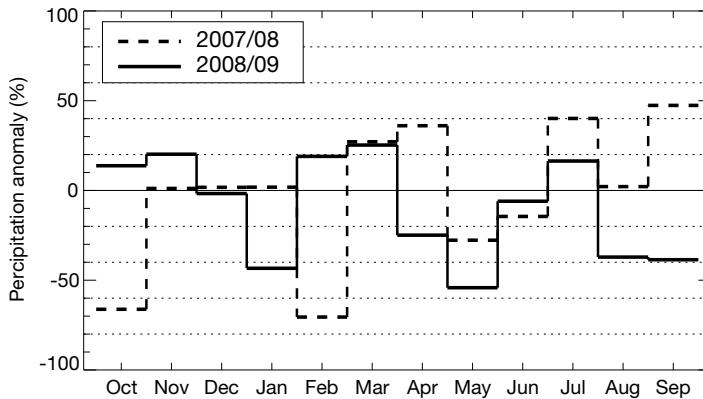


Figure 2.2: Mean monthly anomaly of precipitation from the long-term climatic mean (period 1961-1990) for 15 selected stations of the MeteoSwiss network. Anomalies in the two reporting periods 2007/08 and 2008/09 are shown.

depth for winter was reached there and in the Oberengadin already on February 8th. The month of March also registered above-average amounts of new snow on both sides of the Alps (Figure 2.2). South of the Alps, three major snowfall events were recorded once more, with close to 2 m of new snow in some places.

Thus at the end of May there was an above-average amount of snow on the ground for this time of the year at higher elevations of the main Alpine ridge, protecting the glaciers of the southern Alps for some time from solar radiation, resulting in less snowmelt. By contrast, as the months of April and May were very warm north of the Alps, there was intensive snowmelt in these regions. The third-warmest summer on record since measurements began in 1864 caused the snow cover to melt away completely by the month of August, which favored intensive melting of the ice (Figure 2.1). The glaciers were subject to this situation of melting until the end of October – a very long period of time. This rapid melt-out in spring combined with high summer temperatures had a very negative effect on the development of the glaciers. Annual precipitation for 2008/09, at -7%, was slightly below the long-term mean (Figure 2.3), whereas the summer temperatures (May to September 2009) were +2.2°C above average (Figure 2.4).

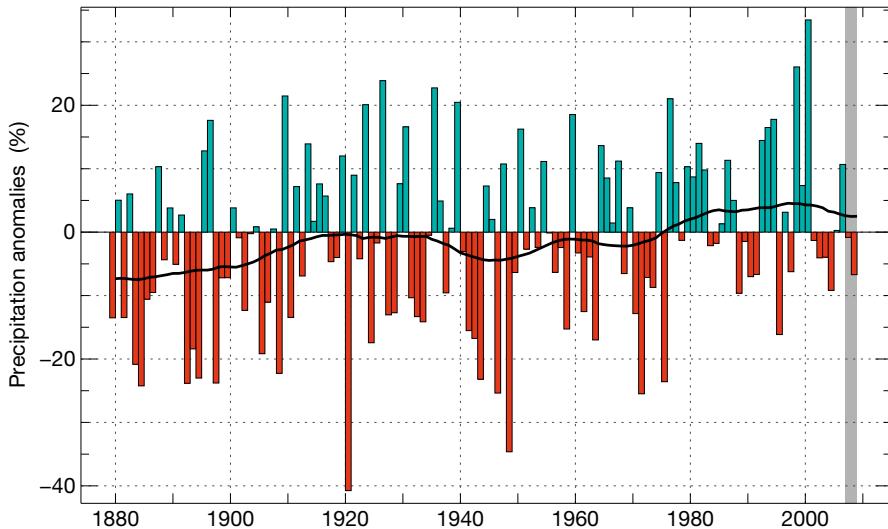


Figure 2.3: Anomalies of annual precipitation (hydrological year) from the mean value 1961-1990 in percentage for the period 1864-2009. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

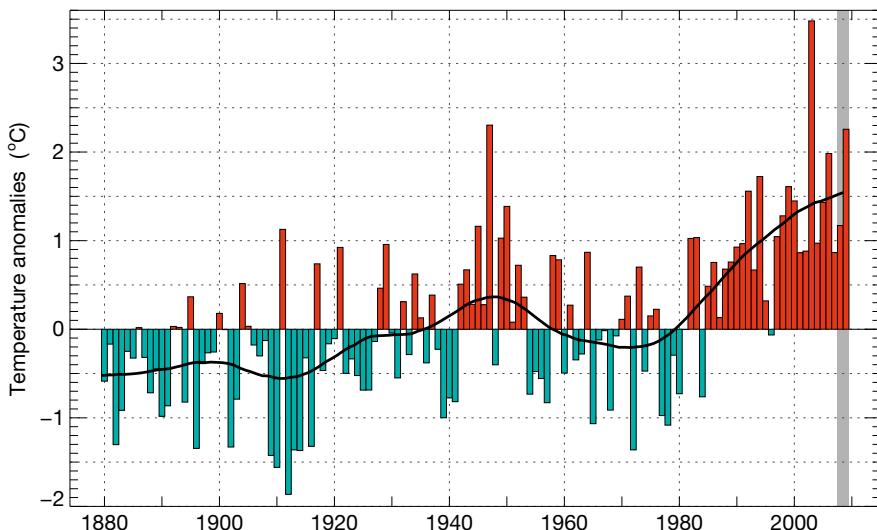


Figure 2.4: Anomalies of mean summer air temperature (May-September) from the mean value 1961-1990 in degrees Celcius for the period 1864-2009. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

3 Length Variation

3.1 Introduction

Of the 121 glaciers registered in the observation network, 110 in the period 2007/08 and 112 in period 2008/09 were being actively observed (Figures 3.1, 3.2 and Table 3.1). The other glaciers (compare Table 3.1, remark f) have melted back drastically, and are often debris-covered, on one hand, with the result that it is simply not possible to carry out a proper survey at yearly intervals. On the other hand, a number of glaciers were observed only at irregular intervals, and produced measurement values that were rather imprecise, which does not justify preserving these figures in the charts and analyses.

During the two years under review, 2007/08 and 2008/09, Swiss glaciers suffered further losses in length. Most of the measurements are within the range of 0 to -30 m for both periods. This overall trend was overshadowed in both years by a few significantly high retreat values, which as in previous years could be traced to local influences, or refer to larger glaciers, and in some cases also pertain to a period of several years. They are usually also the result of a process extending over a longer period of time and thus are not unexpected.

3.2 Length Variations in 2007/08

In the autumn of 2008, it was possible to visit 88 of the 110 glaciers under observation for annual data collection and determination of length changes at the glacier tongues. Further length losses were recorded at 81 glaciers, while 5 showed a slight advance, and no change in tongue position was found for 2 (Figure 3.2 and Table 3.1). The recorded maximum values indicate a retreat of 290 m for Gornergletscher and an advance of 14 m for Allalingletscher. The majority of the values lie between -25 and 0 m. Overlooking the extreme values for Gornergletscher and Eigergletscher, there are few high values to be noted in each case, and for several these relate to a time span of several years.

The massive retreat of Gornergletscher is the result of a continual process during past years. For a number of decades the glacier tongue has been located in a narrow, shady gorge. Above the gorge, increased melting caused a hole to form gradually in the glacier, which grew so large by last summer that small chunks of ice were all that remained in the gorge. Now the glacier margin lies further upvalley.

In the case of Eigergletscher, a similar process is responsible for the enormous retreat values occurring over a period of two years. The debris-covered terminus lies here at the lower end of a ramp. Observations indicate very few changes at the terminus in recent years. However, in the steeper zone further back, the tongue thinned out at a continuous rate until it completely detached from the rest of the glacier. In this way, the glacier margin of the coherent ice mass shifted abruptly more than 200 m upward. It has been possible, in recent years, to repeatedly observe the formation of protruding, detached and often debris-covered, stagnating ice remnants. For several years the terminus of the Allalingletscher has been forming a steep break-off front. In the past measurement period, the ice movement has been greater than the melting and ice break-off, and for this reason, the glacier margin has moved several meters forward.

3.3 Length Variations in 2008/09

In the autumn of 2009, 92 glaciers were investigated and evaluated. Of these, 84 had retreated, 2 had advanced slightly, and 6 remained unchanged (0 ± 1 m) as compared with the previous year (Figure 3.2 and Table 3.1). For the majority, length changes lay between -1 and -25 m.

Local influences led to cases of extreme glacier recession. A very high retreat value of -151 m was recorded at Glacier du Trient, a further step in the development already seen in recent years. Due to the inadequate resupply of ice through ice movement, the terminus gradually thinned out and retreated to a steep incline, easily giving rise to greater losses in length.

At Riedgletscher in Märtental and Rossbodengletscher at Simplon, the new terminus is located between a half and a full kilometer further back, respectively, than the year before. In both cases the glacier separated in a steep and thus thin zone. This caused the flat, debris-covered tongues to lose contact with the accumulation areas and be left behind in the form of dead ice which often melts at a very slow rate. This phenomenon of dead ice formation has been observed at other glaciers in recent years.

A block of ice detached from Feegletscher above Saas Fee and the glacier formed into various lobes. Yearly length change measurements are undertaken at the lobe which stretches furthest into the valley to the north. The adjacent, broad lobe is situated on a steep incline. Due to the dramatic recession of recent years it gradually lost support, with the result that it has become more unstable since 2003. As a consequence, between Sept. 15th and 20th Sept. 2009, approx. 200'000 m³ of ice detached from the glacier in chunks without causing any damage.

3.4 Length Variations in 2007/08 and in 2008/09, Summary

| No. ^a | Glacier | Ct. ^b | Length variation ^c (m) | | Altitude ^d (m a.s.l.) 2009 | Date of measurements (Day, Month) 2007 2008 2009 | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---|--|--------|--------|
| | | | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Catchment area of the river Rhone (II) | | | | | | | | |
| 1 ^{e,f} | Rhone | VS | -3.3 | -4.1 | 2208.0 | 12.09. | 29.08. | 07.09. |
| 2 ^{e,f} | Mutt | VS | -17.6 | -21.8 | 2640 | 14.08. | 06.08. | 04.10. |
| 3 ^{e,f} | Gries | VS | -25.7 | -16.3 | 2411.0 | 12.09. | 29.08. | 08.09. |
| 4 ^{e,f} | Fiescher | VS | -32.6 | -10.7 | 1672 | 18.10. | 21.08. | 15.10. |
| 5 ^{e,f} | Grosser Aletsch | VS | -67.5 | -32.6 | 1587.9 | 12.09. | 09.09. | 07.09. |
| 6 ^{e,f} | Oberaletsch | VS | x | x | 2142 ⁰³ | 03.09. | 11.09. | 23.08. |
| 7 ^{e,f} | Kaltwasser | VS | +6.7 | -5.7 | 2660 | 20.09. | 02.10. | 30.09. |
| 173 ^e | Seewijnen | VS | -23 | -2.4 | 2715.6 | 05.09. | 29.08. | 07.09. |
| 10 ^{e,f} | Schwarzberg | VS | -13 | -17.0 | 2660.3 | 05.09. | 29.08. | 07.09. |
| 11 ^{e,f} | Allalin | VS | +14 | -3.7 | 2633.1 | 05.09. | 29.08. | 07.09. |
| 174 ^e | Hohlaub | VS | -5 | -4.0 | 2833.1 | 05.09. | 29.08. | 07.09. |
| 12 ^e | Kessjen | VS | -12 | -7.4 | 2868.1 | 05.09. | 29.08. | 07.09. |
| 13 ^{e,f} | Fee (Nord) | VS | -19.6 | -13.5 | 2160 | 01.10. | 29.09. | 05.10. |
| 14 ^f | Gorner | VS | -290 | -6 | 2165 ⁰⁸ | 20.10. | 18.10. | 15.10. |
| 16 ^{e,f} | Findelen | VS | -0.9 | -1.1 | 2492.2 | 13.09. | 29.08. | 07.09. |
| 17 ^e | Ried | VS | -18.7 | -500 | 2200 | 12.09. | 21.09. | 20.09. |
| 18 ^{e,f} | Lang | VS | -19 | -12.5 | 2090 | 05.11. | 27.10. | 30.10. |
| 19 ^f | Turtmann | VS | n | n | 2270 ⁰⁵ | n | n | n |
| 20 ^f | Brunegg (Turtmann) | VS | n | n | 2500 ⁰⁵ | n | n | n |
| 21 ^f | Bella Tola | VS | n | n | | n | n | n |
| 22 ^{e,f} | Zinal | VS | n | -33.8 ^{2a} | 2040 | 28.10. | n | 22.10. |
| 23 ^{e,f} | Moming | VS | x | x | 2630 ⁰² | n | 01.10. | 16.10. |
| 24 ^{e,f} | Moiry | VS | -15.5 | n | 2400 ⁰⁸ | 07.10. | 15.10. | n |
| 25 ^f | Ferpècle | VS | n | -13 ^{2a} | | 23.10. | n | 15.10. |
| 26 ^f | Mont Miné | VS | n | -32 ^{2a} | | 23.10. | n | 24.09. |
| 27 ^f | Arolla (Mont Collon) | VS | n | -68 ^{2a} | | 23.10. | n | 24.09. |
| 28 ^f | Tsidjiore Nouve | VS | n | -26 ^{2a} | | 23.10. | n | 15.10. |
| 29 ^{e,f} | Cheillon | VS | -3.3 | x | 2706 | 17.10. | 01.10. | 28.10. |
| 30 ^{e,f} | En Darrey | VS | -8 | x | 2502 | 17.10. | 01.10. | 28.10. |
| 31 ^f | Grand Désert | VS | -47.2 | -15.5 | 2822 | 09.09. | 22.09. | 27.09. |
| 32 ^f | Mont Fort (Tortin) | VS | x | -22.0 | 2814 | 11.10. | 01.10. | 20.09. |
| 33 ^f | Tsanfleuron | VS | -125.5 ^{3a} | -103.5 | | n | 18.10. | 20.10. |
| 34 ^e | Otemma | VS | -31.2 | -51.2 | 2460 | 03.10. | 03.09. | 01.09. |
| 35 ^e | Mont Durand | VS | x | -53 ^{2a} | 2340 | 01.10. | 05.09. | 30.08. |
| 36 ^e | Breney | VS | -22.6 | -32.4 | 2575 | 02.10. | 02.09. | 31.08. |

| No. ^a | Glacier | Ct. ^b | Length variation ^c (m) | | Altitude ^d (m a.s.l.) | Date of measurements (Day, Month) | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | | | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| 37 ^e | Giétro | VS | -22.0 | -48.4 | 2611.3 | 05.09. | 18.08. | 07.09. |
| 38 ^e | Corbassière | VS | -21.0 | -100.7 | 2246.9 | 13.09. | 18.08. | 07.09. |
| 39 ^{e,f} | Valsorey | VS | -6 | -28 | 2423.3 | 23.10. | 29.08. | 04.10. |
| 40 ^e | Tseudet | VS | +11.3 | -11.3 | 2477 | 23.10. | 29.08. | 04.10. |
| 41 ^e | Boveyre | VS | -15 | -22 | 2648.8 | 12.10. | 29.08. | 09.10. |
| 42 ^{e,f} | Saleina | VS | -22 | -15.5 | 1801.5 | 03.10. | 29.08. | 29.09. |
| 43 ^{e,f} | Trient | VS | -91 | -151 | 2060 | 29.09. | 22.09. | 11.09. |
| 44 ^{e,f} | Paneyrosse | VD | -1.9 | -5.4 | | 23.09. | 02.09. | 15.09. |
| 45 ^{e,f} | Grand Plan Névé | VD | -1.2 | -3.4 | | 12.09. | 27.08. | 10.09. |
| 47 ^{e,f} | Sex Rouge | VD | x | -4.2 ^{2a} | | 13.09. | 28.09. | 10.09. |
| 48 ^e | Prapio | VD | -4.4 | -6.1 | 2523 ⁰⁸ | 01.08. | 24.08. | 09.09. |
| Catchment area of the river Aare (Ia) | | | | | | | | |
| 50 ^f | Oberaar | BE | -63.5 ^{3a} | -19.8 | 2306.9 | n | 28.08. | 19.08. |
| 51 ^f | Unteraar | BE | -71.8 ^{3a} | -18.2 | 1930.3 | n | 28.08. | 19.08. |
| 52 ^e | Gauli | BE | -75 | -100 | 2130 | 16.09. | 26.09. | 18.09. |
| 53 ^{e,f} | Stein | BE | -20 | -28 | 1945 | 13.09. | 21.09. | 22.09. |
| 54 ^e | Steinlimmi | BE | -23 | -19 | 2100 | 13.09. | 21.09. | 22.09. |
| 55 ^{e,f} | Trift (Gadmen) | BE | -21.5 | -33.5 | 1654.6 | 12.09. | 18.08. | 07.09. |
| 57 ^f | Oberer Grindelwald | BE | n | x | | n | n | 03.10. |
| 58 ^f | Unterer Grindelwald | BE | x | x | 1249.6 | 12.09. | 18.08. | 07.09. |
| 59 ^e | Eiger | BE | -225 ^{2a} | x | 2330 | n | 18.09. | 06.10. |
| 60 ^e | Tschingel | BE | -1.4 | -3.3 | 2267.4 | 20.09. | 23.09. | 15.09. |
| 61 ^{e,f} | Gamchi | BE | -7 | -7.5 | 1950 | 06.10. | 29.09. | 03.10. |
| 109 ^e | Alpetli (Kanderfirn) | BE | -44.5 | -28.4 | 2275 | 12.09. | 17.09. | 12.09. |
| 62 ^{e,f} | Schwarz | VS | -12.3 ^{2a} | -6.2 | 2260 | n | 20.09. | 23.09. |
| 63 ^{e,f} | Lämmern | VS | -14.8 | -11.7 | 2550 | 06.09. | 17.09. | 11.09. |
| 64 ^{e,f} | Blüemlisalp | BE | -34.0 | -19 | 2270 | 15.09. | 20.09. | 16.09. |
| 111 ^e | Ammerten | BE | -1.7 | -0.1 | 2350 | 14.10. | 19.10. | 11.10. |
| 65 ^f | Rätzli | BE | n | n | 2450 ⁰¹ | n | n | n |
| 112 ^e | Dungel | BE | -3 | -3.4 | 2608 | 21.09. | 21.09. | 08.08. |
| 113 ^e | Gelten | BE | -8 | -16.1 | 2499 | 22.09. | 20.09. | 09.09. |
| Catchment area of the river Reuss (Ib) | | | | | | | | |
| 66 ^{e,f} | Tiefen | UR | -31.8 | -15.7 | 2520 | 24.09. | 27.08. | 10.09. |
| 67 ^{e,f} | Sankt Anna | UR | -20.2 ^{2a} | -6.0 | 2585 | n | 29.08. | 26.09. |
| 68 ^{e,f} | Kehlen | UR | -36.6 | -24.2 | 2220 | 03.10. | 11.09. | 23.09. |
| 69 ^e | Rotfirn (Nord) | UR | -13.3 | -12.0 | 2040 | 03.10. | 11.09. | 23.09. |
| 70 ^{e,f} | Damma | UR | x | n | 2085 ⁰³ | n | 11.09. | n |
| 71 ^{e,f} | Wallenbur | UR | -1.9 | -8.7 | 2250 ⁰⁶ | 16.10. | 15.10. | 07.10. |

| No. ^a | Glacier | Ct. ^b | Length variation ^c (m) | | Altitude ^d (m a.s.l.) | Date of measurements (Day, Month) | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | | | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | | 2009 | 2007 | 2008 |
| 72 ^{e,f} | Brunni | UR | n | -5.4 ^{6a} | 2560 | | n | n |
| 73 ^{e,f} | Hüfi | UR | -12 | -9 | 1800 | | 12.10. | 13.10. |
| 74 ^{e,f} | Griess | UR | -3.5 | -2.5 | 2223 | | 21.09. | 26.09. |
| 75 ^{e,f} | Firnalpeli (Ost) | OW | +3.5 | -7.4 | 2195 | | 23.09. | 24.08. |
| 76 ^f | Griessen | OW | n | -11.2 ^{2a} | 2530 | | 17.09. | n |
| Catchment area of the river Linth / Limmat (Ic) | | | | | | | | |
| 77 ^{e,f} | Biferten | GL | -8.7 | -3.5 | 1968.7 | | 07.10. | 26.10. |
| 78 ^e | Limmern | GL | -5.8 | -4 | 2290 | | 08.10. | 27.09. |
| 114 ^e | Plattalva | GL | -19.5 | -21.2 | 2585 | | 09.10. | 28.09. |
| 79 ^{e,f} | Sulz | GL | -3.8 | -7.6 | 1790 | | 16.10. | 02.10. |
| 80 ^{e,f} | Glärnisch | GL | -2.5 | -12.6 | 2344.6 | | 06.10. | 27.09. |
| 81 ^{e,f} | Pizol | SG | -0.3 | -2.3 | 2605 | | 03.09. | 26.09. |
| Catchment area of the river Rhine / Lake Constance (Id) | | | | | | | | |
| 82 ^{e,f} | Lavaz | GR | -18 ^{2a} | n | 2428 ⁰⁸ | | n | 20.08. |
| 83 ^{e,f} | Punteglas | GR | -10.3 | n | 2350 ⁰⁸ | | 29.10. | 20.10. |
| 84 ^{e,f} | Lenta | GR | -9.5 | -13.3 | 2375 | | 07.09. | 25.09. |
| 85 ^{e,f} | Vorab | GR | -8.8 | -13.8 | | | 16.10. | 01.10. |
| 86 ^{e,f} | Paradies | GR | +2.1 | +1.9 | 2691 | | 13.09. | 09.09. |
| 87 ^e | Suretta | GR | -2.1 | +0.4 | 2572 | | 16.10. | 30.09. |
| 88 ^{e,f} | Porchabella | GR | -22.2 | -16.5 | 2653 | | 15.10. | 01.10. |
| 115 ^e | Scaletta | GR | -21.7 | -6.3 | 2590 | | 13.09. | 27.08. |
| 89 ^{e,f} | Verstankla | GR | -9 | -10.3 | 2425 | | 17.09. | 03.09. |
| 90 ^e | Silvretta | GR | -6.0 | -6.8 | 2466.9 | | 24.09. | 09.09. |
| 91 ^{e,f} | Sardona | SG | -7.6 | -2.1 | 2450 | | 17.09. | 25.09. |
| Catchment area of the river Inn (V) | | | | | | | | |
| 92 ^{e,f} | Roseg | GR | -17.9 | -31.5 | 2160 | | 13.09. | 02.10. |
| 93 ^e | Tschierva | GR | -25.0 | -24.8 | 2262 | | 13.09. | 02.10. |
| 94 ^{e,f} | Morteratsch | GR | -35.0 | -32.8 | 2110 | | 13.09. | 02.10. |
| 95 ^e | Calderas | GR | -6.8 | -120.8 | 2759 | | 04.09. | 21.08. |
| 96 ^{e,f} | Tiatscha | GR | -4.6 | +1.4 | 2650 ⁰⁵ | | 23.08. | 30.09. |
| 97 ^e | Sesvenna | GR | -7.7 | -4.9 | 2760 ⁰⁷ | | 13.09. | 27.08. |
| 98 ^{e,f} | Lischana | GR | -7.2 ^{2a} | -2.5 | 2774 ⁰⁶ | | n | 09.09. |
| Catchment area of the river Adda (IV) | | | | | | | | |
| 99 ^e | Cambreña | GR | -20 | n | 2530 ⁰⁸ | | 11.10. | 07.10. |
| 100 ^{e,f} | Palü | GR | -8 | n | 2620 ⁰⁸ | | 12.10. | 19.09. |
| 101 ^e | Paradisino (Campo) | GR | -11 | n | 2840 ⁰⁸ | | 15.09. | 20.10. |
| 102 ^f | Forno | GR | -28.3 | -23.8 | 2260 | | 14.09. | 10.09. |

| No. ^a | Glacier | Ct. ^b | Length variation ^c (m) | | Altitude ^d (m a.s.l.) 2009 | Date of measurements (Day, Month) | | |
|---|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | | | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Catchment area of the river Ticino (III) | | | | | | | | |
| 120 ^e | Corno | TI | -3.3 | -1.3 | 2601.0 | 28.08. | 25.09. | 31.08. |
| 117 ^e | Valleggia | TI | -8.9 | -0.8 | 2426.5 | 19.09. | 07.10. | 02.09. |
| 118 ^e | Val Torta | TI | -12 | 0 | 2506.1 | 20.09. | 09.10. | 23.09. |
| 352 ^e | Croslina | TI | -2.5 | -0.5 | 2717.0 | 04.09. | 02.09. | 10.09. |
| 103 ^{e,f} | Bresciana | TI | -6.8 | -2.7 | 2938.0 | 11.09. | 10.09. | 08.09. |
| 119 ^e | Cavagnoli | TI | -20.9 | -4.5 | 2539.4 | 12.09. | 24.09. | 28.09. |
| 104 ^{e,f} | Basòdino | TI | -11.9 | -2.7 | 2576.8 | 13.09. | 23.09. | 29.09. |
| 105 ^{e,f} | Rossboden | VS | x | x | 1930 ⁰⁴ | n | 23.10. | 16.10. |

Legend

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|----------------------|
| + | advancing | x | value not determined |
| st | stationary, $\pm 1\text{ m}$ | n | not observed |
| - | retreating | sn | snowed in |

- a Identification number of the glacier in the observation network.
- b If a specific glacier is situated in more than one canton, the canton indicated in the table is the one where the observed glacier tongue lies.
- c If the value given relates to more than one year, the number of years is indicated as follows:
 -23^{4a} = Decrease of 23 meters within 4 years.
- d If the altitude of the glacier tongue is not measured in 2009, the year of the last measurement is indicated: $2522^{99} = 2522\text{ m above sea level, measured in the year 1999.}$
- e Compare Appendix B: Remarks on individual glaciers.
- f Glacier with nearly complete data series since the beginning of the measurements at the end of the 19th century and one of the 73 glaciers selected in Figures 3.3 and 3.4.

Table 3.1 no longer includes a) glaciers which have melted back drastically and are often debris-covered, making it impossible to carry out a proper survey at yearly intervals (Mittelaletsch, Tälliboden, Ofental, Zmutt), and b) glaciers observed only at irregular intervals and/or that yield imprecise measurement values, which do not justify retaining these figures in the charts and analyses (Bis, Orny, Martinets, Pierredar, Rosenlau, Lötschberg, Albigna).

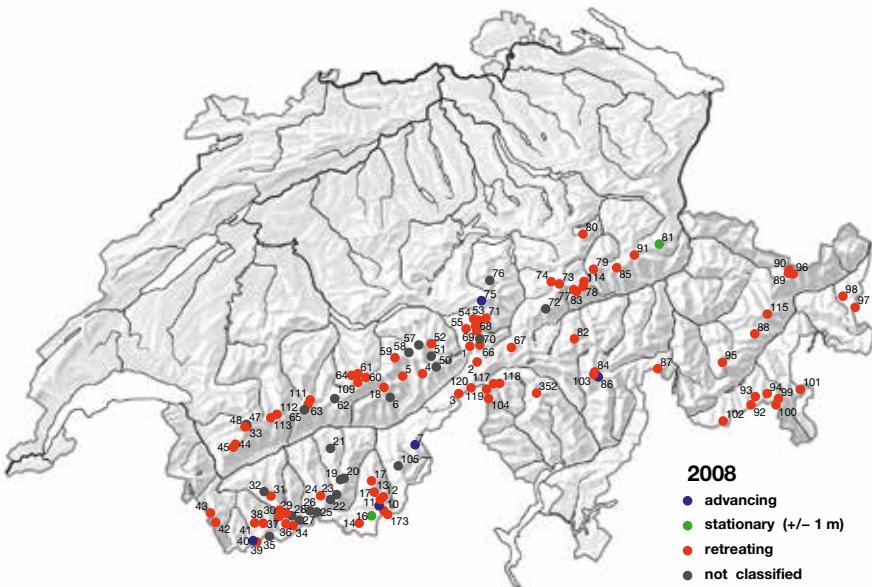


Figure 3.1: Observed glaciers in fall 2008.

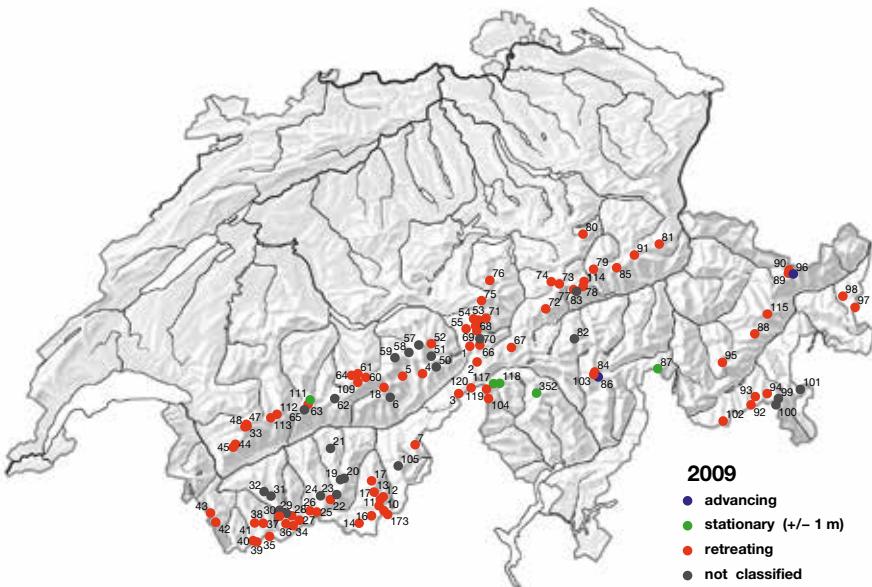


Figure 3.2: Observed glaciers in fall 2009.

3.5 Length Variations - Statistics for 1880-2009

The long-term development of glaciers in Switzerland is illustrated by taking a selected sample from the Swiss glacier network (Figures 3.3 and 3.4), and the cumulative glacier length variations which have been classified according to length (Figures 3.5 - 3.8).

The dynamic response to climatic forcing of glaciers with variable geometry involves striking differences in the recorded curves (Figures 3.4 and 3.5 - 3.8) (Hoelzle et al., 2003). Such differences reflect the considerable effects of size-dependent filtering, smoothing, and enhancing of the delayed tongue response with respect to the undelayed input (mass balance) signal. As a consequence, the overview figure of annual length-change data presented here as annual numbers or percentages of advancing and retreating glaciers should be interpreted carefully.

We also present absolute numbers, in order to avoid having a glacier sample whose scope changes annually, not all glaciers were included in Figures 3.3 and 3.4. From the entire dataset, 73 glaciers were selected as a sample with nearly complete series since the beginning of the measurements at the end of the 19th century. In Chapter 3.4, these 73 glaciers are indicated by a footnote f. The measured annual values are assigned to three classes: advancing, stationary and retreating. Figure 3.3 presents absolute numbers and percentages. The sample is dominated by medium-sized glaciers (length between 1 to 5 km). The typical response time of these glaciers is in the order of decades, and the periods of advance, such as those in the 1910s and the 1970s to 1980s, can be seen clearly. For the purpose of intercomparison, values of cumulative length change are presented with respect to size categories chosen in a way to optimally reflect common characteristics of the

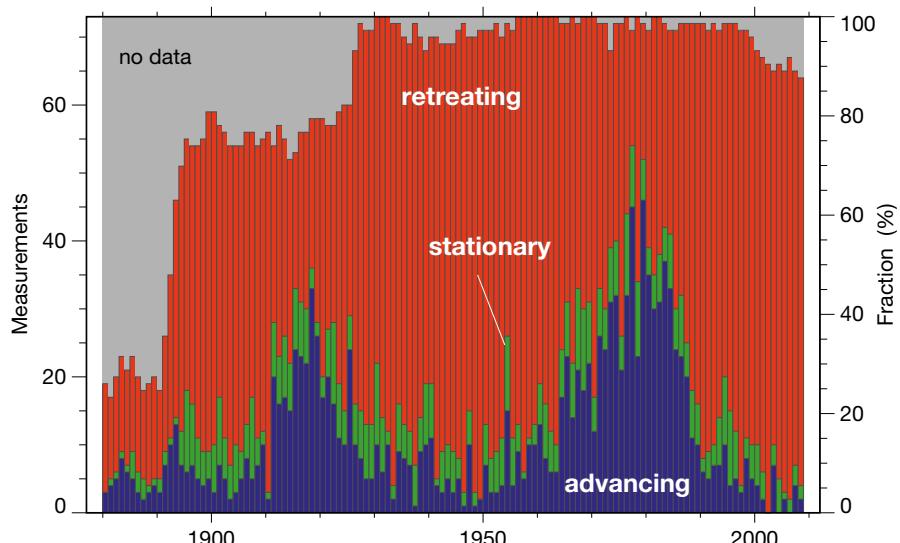


Figure 3.3: Yearly classification of glacier length behaviour (advancing, stationary and retreating) of 73 selected glaciers.

tongue-reaction signal. Figure 3.4 shows the annual and individual length change of all 73 selected glaciers sorted for size. It is well recognized that large glaciers, such as Grosser Aletschgletscher, show continuous retreat since 1880, in contrast to the smaller glaciers such as Pizolgletscher, which has highly variable behavior.

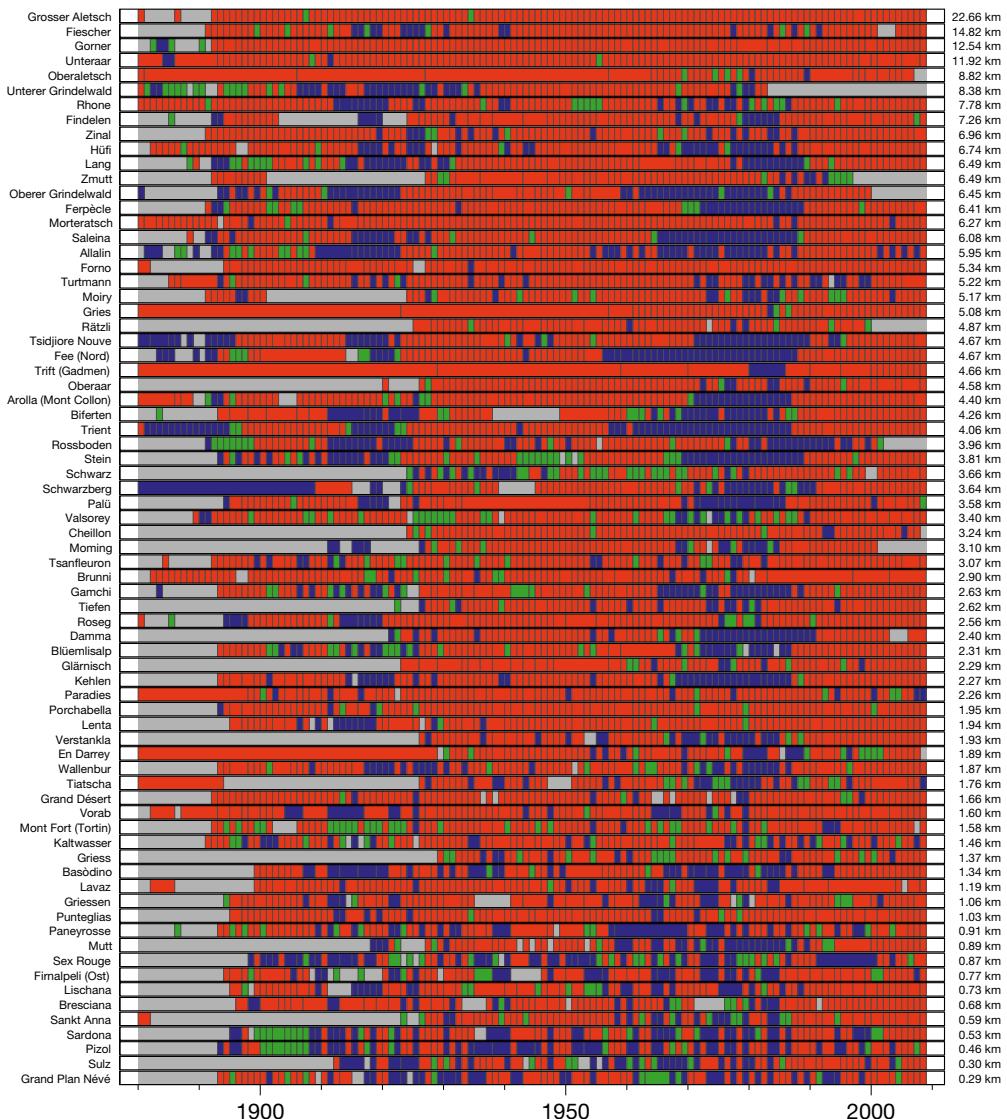


Figure 3.4: Individual yearly pattern of the same 73 selected glaciers (displayed in the descending order of actual glacier length).

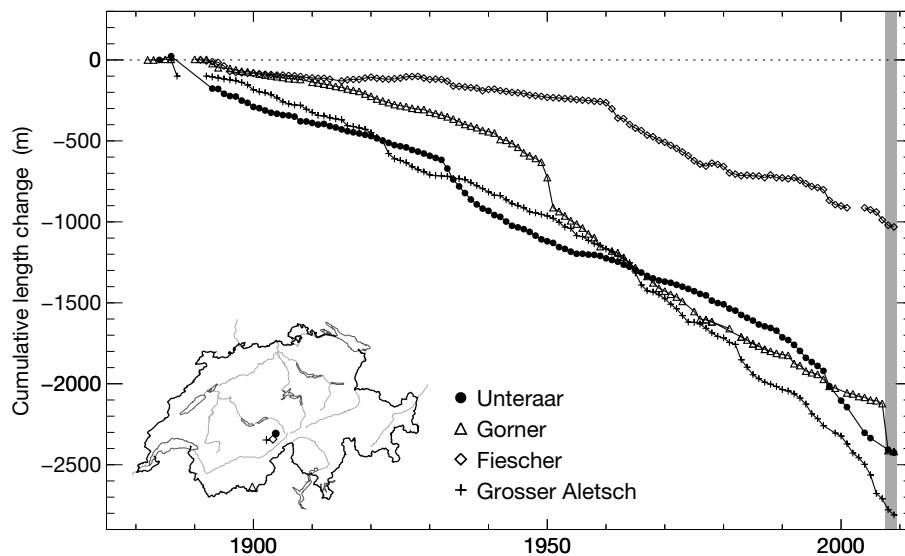


Figure 3.5: Large valley glaciers with a length of more than 10 km. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

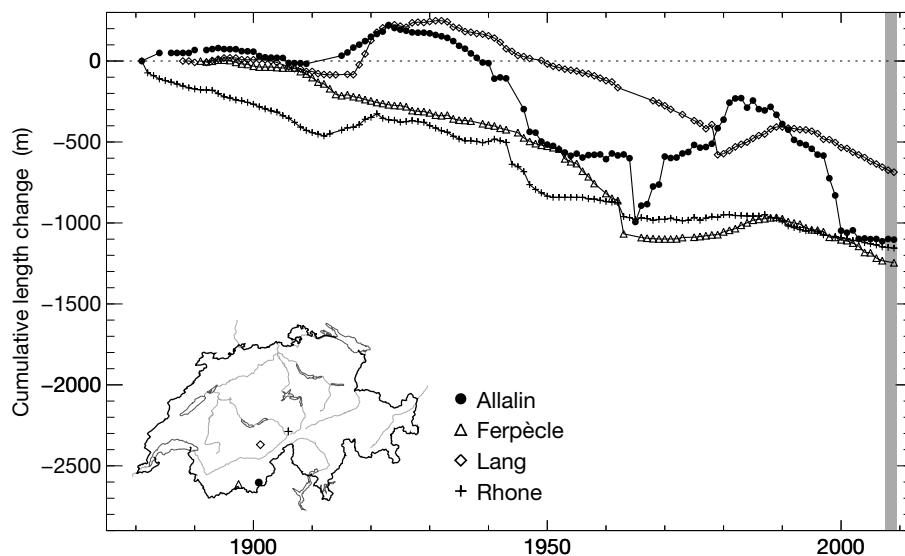


Figure 3.6: Mountain glaciers with a length of 5 - < 10 km. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

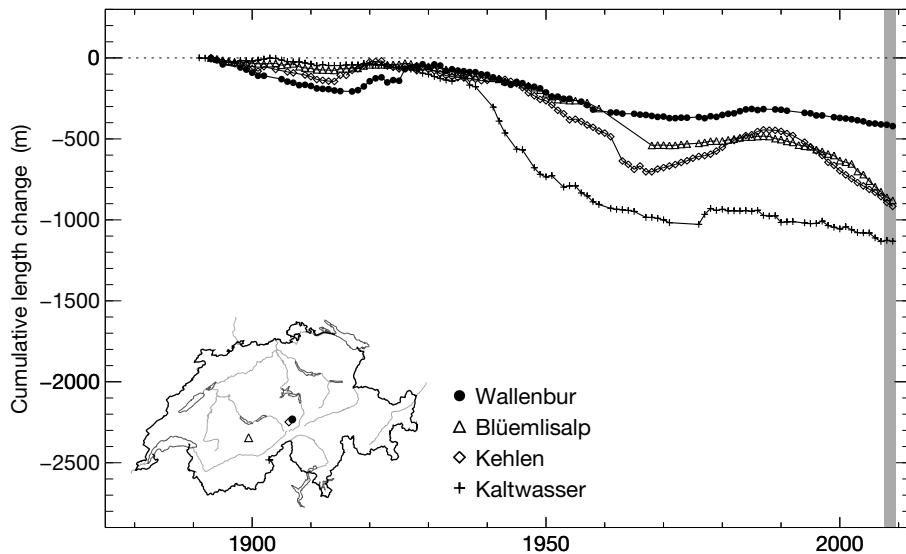


Figure 3.7: Small mountain glaciers with a length of $1 - < 5$ km. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

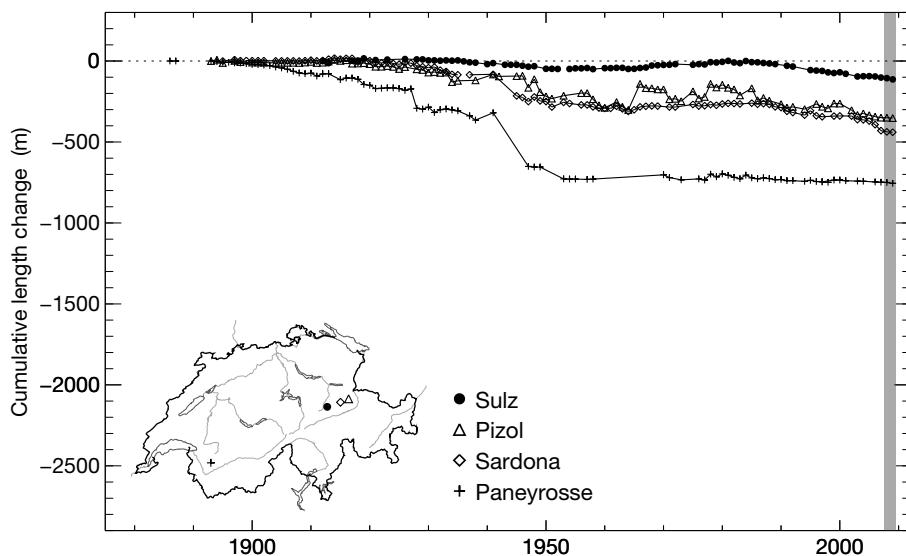


Figure 3.8: Very small cirque glaciers with a length of less than 1 km. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.



Glacier du Trient in 2003 (top) and 2009 (bottom) (Photos: J. Ehinger)

4 Mass Balance

4.1 Introduction, cumulative mean specific mass balances

Detailed mass balance data were collected using the glaciological method for Griesgletscher, Silvrettagletscher, Pizolgletscher, Findelengletscher and Ghiacciaio del Basòdino in Switzerland. In addition to these investigations aiming at the determination of the glacier-wide mass balance distribution, individual point measurements of mass balance were taken at Claridenfirn, Jungfraufirn (Grosser Aletschgletscher), Glacier du Giétra and Glacier de Corbassière (cf. Chapter 5), as well as in the Mattmark region (Allalin, Schwarzberg, Chapter 5). In Figure 4.1 the location within Switzerland of all these glaciers is shown.

The mass balance measurements at stakes, in snow pits and extensive snow probing on Gries-



Figure 4.1: Investigated glaciers for mass balance with the focus on spatial distribution and analysis of mean specific winter and annual balance (dark blue) or point measurements (light blue).

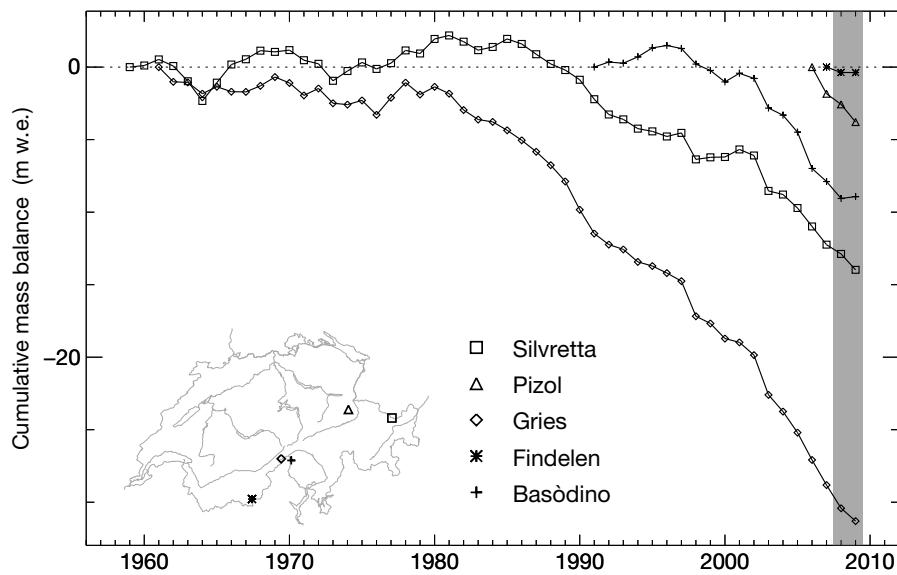


Figure 4.2: Cumulative mean specific annual balance over the whole observation period for the glaciers Silvretta, Pizol, Gries, Findelen and Basòdino. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

gletscher, Findelengletscher, Pizolgletscher and Silvrettagletscher were used to calculate the mean specific winter and annual balance following the methods described in Huss et al. (2009). Extrapolation from individual measurements to the entire glacier surface was performed using a mass balance model including the most important processes governing glacier mass balance distribution. The procedure is divided into two steps:

- (1) The model is tuned such that both the measurements of winter accumulation and summer ablation are matched optimally over the periods defined by the exact dates of the in-situ measurements which are reported for the years of the current report. This allows extrapolation of mass balance based on a physical representation of the spatial variability, as well as the calculation of mass balance over fixed time periods (e.g. the hydrological year).
- (2) A periodical final reanalysis and homogenisation with independently derived ice volume changes is reported separately in five to ten year intervals after evaluation.

For Ghiacciaio del Basòdino traditional hand-contouring has been applied (e.g. Østrem and Brugman, 1991). The cumulative mean specific winter and annual balances of the glaciers with extensive observation series are presented in Table 4.1. The long-term trends are very well recognizable for the Griesgletscher and Silvrettagletscher with long time-series (Figure 4.2). Notably, the accelerated mass loss since the mid-1980s is remarkable, as is the balanced conditions recorded in the 1960s and 70s. The point measurements of the mass balance are of particular significance with

Table 4.1: Summary table with area, mean specific winter and annual balance, ELA and AAR for the exact measuring periods 2007/08 and 2008/09.

| Glacier | No. | period | area (km ²) | B _w (mm w.e.) | B _a (mm w.e.) | ELA (m a.s.l.) | AAR (%) |
|-----------|-----|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Basòdino | 104 | 2007/08 | 2.280 ^a | 1145 | -1168 | 3100 | 2 |
| | | 2008/09 | 2.280 ^a | 2487 | 130 | 2750 | 70 |
| Findelen | 16 | 2007/08 | 13.079 ^b | 656 | -542 | 3275 | 58 |
| | | 2008/09 | 13.079 ^b | 1579 | -37 | 3215 | 66 |
| Gries | 3 | 2007/08 | 4.973 ^c | 1139 | -1601 | 3125 | 5 |
| | | 2008/09 | 4.973 ^c | 2465 | -883 | 3134 | 3 |
| Pizol | 81 | 2007/08 | 0.081 ^d | 1447 | -731 | 2800 | 9 |
| | | 2008/09 | 0.081 ^d | 1591 | -1220 | 2775 | 1 |
| Rhone | 1 | 2007/08 | 15.933 ^c | 1458 | -1098 | 3097 | 33 |
| | | 2008/09 | 15.933 ^c | 1560 | -453 | 2938 | 51 |
| Silvretta | 90 | 2007/08 | 2.785 ^c | 1674 | -639 | 2855 | 31 |
| | | 2008/09 | 2.785 ^c | 1547 | -1097 | 2995 | 6 |

^a measured in 2002; ^b measured in 2009; ^c measured in 2007; ^d measured in 2006

regard to answering questions related to climate change (Ohmura et al., 2007; Huss and Bauder, 2009). The four existing long-term time series (Claridenfirn, Grosser Aletschgletscher, Silvrettagletscher) start in the 1910s and cover almost the entire 20th century. Ghiacciaio del Basòdino, Griesgletscher, Findelengletscher, Pizolgletscher and Silvrettagletscher are currently part of the international observation network, which includes approximately 50 other glaciers (Dyurgerov and Meier, 2005; WGMS, 2007).

4.2 Mass Balance in 2007/08

During the 2007/08 measurement period, all five investigated glaciers experienced mass losses, ranging between -1.6 m water equivalent at Griesgletscher and -0.6 m at Silvrettagletscher. The values from the review period correspond approx. to the mean value of the 10 previous years (1998-2007).

Basòdino, Gries and Rhone glaciers lost somewhat more than the 10-year mean, while Pizol and Silvretta glacier melted less. The point measurements at Jungfraufirn (Grosser Aletschgletscher) and Claridenfirn confirm these results. These differences can be explained for the most part by topographic influences and spatial variations in precipitation. Differing melt conditions can be neglected in the assessment of these results.

4.3 Mass Balance in 2008/09

The mass budget glaciers Basòdino, Gries and Findelen, located in the southern Alpine region, had above-average snow depth at the end of April 2009. Accumulation over the winter amounted to

approx. 2.5 m water equivalent at Basòdino and Gries, and 1.6 m w.e. at Findelen glaciers. As early as the month of April, drastically high temperatures (Fig. 2.1) were the cause of intensive snowmelt. Due to the extremely warm summer, which was the fifth-hottest since temperature measurements began, the great masses of snow in most regions had melted away by August. The melting season lasted until the end of October, which is considered to be extremely late. As a result of this situation, Findelen and Gries in the southern Alpine region lost a relatively small amount of mass at -0.04 and -0.9 m w.e. respectively in that year, while Ghiacciaio del Basòdino with +0.13 m w.e. even gained slightly in mass.

On the north side of the Alps, the situation evolved somewhat differently. Although the amount of snowfall over the winter was in accordance with the average, many glaciers nevertheless melted out with some delay, and by the end of the melting season, distinct mass losses, similar to those of previous years, were recorded. At the end of September, mass losses at these two investigated glaciers on the north side of the Alps amounted to 1.2 m w.e. at Pizol and 1.1 m w.e. at Silvretta.



Ghiacciaio del Basòdino in 2009 (Photo: C. Valeggia)

4.4 Ghiacciaio del Basòdino

Introduction

Ghiacciaio del Basòdino is a small north-east facing temperate mountain glacier in the southern Swiss Alps. The small individual branch descending to the north with a separate tongue is not considered part of the glacier and not included in the mass balance determination. The main branch covers an area of 2.2 km² and extends from 2530 to 3192 m a.s.l. Detailed mass balance investigations are being carried out since 1990. Determination of volumetric changes in decadal resolution reach further back to 1929 (Bauder et al., 2007). Topographic maps or photogrammetrical surveys exist for 1929, 1949, 1971, 1985, 1991, 2002 and 2008.

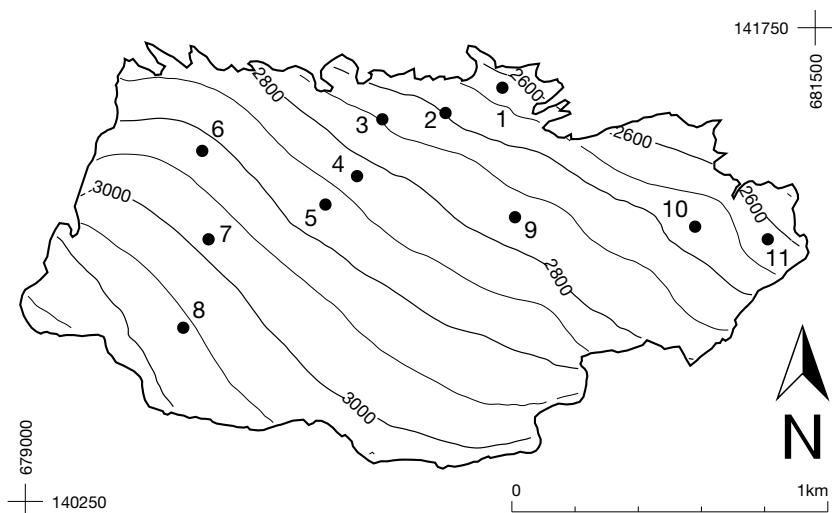


Figure 4.3: Surface topography and observational network of the Ghiacciaio del Basòdino.

Investigations in 2007/08

The measurement period extended from 7th October 2007 to 11th September 2008 with a field visit in spring on 7th May 2008. Periodic field visits provided additional measurements with observations of the gradual seasonal evolution. Measurements taken in October 2007, indicated that the glacier was covered with encrusted new snow from September, with a thickness of 5 cm in the lower zone and 25 cm in the upper. By the beginning of August 2008 (the 5th), the snow cover had drastically disappeared from the glacier and almost all of the stakes had to be redrilled. At the end of the month of August, practically all of the winter snow had melted away.

Investigations in 2008/09

The measurement period went from 11th September 2008 to 10th September 2009 with a field visit in spring on 20th May 2009. Periodically, additional field visits supplemented the measurements with observations of the gradual seasonal evolution. The winter experienced abundant snowfall, so much so that during the spring visit, the second highest accumulation value was recorded since measurements begun in 1990. By the end of July 2009 the thick layer of winter snow appeared to be holding well, with a strong prospect of a very positive mass balance year. However, extremely warm temperatures in August melted the firn to such an extent that, in the end, it was almost an average year for mass balance.

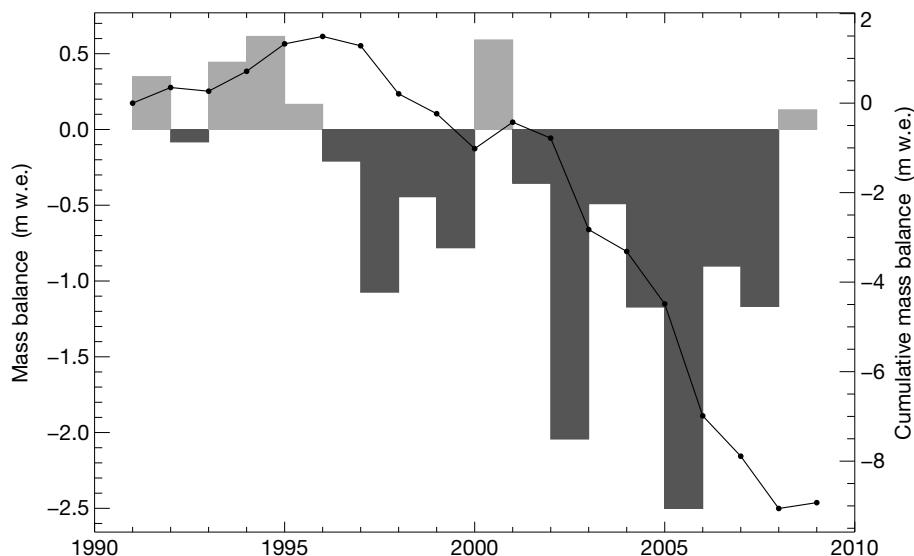


Figure 4.4: Ghiacciaio del Basòdino - Mean specific annual balance (bars) and cumulative annual balance for the period 1991-2009.

Table 4.2: Ghiacciaio del Basòdino - Specific winter and annual balance versus altitude in the two periods 2007/08 and 2008/09 evaluated for the exact measurement period defined by the dates of field survey.

| Altitude (m a.s.l.) | 2007/08 | | | 2008/09 | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | area (km ²) | \bar{b}_w (mm w.e.) | \bar{b}_a (mm w.e.) | area (km ²) | \bar{b}_w (mm w.e.) | \bar{b}_a (mm w.e.) |
| 2600 - 2700 | 0.240 | 1147 | -1800 | 0.240 | 2585 | -32 |
| 2700 - 2800 | 0.450 | 1110 | -1500 | 0.450 | 2530 | 0 |
| 2800 - 2900 | 0.550 | 1110 | -1200 | 0.550 | 2340 | 6 |
| 2900 - 3000 | 0.560 | 1073 | -1000 | 0.560 | 2475 | 30 |
| 3000 - 3100 | 0.480 | 1302 | -700 | 0.480 | 2580 | 36 |
| 2600 - 3100 | 2.280 | 1145 | -1168 | 2.280 | 2487 | 130 |

Table 4.3: Ghiacciaio del Basòdino - Individual stake measurements of winter and annual balance.

| stake | start | period spring | end | coordinates | | mass balance | |
|-------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | (m / m / m a.s.l.) | | b_w (mm w.e.) | b_a (mm w.e.) |
| 2 | 01.09.2007 | 07.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 680210 / 141446 / 2721 | | 1240 | -1870 |
| 2 | 11.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 10.09.2009 | 680210 / 141446 / 2721 | | 2139 | -340 |
| 3 | 11.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 10.09.2009 | 679922 / 141405 / 2803 | | 1920 | 91 |
| 4 | 01.09.2007 | | 11.09.2008 | 680061 / 141294 / 2819 | | | -1920 |
| 4 | 11.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 10.09.2009 | 680061 / 141294 / 2819 | | 2176 | -280 |
| 5 | 01.09.2007 | | 11.09.2008 | 679900 / 141200 / 2870 | | | -630 |
| 5 | 11.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 10.09.2009 | 679900 / 141200 / 2870 | | 2050 | -350 |
| 6 | 01.09.2007 | 07.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 679556 / 141321 / 2930 | | 680 | -1440 |
| 8 | 01.09.2007 | 07.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 679500 / 140800 / 3050 | | 1258 | -560 |
| 8 | 11.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 10.09.2009 | 679500 / 140800 / 3050 | | 2517 | 980 |
| 9 | 01.09.2007 | 07.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 680557 / 141167 / 2758 | | 1110 | -1520 |
| 9 | 11.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 10.09.2009 | 680557 / 141167 / 2758 | | 2365 | -1200 |
| 10 | 01.09.2007 | 07.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 681000 / 141150 / 2689 | | 1110 | -960 |
| 11 | 01.09.2007 | 07.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 681336 / 141054 / 2610 | | 1351 | -1445 |
| 11 | 11.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 10.09.2009 | 681336 / 141054 / 2610 | | 3473 | 120 |
| 12 | 11.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 10.09.2009 | 679781 / 140828 / 2990 | | 2358 | 980 |
| 14 | 01.09.2007 | 07.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 679983 / 141017 / 2904 | | 1184 | -840 |
| 14 | 11.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 10.09.2009 | 679983 / 141017 / 2904 | | 1980 | -70 |
| 15 | 01.09.2007 | 07.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 679391 / 140978 / 3040 | | 777 | -840 |
| 15 | 11.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 10.09.2009 | 679391 / 140978 / 3040 | | 2296 | -140 |
| 16 | 01.09.2007 | | 11.09.2008 | 679656 / 141500 / 2850 | | | -1760 |

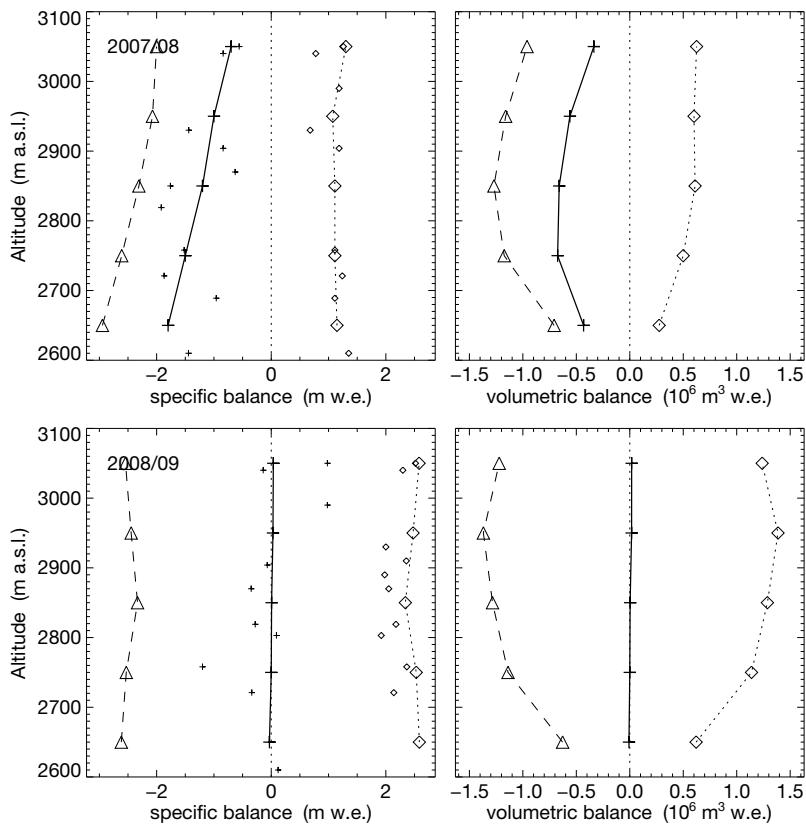


Figure 4.5: Specific (left) and volumetric (right) winter (dotted, \diamond), summer (dashed, \triangle) and annual (continuous line, +) balance versus altitude for 2007/08 (top) and 2008/09 (bottom). Small symbols mark the individual measurements.

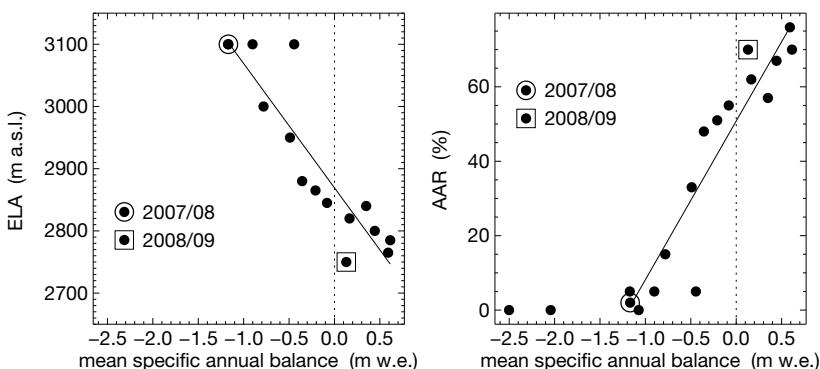


Figure 4.6: Equilibrium line altitude (ELA) and accumulation area ratio (AAR) versus mean specific balance including all previous observations.

4.5 Findelengletscher

Introduction

Findelengletscher is a valley glacier located in the southern Valais in the Zermatt area and primarily consists of Findelengletscher (13.1 km^2) and its former tributary Adlergletscher (2.0 km^2). The two glaciers cover an elevation range from 2560 m a.s.l. to 4110 m a.s.l. Findelengletscher is westfacing and is characterized by flat high-elevation accumulation basins and a comparably narrow glacier tongue. The Findelengletscher region is relatively dry, and the equilibrium lines altitude is among the highest in the Alps. Mass balance measurements on Findelengletscher were initiated in fall 2004 and the observational network was extended to Adlergletscher one year later (Machguth, 2009). While the previous report listed the stake readings for the mass balance years 2004/05 and 2006/07, we now publish glacier-wide mass balances for Findelengletscher (starting in 2007/08) as well as summer and winter balances (starting in 2008/09). For Adlergletscher we provide stake measurements but no mass balance values computed for the entire glacier.

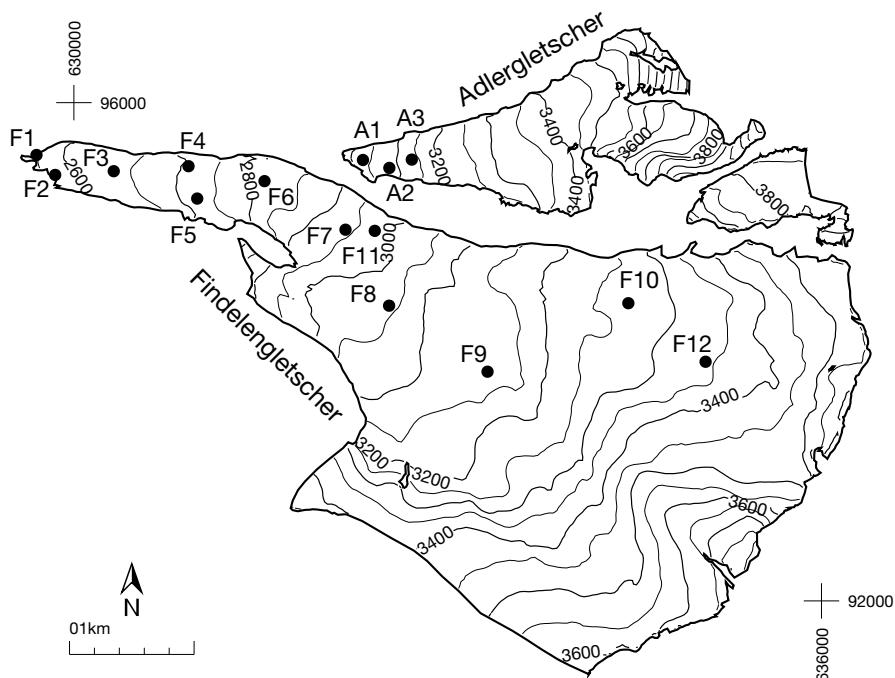


Figure 4.7: Surface topography and observational network on Findelengletscher and the former tributary Adlergletscher.

Investigations in 2007/08

The stake network on Findelen- and Adlergletscher was maintained on October 12th, 2008 and annual balance values (6.10.2007 - 12.10. 2008) were determined for twelve locations on Finde lengletscher and three locations near the terminus on Adlergletscher. Two additional field visits were performed: One in late autumn to obtain an impression of the impact of the warm fall on late season melt (0.2 m w.e. of melt on the glacier tongue between 6.10. 2007 and 19.11.2007) and another during the ablation season (26.7.2008) to carry out additional stake-readings. No measurements of winter balance were performed.

Table 4.4: Findelengletscher - Specific winter and annual balance versus altitude in the two periods 2007/08 and 2008/09 evaluated for the exact measurement period defined by the dates of field survey.

| Altitude (m a.s.l.) | 2007/08 | | | 2008/09 | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | area (km ²) | $\overline{b_w}$ (mm w.e.) | $\overline{b_a}$ (mm w.e.) | area (km ²) | $\overline{b_w}$ (mm w.e.) | $\overline{b_a}$ (mm w.e.) |
| 2500 - 2600 | 0.04062 | 122 | -6853 | 0.08620 | 577 | -7015 |
| 2600 - 2700 | 0.32812 | 152 | -5956 | 0.31875 | 687 | -5883 |
| 2700 - 2800 | 0.25875 | 199 | -5230 | 0.25250 | 773 | -4936 |
| 2800 - 2900 | 0.35750 | 327 | -3594 | 0.34750 | 1026 | -3108 |
| 2900 - 3000 | 0.57687 | 438 | -2865 | 0.58250 | 1078 | -2200 |
| 3000 - 3100 | 0.93500 | 528 | -2192 | 0.97187 | 1224 | -1549 |
| 3100 - 3200 | 1.74500 | 615 | -1440 | 1.73187 | 1429 | -519 |
| 3200 - 3300 | 1.82937 | 678 | -175 | 1.81312 | 1597 | 245 |
| 3300 - 3400 | 1.93500 | 747 | 842 | 1.94312 | 1752 | 989 |
| 3400 - 3500 | 2.41125 | 810 | 569 | 2.36875 | 1884 | 1031 |
| 3500 - 3600 | 1.58562 | 831 | 607 | 1.62437 | 1932 | 1217 |
| 3600 - 3700 | 0.48250 | 603 | 405 | 0.48812 | 1722 | 1182 |
| 3700 - 3800 | 0.31187 | 469 | 317 | 0.31312 | 1510 | 1097 |
| 3800 - 3900 | 0.24062 | 519 | 491 | 0.24000 | 1366 | 1021 |
| 3900 - 4000 | 0.00312 | 494 | 564 | 0.00312 | 1375 | 1170 |
| 2500 - 4000 | 13.0794 | 656 | -542 | 13.0794 | 1579 | -37 |

Investigations in 2008/09

Field surveys were carried out on October 12th, 2008, and in October 2009 from the 4-6th. Annual balance could be determined at 10 locations on Findelengletscher, and at two stakes on Adlergletscher. During the autumn campaign the observational network was extended by three stakes on Findelen and one stake on Adlergletscher. The naming convention of the stakes was adapted. The equilibrium line altitude was lower than in previous years (approx. 3200 m.a.s.l.) and the mass budget was almost balanced. Two additional visits to the glacier were performed during the summer (July 20-22, and September 8). Measurements of winter balance were performed on April

14 and 15 2009: Snow density was determined in two snowpits on Findelen and snow probings were conducted (222 points) on Findelen- and the lower part of Adlergletscher. A new high-resolution digital elevation model and an up-to-date glacier outline for Findelen- and Adlergletscher were obtained from an air-borne LiDAR survey in October 2009 (Joerg et al., 2012).

Table 4.5: Findelengletscher and Adlergletscher - Individual stake measurements of winter and annual balance.

| stake | start | period spring | end | coordinates | | | mass balance b_w (mm w.e.) |
|-------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------------------|------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | (m / m / m a.s.l.) | | | |
| F1 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 629887 / 95550 / 2590 | | | -7000 |
| F1 | 12.10.2008 | 15.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 629887 / 95565 / 2579 | 740 | | -7440 |
| F2 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 629916 / 95420 / 2588 | | | -6790 |
| F2 | 12.10.2008 | 15.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 629955 / 95426 / 2577 | 540 | | -7060 |
| F3 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 630329 / 95450 / 2650 | | | -5990 |
| F3 | 12.10.2008 | 15.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 630361 / 95468 / 2631 | 590 | | -6030 |
| F4 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 630897 / 95490 / 2710 | | | -5400 |
| F4 | 12.10.2008 | 15.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 630910 / 95498 / 2694 | 730 | | -4940 |
| F5 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 630990 / 95230 / 2720 | | | -5900 |
| F5 | 12.10.2008 | 15.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 630985 / 95257 / 2707 | 790 | | -5770 |
| F6 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 631530 / 95370 / 2810 | | | -4170 |
| F7 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 632095 / 95062 / 2935 | | | -2870 |
| F7 | 12.10.2008 | 15.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 632086 / 95080 / 2912 | 880 | | -2070 |
| F8 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 632530 / 94370 / 3040 | | | -2110 |
| F9 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 633320 / 93867 / 3130 | | | -1360 |
| F9 | 12.10.2008 | 15.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 633320 / 93840 / 3126 | 1410 | | -470 |
| F10 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 634335 / 94422 / 3280 | | | -370 |
| F10 | 12.10.2008 | 15.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 634251 / 94438 / 3255 | 1660 | | 220 |
| F11 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 632415 / 94971 / 2968 | | | -2960 |
| F11 | 12.10.2008 | 15.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 632364 / 95031 / 2958 | 800 | | -2860 |
| F12 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 635070 / 93920 / 3349 | | | 1000 |
| F12 | 12.10.2008 | 15.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 635085 / 93915 / 3344 | 1690 | | 950 |
| Ag1 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 632320 / 95540 / 3031 | | | -2500 |
| Ag2 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 632532 / 95476 / 3082 | | | -2100 |
| Ag3 | 08.10.2007 | | 12.10.2008 | 632712 / 95543 / 3131 | | | -2300 |
| Ag2 | 12.10.2008 | 14.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 632532 / 95476 / 3082 | 940 | | -2350 |
| Ag3 | 12.10.2008 | 14.04.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 632712 / 95543 / 3131 | 940 | | -2380 |

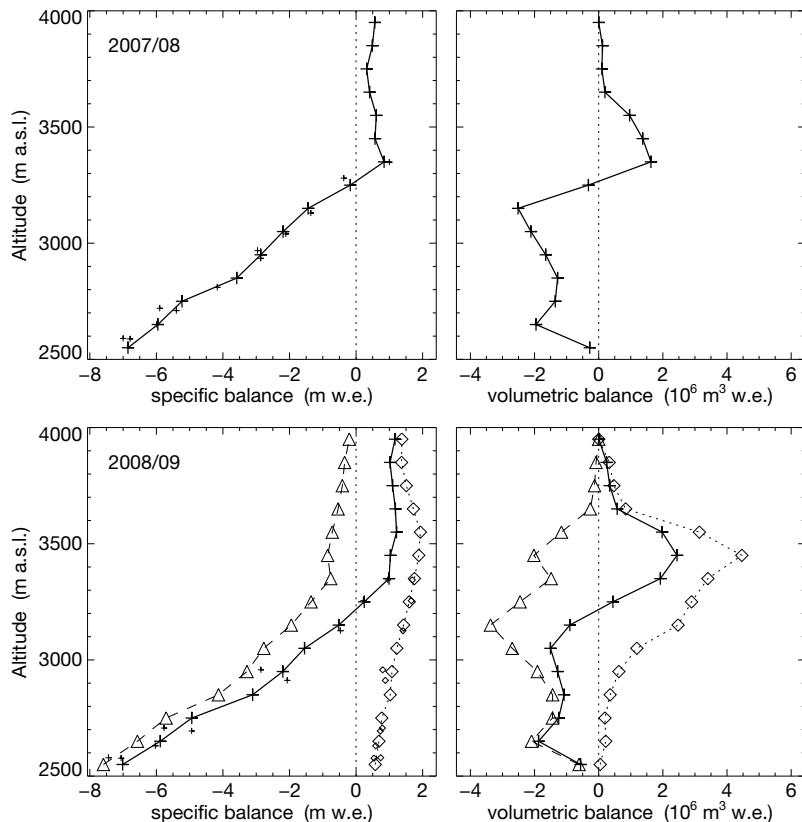


Figure 4.8: Specific (left) and volumetric (right) winter (dotted, \diamond), summer (dashed, \triangle) and annual (continuous line, +) balance versus altitude for 2007/08 (top) and 2008/09 (bottom). Small symbols mark the individual measurements.

4.6 Griesgletscher (Aegina)

Introduction

Griesgletscher is a temperate valley glacier located in the central Swiss Alps. The glacier covers an area of 4.97 km² flowing in north-east direction from 3374 m a.s.l. down to 2415 m a.s.l. Mass balance measurements started in 1961 in connection with the construction of a reservoir for hydro-power production. Determination of volumetric changes in decadal resolution reach further back to 1884 (Bauder et al., 2007). Topographic maps or photogrammetrical surveys exist for 1884, 1923, 1961, 1967, 1979, 1986, 1991, 1998, 2003 and 2007. Huss et al. (2009) reanalyzed and homogenized the seasonal stake data and ice volume changes for the period 1961-2007. Results of the mean specific winter and annual balance with associated area, ELA and AAR values for comparable fixed time periods have been reported in Section 4.9 of volume 125/126.

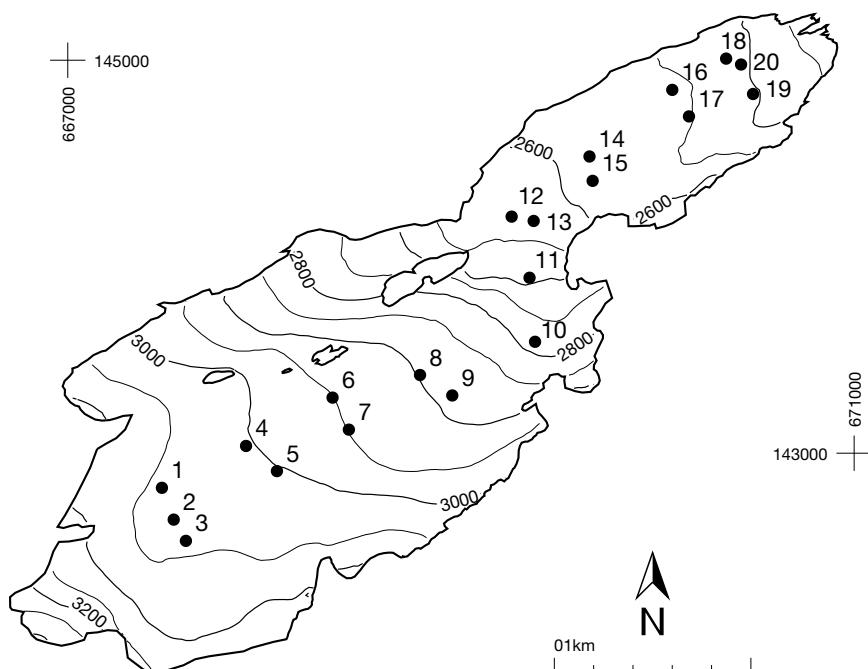


Figure 4.9: Surface topography and observational network of the Griesgletscher.

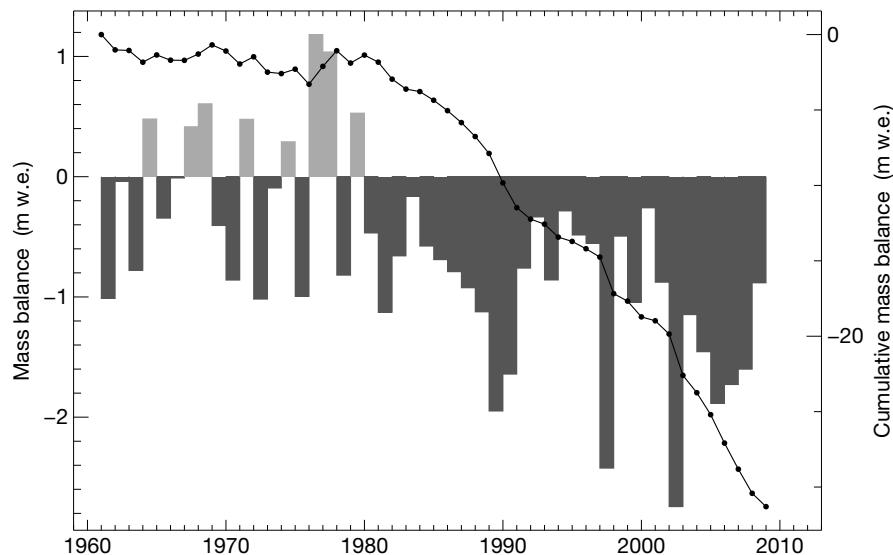


Figure 4.10: Griesgletscher - Mean specific annual balance (bars) and cumulative annual balance for the period 1961-2009.

Investigations in 2007/08

The measurement period was from 22nd September 2007 to 10th September 2008 with a field visit in spring on 1st May 2008. The melt extent at the end of the summer almost covered the entire surface area. Only some marginal firn patches were left.

Investigations in 2008/09

The measurement period extended from 10th September 2008 to 6th September 2009 with a field visit in spring on 6th May 2009. The melt-out at the end of the summer nearly extended over the entire surface area. Only some marginal firn patches were left.

Table 4.6: Griesgletscher - Specific winter and annual balance versus altitude in the two periods 2007/08 and 2008/09 evaluated for the exact measurement period defined by the dates of field survey.

| Altitude (m a.s.l.) | 2007/08 | | | 2008/09 | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | area (km ²) | $\overline{b_w}$ (mm w.e.) | $\overline{b_a}$ (mm w.e.) | area (km ²) | $\overline{b_w}$ (mm w.e.) | $\overline{b_a}$ (mm w.e.) |
| 2400 - 2500 | 0.167 | 876 | -3105 | 0.167 | 2227 | -2687 |
| 2500 - 2600 | 0.767 | 931 | -2840 | 0.767 | 2115 | -2313 |
| 2600 - 2700 | 0.316 | 990 | -2444 | 0.316 | 2296 | -1761 |
| 2700 - 2800 | 0.351 | 1053 | -1889 | 0.351 | 2421 | -1065 |
| 2800 - 2900 | 0.612 | 1120 | -1570 | 0.612 | 2455 | -706 |
| 2900 - 3000 | 0.957 | 1191 | -1329 | 0.957 | 2526 | -527 |
| 3000 - 3100 | 1.484 | 1267 | -918 | 1.484 | 2629 | -201 |
| 3100 - 3200 | 0.242 | 1346 | -734 | 0.242 | 2699 | -22 |
| 3200 - 3300 | 0.076 | 1429 | -724 | 0.076 | 2764 | -7 |
| 3300 - 3400 | 0.001 | 1517 | -701 | 0.001 | 2780 | 10 |
| 2400 - 3400 | 4.973 | 1139 | -1601 | 4.973 | 2465 | -883 |



Griesgletscher in 2008 with only marginal firn patches left (Photo: G. Kappenberger)

Table 4.7: Griesgletscher - Individual stake measurements of winter and annual balance.

| stake | start | period spring | end | coordinates | | mass balance | |
|-------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|--|--------------|-------|
| | | | | (m / m / m a.s.l.) | | b_w | b_a |
| 1 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 667479 / 142824 / 3040 | | 1080 | -1386 |
| 1 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 05.09.2009 | 667479 / 142824 / 3040 | | 2825 | -297 |
| 2 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 667538 / 142662 / 3035 | | 1300 | -765 |
| 2 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 06.09.2009 | 667538 / 142662 / 3035 | | 2850 | 54 |
| 3 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 667601 / 142554 / 3038 | | 1292 | -711 |
| 3 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 06.09.2009 | 667601 / 142554 / 3038 | | 2900 | 162 |
| 4 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 667907 / 143037 / 2998 | | 1324 | -1125 |
| 4 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 06.09.2009 | 667907 / 143037 / 2998 | | 2675 | -360 |
| 5 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 668064 / 142909 / 3000 | | 1116 | -1296 |
| 5 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 06.09.2009 | 668064 / 142909 / 3000 | | 2675 | -423 |
| 6 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 668347 / 143283 / 2945 | | 948 | -2088 |
| 6 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 06.09.2009 | 668347 / 143283 / 2945 | | 2500 | -864 |
| 7 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 668430 / 143120 / 2945 | | 1264 | -1620 |
| 7 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 06.09.2009 | 668430 / 143120 / 2945 | | 2650 | -432 |
| 8 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 668792 / 143398 / 2893 | | 932 | -2196 |
| 8 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 06.09.2009 | 668792 / 143398 / 2893 | | 2250 | -873 |
| 9 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 668956 / 143294 / 2882 | | 1280 | -1386 |
| 9 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 06.09.2009 | 668956 / 143294 / 2882 | | 2175 | -270 |
| 10 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 669377 / 143567 / 2777 | | 1248 | -1557 |
| 10 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 05.09.2009 | 669377 / 143567 / 2777 | | 2425 | -288 |
| 11 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 669349 / 143893 / 2686 | | 976 | -2961 |
| 11 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 05.09.2009 | 669349 / 143893 / 2686 | | 2300 | -1746 |
| 12 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 669258 / 144204 / 2624 | | 852 | -3150 |
| 12 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 05.09.2009 | 669258 / 144204 / 2624 | | 2525 | -1935 |
| 13 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 669370 / 144182 / 2619 | | 1036 | -2952 |
| 13 | 10.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 05.09.2009 | 669370 / 144182 / 2619 | | 2350 | -1674 |
| 14 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 09.09.2008 | 669654 / 144510 / 2578 | | 900 | -3267 |
| 14 | 09.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 05.09.2009 | 669654 / 144510 / 2578 | | 2100 | -2304 |
| 15 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 09.09.2008 | 669670 / 144386 / 2574 | | 892 | -3492 |
| 15 | 09.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 05.09.2009 | 669670 / 144386 / 2574 | | 1950 | -2214 |
| 16 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 09.09.2008 | 670075 / 144849 / 2549 | | 920 | -3501 |
| 16 | 09.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 05.09.2009 | 670075 / 144849 / 2549 | | 1925 | -2241 |
| 17 | 09.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | | 670160 / 144714 / 2544 | | 2050 | |
| 18 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 09.09.2008 | 670349 / 145008 / 2513 | | 1120 | -3753 |
| 18 | 09.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 04.09.2009 | 670349 / 145008 / 2513 | | 2350 | -2718 |
| 19 | 22.09.2007 | 08.05.2008 | 09.09.2008 | 670486 / 144828 / 2495 | | 1056 | -3915 |
| 19 | 09.09.2008 | 06.05.2009 | 04.09.2009 | 670486 / 144828 / 2495 | | 2200 | -2817 |

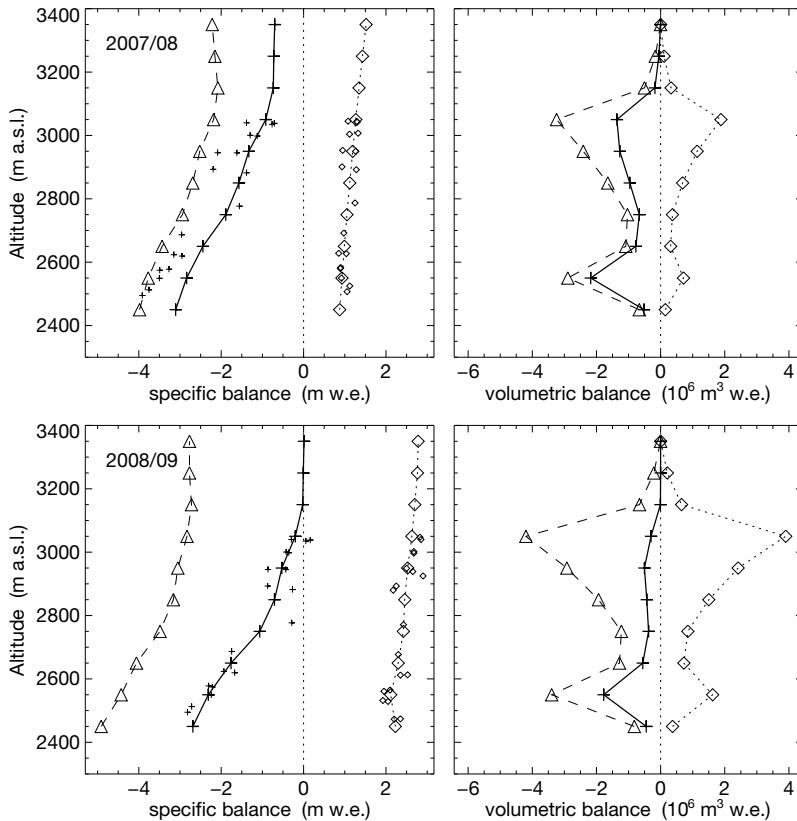


Figure 4.11: Specific (left) and volumetric (right) winter (dotted, \diamond), summer (dashed, \triangle) and annual (continuous line, $+$) balance versus altitude for 2007/08 (top) and 2008/09 (bottom). Small symbols mark the individual measurements.

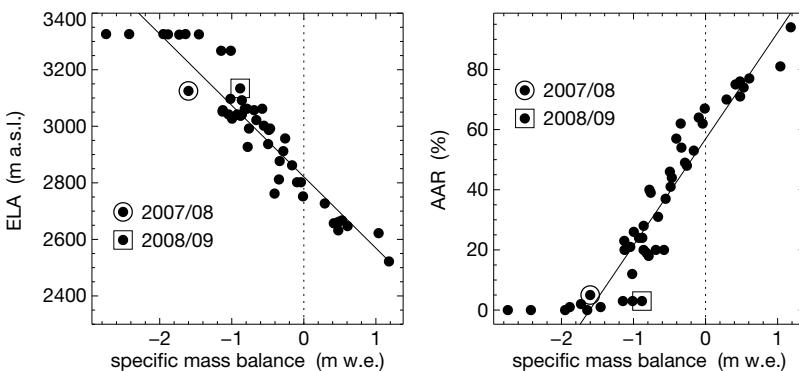


Figure 4.12: Equilibrium line altitude (ELA) and accumulation area ratio (AAR) versus mean specific balance including all previous observations.

4.7 Pizolgletscher

Introduction

Pizolgletscher is a steep cirque glacier in the north-eastern Swiss Alps. With a surface area of only 0.08 km² Pizolgletscher is the dwarf in the Swiss glacier monitoring network. However, nearly 80% of the total number of glaciers in Switzerland are similarly small in size. Pizolgletscher is north-exposed and located at relatively low elevation (2630-2780 m a.s.l.) which indicates that it is highly dependable on large amounts of snow accumulation during the winter. Seasonal mass balance measurements were started in 2006 (Huss, 2010). The observation network was extended from initially two to six stakes. Photogrammetrical surveys exist for 1968, 1973, 1979, 1985, 1990, 1997, 2006 providing area and ice volume changes over the last four decades (Huss, 2010).

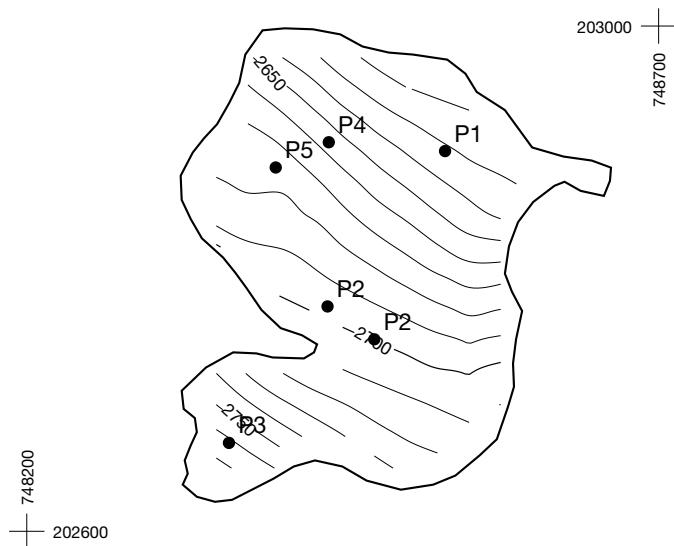


Figure 4.13: Surface topography and observational network of the Pizolgletscher.

Investigations in 2007/08

The winter balance was determined on April 2nd, 2008. Snow probings at 46 locations were performed and snow density was determined in a snow pit. On average the glacier was covered by 4 meters of snow. During the late summer field survey on 25th September 2008 a negative mass balance for the measurement period since 3rd September 2007 could be determined at four

stakes. Although no winter snow remained on the glacier, ice melt was below the average of the preceeding years, this could be attributed to fresh snowfall during the month of september.

Table 4.8: Pizolgletscher - Specific winter and annual balance versus altitude in the two periods 2007/08 and 2008/09 evaluated for the exact measurement period defined by the dates of field survey.

| Altitude (m a.s.l.) | 2007/08 | | | 2008/09 | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | area (km ²) | \bar{b}_w (mm w.e.) | \bar{b}_a (mm w.e.) | area (km ²) | \bar{b}_w (mm w.e.) | \bar{b}_a (mm w.e.) |
| 2600 - 2650 | 0.01985 | 1358 | -1265 | 0.01985 | 1330 | -1798 |
| 2650 - 2700 | 0.03433 | 1451 | -790 | 0.03433 | 1590 | -1261 |
| 2700 - 2750 | 0.02145 | 1527 | -258 | 0.02145 | 1757 | -813 |
| 2750 - 2800 | 0.00505 | 1424 | -242 | 0.00505 | 1912 | -403 |
| 2600 - 2800 | 0.08067 | 1447 | -731 | 0.08067 | 1591 | -1220 |

Investigations in 2008/09

The winter 2008/2009 was characterized by above average snow accumulation on Pizolgletscher. During the winter field survey on 7th April 2009 probings of the snow depth at 91 locations as well as the sampling of several drill cores were taken to determine the snow density. Despite the thick winter snow cover there was melt observed across the entire glacier. On 13th September 2009 ablation readings were obtained for 6 measurement points and all stakes were re-installed. A progressive darkening of the glacier surface can be observed, firn remnants in the more gently-sloping center of the glacier are disappearing, and the separation of the upper part of the glacier from the main ice body has started due to an emerging rock riegel.

Table 4.9: Pizolgletscher - Individual stake measurements of winter and annual balance.

| stake | period | | | coordinates (m / m / m a.s.l.) | mass balance | |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | start | spring | end | | b_w (mm w.e.) | b_a (mm w.e.) |
| P1 | 03.09.2007 | 02.04.2008 | 25.09.2008 | 748532 / 202911 / 2629 | 1150 | -2088 |
| P1 | 25.09.2008 | | 13.09.2009 | 748531 / 202901 / 2632 | | -1935 |
| P2 | 03.09.2007 | 02.04.2008 | 25.09.2008 | 748438 / 202778 / 2699 | 1550 | -144 |
| P2 | 25.09.2008 | | 13.09.2009 | 748438 / 202778 / 2699 | | 0 |
| P3 | 03.09.2007 | 02.04.2008 | 25.09.2008 | 748336 / 202647 / 2777 | 1460 | -664 |
| P3 | 25.09.2008 | | 13.09.2009 | 748360 / 202670 / 2766 | | -528 |
| P4 | 25.09.2008 | | 13.09.2009 | 748439 / 202908 / 2659 | | -2196 |
| P5 | 25.09.2008 | | 13.09.2009 | 748397 / 202888 / 2676 | | -1134 |

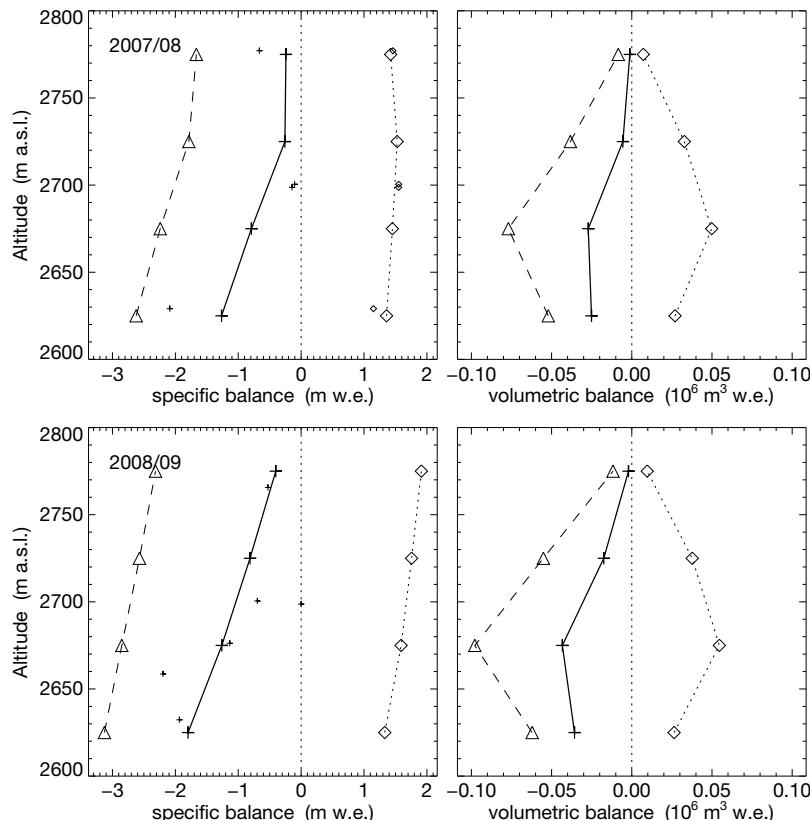


Figure 4.14: Specific (left) and volumetric (right) winter (dotted, \diamond), summer (dashed, \triangle) and annual (continuous line, +) balance versus altitude for 2007/08 (top) and 2008/09 (bottom). Small symbols mark the individual measurements.

4.8 Rhonegletscher

Introduction

The Rhonegletscher is a temperate valley glacier located in the central Swiss Alps, and is the primary source of water for the Rhone river. The glacier is easily accessible and therefore has been observed since the 19th century. The total surface area of the glacier is 15.93 km² flowing in a south direction from 3600 m.a.s.l. down to 2200 m.a.s.l. The first mass balance measurements were carried out in 1874 and are considered to be one of the first ever recorded worldwide. After two periods of measurements between 1884-1910, and 1980-'82, the measurement series was resumed in 2006. Determination of volumetric changes in decadal resolution reach further back

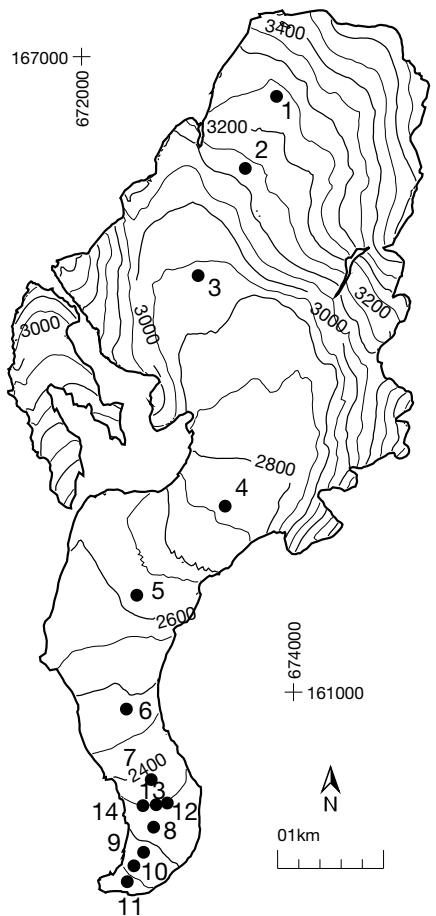


Figure 4.15: Surface topography and observational network of the Rhonegletscher.

to 1874 (Bauder et al., 2007). Topographic maps or photogrammetrical surveys exist for 1874, 1929, 1959, 1980, 1991, 2000, and 2007. Provided are stake measurements and the resulting mass balance data extrapolated to the entire glacier for the two periods of this report. However, there is no figure summarizing the entire data set because the collection processes only started in 2006.

Investigations in 2007/08

The measurement period extended from 6th September 2007 to the 11th September 2008 with a field visit in spring on 3rd of May 2008. There was a total of 785 individual soundings collected. In the accumulation area some of the horizontal ice layers were not recognizable. The snow density was determined with a firn drill in the vicinity of stake number 4, as well as at the tongue of the glacier.

Investigations in 2008/09

The measuring period began on 11th of September 2008 and ended on the 10th of September 2009 with a field visit in the spring on 22nd of April 2009. During a spring field visit on the 22nd of April 2009 the snow probing from roughly 600 individual points were collected to measure the winter accumulation. The snow density was determined by five individual firn drill profiles.

Table 4.10: Rhonegletscher - Specific winter and annual balance versus altitude in the two periods 2007/08 and 2008/09 evaluated for the exact measurement period defined by the dates of field survey.

| Altitude (m a.s.l.) | 2007/08 | | | 2008/09 | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | area (km ²) | $\overline{b_w}$ (mm w.e.) | $\overline{b_a}$ (mm w.e.) | area (km ²) | $\overline{b_w}$ (mm w.e.) | $\overline{b_a}$ (mm w.e.) |
| 2200 - 2300 | 0.249 | 968 | -5893 | 0.249 | 1042 | -5168 |
| 2300 - 2400 | 0.568 | 880 | -5430 | 0.568 | 987 | -4673 |
| 2400 - 2500 | 0.587 | 960 | -4633 | 0.587 | 948 | -4076 |
| 2500 - 2600 | 1.098 | 963 | -4002 | 1.098 | 986 | -3394 |
| 2600 - 2700 | 1.032 | 922 | -3525 | 1.032 | 1120 | -2601 |
| 2700 - 2800 | 1.083 | 1195 | -2297 | 1.083 | 1402 | -1332 |
| 2800 - 2900 | 2.221 | 1425 | -1170 | 2.221 | 1597 | -394 |
| 2900 - 3000 | 2.172 | 1404 | -730 | 2.172 | 1607 | -12 |
| 3000 - 3100 | 1.896 | 1541 | -200 | 1.896 | 1676 | 426 |
| 3100 - 3200 | 1.534 | 1651 | 230 | 1.534 | 1795 | 876 |
| 3200 - 3300 | 1.464 | 1832 | 776 | 1.464 | 1916 | 1346 |
| 3300 - 3400 | 0.948 | 2092 | 1428 | 0.948 | 1999 | 1745 |
| 3400 - 3500 | 0.783 | 2166 | 1841 | 0.783 | 1996 | 2012 |
| 3500 - 3600 | 0.303 | 2002 | 1860 | 0.303 | 1660 | 1703 |
| 2200 - 3600 | 15.936 | 1458 | -1098 | 15.936 | 1560 | -453 |

Table 4.11: Rhonegletscher - Individual stake measurements of winter and annual balance.

| stake | start | period spring | end | coordinates | | mass balance | |
|-------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| | | | | (m / m / m a.s.l.) | b _w | b _a | (mm w.e.) |
| 01 | 08.09.2007 | | 10.09.2008 | 673871 / 166634 / 3240 | | | 1705 |
| 01 | 11.09.2008 | | 10.09.2009 | 673815 / 166614 / 3236 | | | 1513 |
| 02 | 08.09.2007 | | 10.09.2008 | 673552 / 165950 / 3130 | | | 44 |
| 02 | 11.09.2008 | | 10.09.2009 | 673541 / 165941 / 3125 | | | 792 |
| 03 | 08.09.2007 | | 11.09.2008 | 673099 / 164930 / 2941 | | | 1449 |
| 03 | 11.09.2008 | | 10.09.2009 | 673101 / 164935 / 2938 | | | 480 |
| 04 | 08.09.2007 | | 11.09.2008 | 673358 / 162757 / 2758 | | | -2286 |
| 04 | 11.09.2008 | | 10.09.2009 | 673352 / 162755 / 2755 | | | -1260 |
| 05 | 06.09.2007 | 03.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 672521 / 161919 / 2618 | -160 | | -4014 |
| 05 | 11.09.2008 | | 10.09.2009 | 672521 / 161912 / 2615 | | | -3141 |
| 06 | 06.09.2007 | 03.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 672426 / 160839 / 2487 | -30 | | -4662 |
| 06 | 11.09.2008 | 21.04.2009 | 09.09.2009 | 672420 / 160840 / 2484 | -30 | | -4797 |
| 07 | 06.09.2007 | 03.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 672657 / 160173 / 2386 | -250 | | -4905 |
| 07 | 11.09.2008 | 21.04.2009 | 09.09.2009 | 672657 / 160175 / 2383 | -370 | | -5103 |
| 08 | 06.09.2007 | 02.05.2008 | 11.09.2008 | 672680 / 159724 / 2329 | 490 | | -4941 |
| 08 | 11.09.2008 | | 08.09.2009 | 672680 / 159727 / 2327 | | | -5121 |
| 09 | 06.09.2007 | 02.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 672585 / 159491 / 2283 | -170 | | -6075 |
| 09 | 11.09.2008 | | 08.09.2009 | 672582 / 159487 / 2278 | | | -5463 |
| 10 | 06.09.2007 | 02.05.2008 | 10.09.2008 | 672494 / 159360 / 2266 | -630 | | -6669 |
| 11 | 05.09.2007 | | 11.09.2008 | 672430 / 159203 / 2233 | | | -5778 |
| 11 | 11.09.2008 | | 08.09.2009 | 672431 / 159220 / 2232 | | | -3834 |
| 12 | 11.09.2008 | 20.04.2009 | 09.09.2009 | 672809 / 159953 / 2345 | -160 | | -4806 |
| 13 | 11.09.2008 | 20.04.2009 | 09.09.2009 | 672704 / 159937 / 2346 | -630 | | -4806 |
| 14 | 11.09.2008 | 20.04.2009 | 09.09.2009 | 672579 / 159928 / 2346 | -490 | | -5634 |

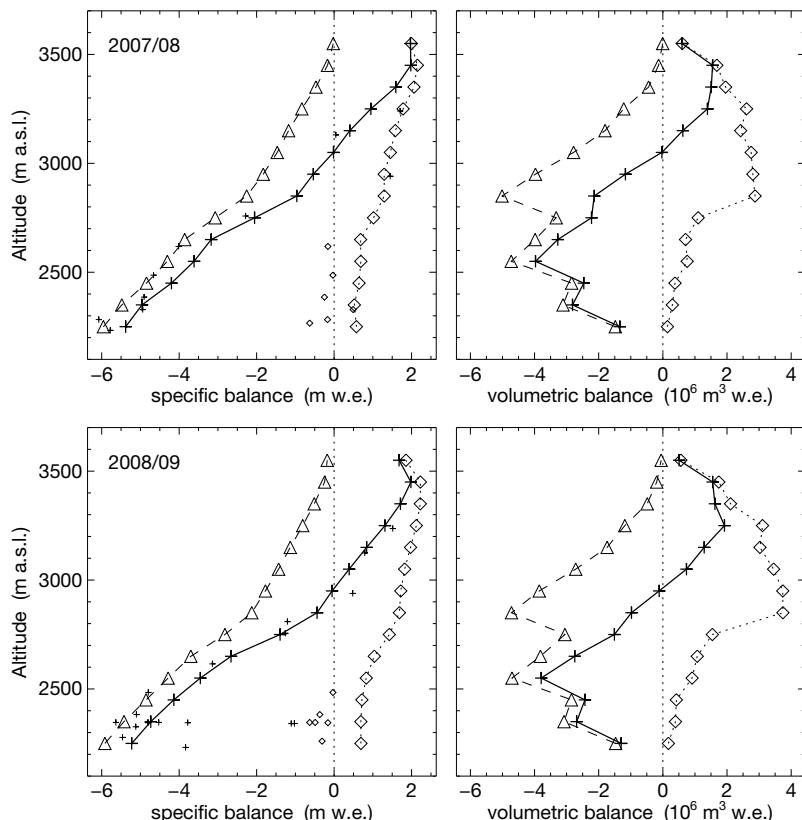


Figure 4.16: Specific (left) and volumetric (right) winter (dotted, \diamond), summer (dashed, \triangle) and annual (continuous line, +) balance versus altitude for 2007/08 (top) and 2008/09 (bottom). Small symbols mark the individual measurements.

4.9 Silvrettagletscher

Introduction

Silvrettagletscher is a small temperate mountain glacier located in the north-eastern part of Switzerland in the Silvretta massif at the border to Austria. The present surface area is 2.8 km^2 , stretching from 3079 m a.s.l. down to 2467 m a.s.l.

First mass balance measurements date back to 1910s (Firnberichte, 1914–1978). Seasonal observations of 2 stakes were conducted until 1959, when the stake network was extended to about 40 stakes. Huss and Bauder (2009) compiled and homogenized all existing measurements of stake 5 to a continuous time series 1914–2007 of seasonal resolution (see Section 4.10 in volume 127/128). Determination of volumetric changes in decadal resolution reach further back to 1892 (Bauder et al., 2007). Topographic maps and photogrammetrical surveys exist for 1892, 1938, 1959, 1973, 1986, 1994, 2003 and 2007. Huss et al. (2009) reanalyzed and homogenized the seasonal stake data and ice volume changes for the period 1959–2007. Results of the mean specific winter and annual balance with associated area, ELA and AAR values for comparable fixed time periods have been reported in Section 4.9 of volume 125/126.

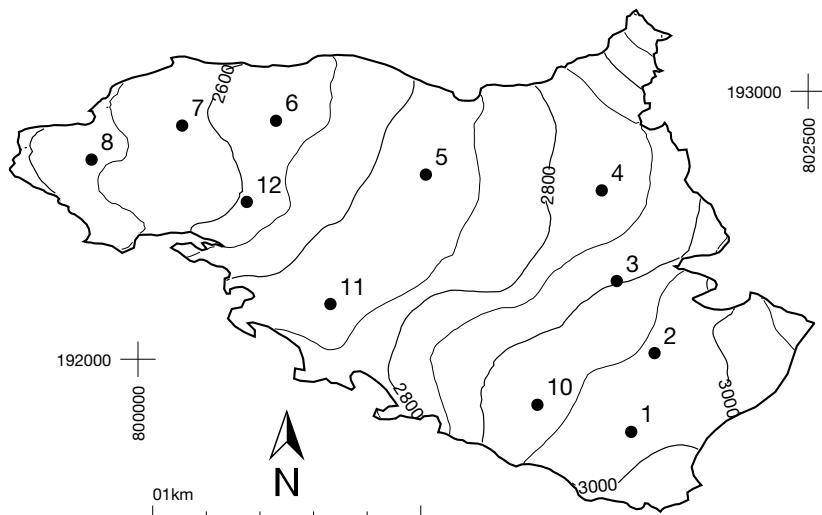


Figure 4.17: Surface topography and observational network of the Silvrettagletscher.

Investigations in 2007/08

The measurement period went from 6th September 2007 to 20th September 2008. The winter mass balance was determined on field visit in spring on 25th May 2008. Snow samples were collected at 93 locations and supplemented by two density profiles from snow pits. By the end of August extensive areas of the glacier surface were melted out. At the time of the field visit there was 10-50 cm of new snow which had fallen during the previous two weeks. Measurements from 14 stakes and a density profile were available for determining the annual mass balance.

Investigations in 2008/09

The measuring period was 20th September 2008, to 26th September 2009. During a spring field visit on May 20th 2009, snow samples from about 600 individual points were collected. Density profiles at two locations were acquired using a firn drill. At the time of the autumn visit at the end of September the glacier was almost completely free of snow. Only a few patches of winter snow survived the summer in hollows and on steep shaded slopes. Measurements were available from 20 stakes for determining the annual mass balance.

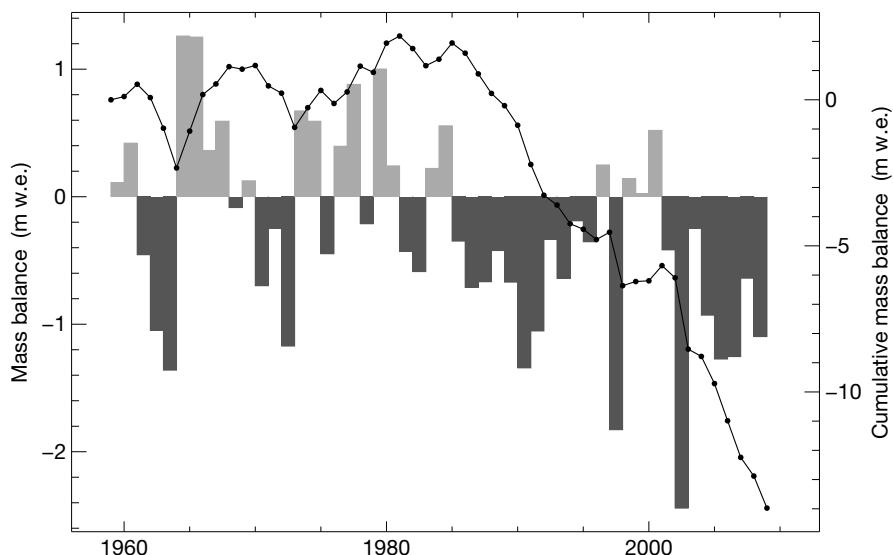


Figure 4.18: Silvrettagletscher - Mean specific annual balance (bars) and cumulative annual balance (line) for the period 1959-2009.

Table 4.12: Silvrettagletscher - Specific winter and annual balance versus altitude in the two periods 2007/08 and 2008/09 evaluated for the exact measurement period defined by the dates of field survey.

| Altitude (m a.s.l.) | 2007/08 | | | 2008/09 | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | area (km ²) | \bar{b}_w (mm w.e.) | \bar{b}_a (mm w.e.) | area (km ²) | \bar{b}_w (mm w.e.) | \bar{b}_a (mm w.e.) |
| 2400 - 2500 | 0.023 | 1563 | -2422 | 0.018 | 1259 | -3518 |
| 2500 - 2600 | 0.362 | 1551 | -2045 | 0.360 | 1345 | -2640 |
| 2600 - 2700 | 0.406 | 1617 | -1252 | 0.410 | 1431 | -1867 |
| 2700 - 2800 | 0.698 | 1613 | -903 | 0.690 | 1517 | -1198 |
| 2800 - 2900 | 0.583 | 1776 | -73 | 0.588 | 1603 | -633 |
| 2900 - 3000 | 0.580 | 1741 | 216 | 0.584 | 1689 | -173 |
| 3000 - 3100 | 0.136 | 1779 | 511 | 0.135 | 1775 | 183 |
| 2400 - 3100 | 2.789 | 1674 | -639 | 2.785 | 1547 | -1097 |

Table 4.13: Silvrettagletscher - Individual stake measurements of winter and annual balance.

| stake | period | | | coordinates (m / m / m a.s.l.) | mass balance | |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | start | spring | end | | b_w (mm w.e.) | b_a (mm w.e.) |
| 01 | 16.09.2007 | 25.05.2008 | 21.09.2008 | 801840 / 191730 / 2983 | 1669 | 130 |
| 01 | 21.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 27.09.2009 | 801838 / 191730 / 2982 | 1925 | -241 |
| 02 | 16.09.2007 | 25.05.2008 | 21.09.2008 | 801927 / 192023 / 2958 | 1928 | 350 |
| 02 | 21.09.2008 | 21.05.2009 | 26.09.2009 | 801922 / 192026 / 2957 | 1770 | 33 |
| 03 | 16.09.2007 | | 21.09.2008 | 801783 / 192292 / 2893 | | 670 |
| 03 | 21.09.2008 | 21.05.2009 | 26.09.2009 | 801786 / 192292 / 2894 | 2139 | 391 |
| 04 | 16.09.2007 | 25.05.2008 | 21.09.2008 | 801729 / 192630 / 2821 | 1847 | -290 |
| 04 | 21.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 26.09.2009 | 801741 / 192631 / 2824 | 1464 | -982 |
| 05 | 16.09.2007 | 25.05.2008 | 20.09.2008 | 801074 / 192689 / 2721 | 1666 | -940 |
| 05 | 20.09.2008 | 21.05.2009 | 27.09.2009 | 801067 / 192692 / 2720 | 1525 | -1215 |
| 06 | 16.09.2007 | 25.05.2008 | 20.09.2008 | 800516 / 192896 / 2624 | 1480 | -1810 |
| 06 | 20.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 25.09.2009 | 800520 / 192895 / 2624 | 1267 | -2151 |
| 07 | 16.09.2007 | 25.05.2008 | 20.09.2008 | 800165 / 192878 / 2576 | 1527 | -2050 |
| 07 | 20.09.2008 | | 25.09.2009 | 800169 / 192881 / 2576 | | -2502 |
| 08 | 16.09.2007 | 25.05.2008 | 20.09.2008 | 799825 / 192744 / 2533 | 1541 | -1970 |
| 08 | 20.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 25.09.2009 | 799836 / 192740 / 2533 | 1450 | -2061 |
| 09 | 20.09.2008 | | 25.09.2009 | 799652 / 192729 / 2497 | | -3294 |
| 10 | 16.09.2007 | 25.05.2008 | 21.09.2008 | 801497 / 191824 / 2933 | 1708 | 10 |
| 10 | 21.09.2008 | 20.05.2009 | 27.09.2009 | 801528 / 191806 / 2940 | 1600 | -137 |
| 11 | 16.09.2007 | 25.05.2008 | 20.09.2008 | 800721 / 192204 / 2726 | 1622 | -890 |
| 11 | 20.09.2008 | 21.05.2009 | 25.09.2009 | 800715 / 192210 / 2726 | 1375 | -1323 |
| 12 | 16.09.2007 | 25.05.2008 | 20.09.2008 | 800405 / 192583 / 2601 | 1522 | -1800 |
| 12 | 20.09.2008 | | 27.09.2009 | 800406 / 192587 / 2599 | | -2304 |

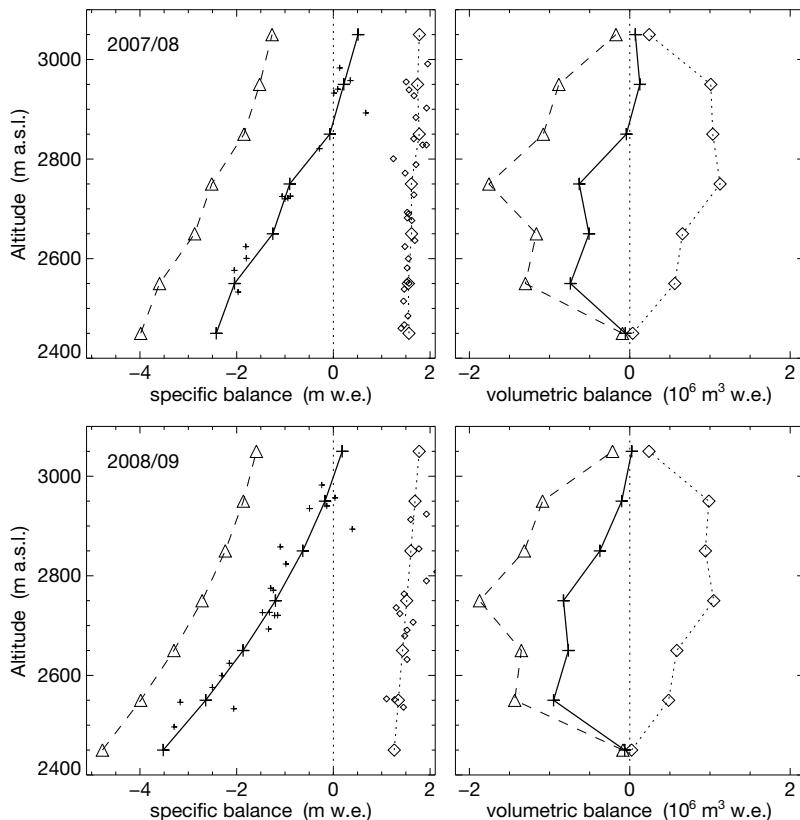


Figure 4.19: Specific (left) and volumetric (right) winter (dotted, \diamond), summer (dashed, \triangle) and annual (continuous line, +) balance versus altitude for 2007/08 (top) and 2008/09 (bottom). Small symbols mark the individual measurements.

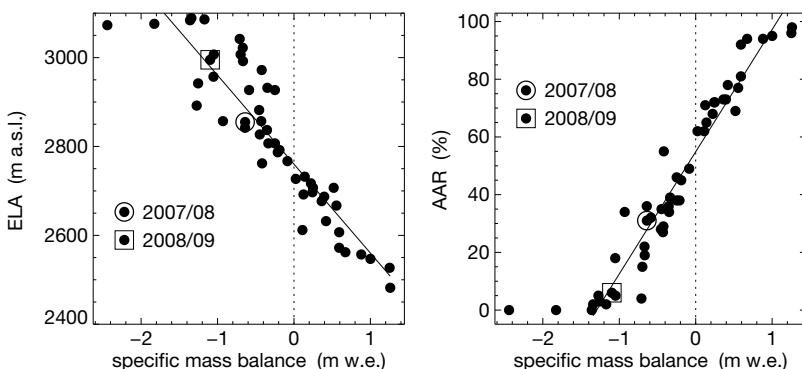


Figure 4.20: Equilibrium line altitude (ELA) and accumulation area ratio (AAR) versus mean specific balance including all previous observations.

4.10 Claridenfirn

Introduction

Measurements of the snow and firn accumulation and melt, as well as of precipitation values in the accumulation area of the Claridenfirn, have been undertaken by various researchers since 1914. The traditional glaciological method was applied by digging a snowpit down to the layer of ochre applied the previous autumn and measuring the water equivalents. Specific annual balances were determined every autumn since 1957 and also regularly in spring at two plateau locations at altitudes of 2700 and 2900 m a.s.l. The reports dealing with the years 1914 to 1978 are published in Kasser et al. (1986). The method of measurement and the results from the period 1914–1984 are published in Müller and Kappenberger (1991). A further update of the measurements until 2007 allowed Huss and Bauder (2009) to separate accumulation and melt and to interpret the entire time series in terms of climatic influences (see Section 4.10 in volume 127/128).

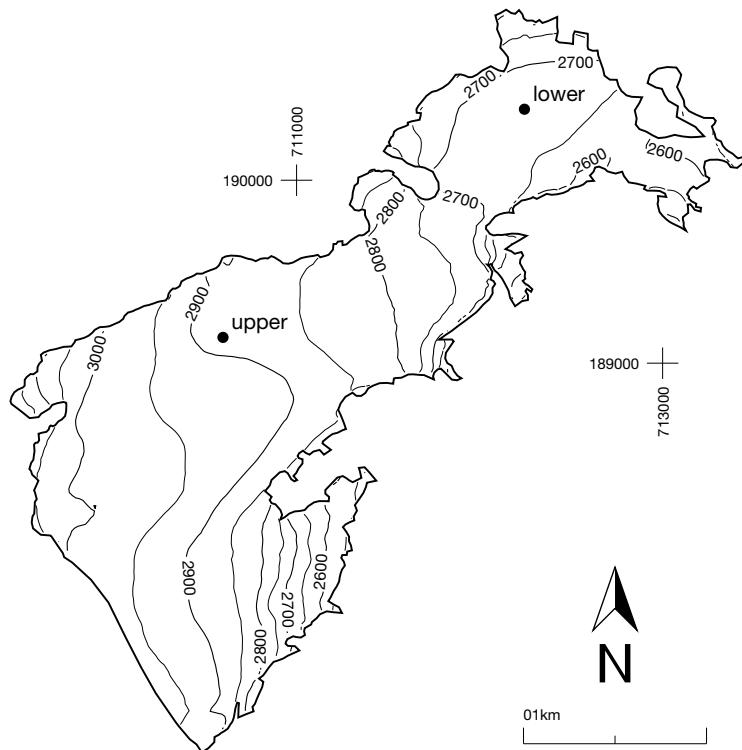


Figure 4.21: Surface topography and observational network of the Claridenfirn.

Investigations in 2007/08

The spring measurements were taken on May 11th. Detailed observations in a snow pit at the upper stake are complemented by 10-20 snow depth probings in the vicinity of the stake. Melt at the surface with percolation of melt water into the accumulated layer had not yet started. The entire snow pit showed still negative temperatures with -2.2 °C at 1 m depth and -4.2 °C at 5.5 m depth at the previous summer surface. The minimum temperature of -4.8 °C was observed at 4 m depth. The fall measurements were carried out on September 20th. The glacier was covered with 30-35 cm of fresh snow. Snow that accumulated during winter at the lower site had completely melted. In addition to the snow pits and depth probing, there are two precipitation storage gauges that were monitored and readings taken during spring and fall visits at Claridenhütte and Geissbützistock.

Investigations in 2008/09

The investigations included snow depth measurements at both stakes, snow pit measurements in spring and fall at the upper site, stake readings and determination of the position with a small theodolite in fall. The spring field survey was carried out on May 23rd, and the late summer survey on September 13th. Extensive snow depth measurements in spring with 40 individual soundings in the vicinity of the stakes were done at the two sites and on a longitudinal transect between the two sites and further upglacier. Percolation of meltwater in spring was already down to 2 m depth. Negative temperatures were found below 2 meters depth. The lower site was completely melted out in September, while at the upper site the accumulated snow from the winter season was covered by about 0.2 m of snow accumulated during September.

Table 4.14: Claridenfirn - Individual stake measurements of winter and annual balance.

| stake | period | | | coordinates (m / m / m a.s.l.) | mass balance | |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | start | spring | end | | b _w | b _a |
| upper | 24.09.2007 | 11.05.2008 | 20.09.2008 | 710598 / 189141 / 2900 | 2168 | 572 |
| upper | 20.09.2008 | 23.05.2009 | 13.09.2009 | 710598 / 189141 / 2900 | 2108 | 472 |
| lower | 24.09.2007 | 10.05.2008 | 20.09.2008 | 712245 / 190388 / 2700 | 2044 | -794 |
| lower | 20.09.2008 | 23.05.2009 | 13.09.2009 | 712245 / 190388 / 2700 | 1658 | -1082 |

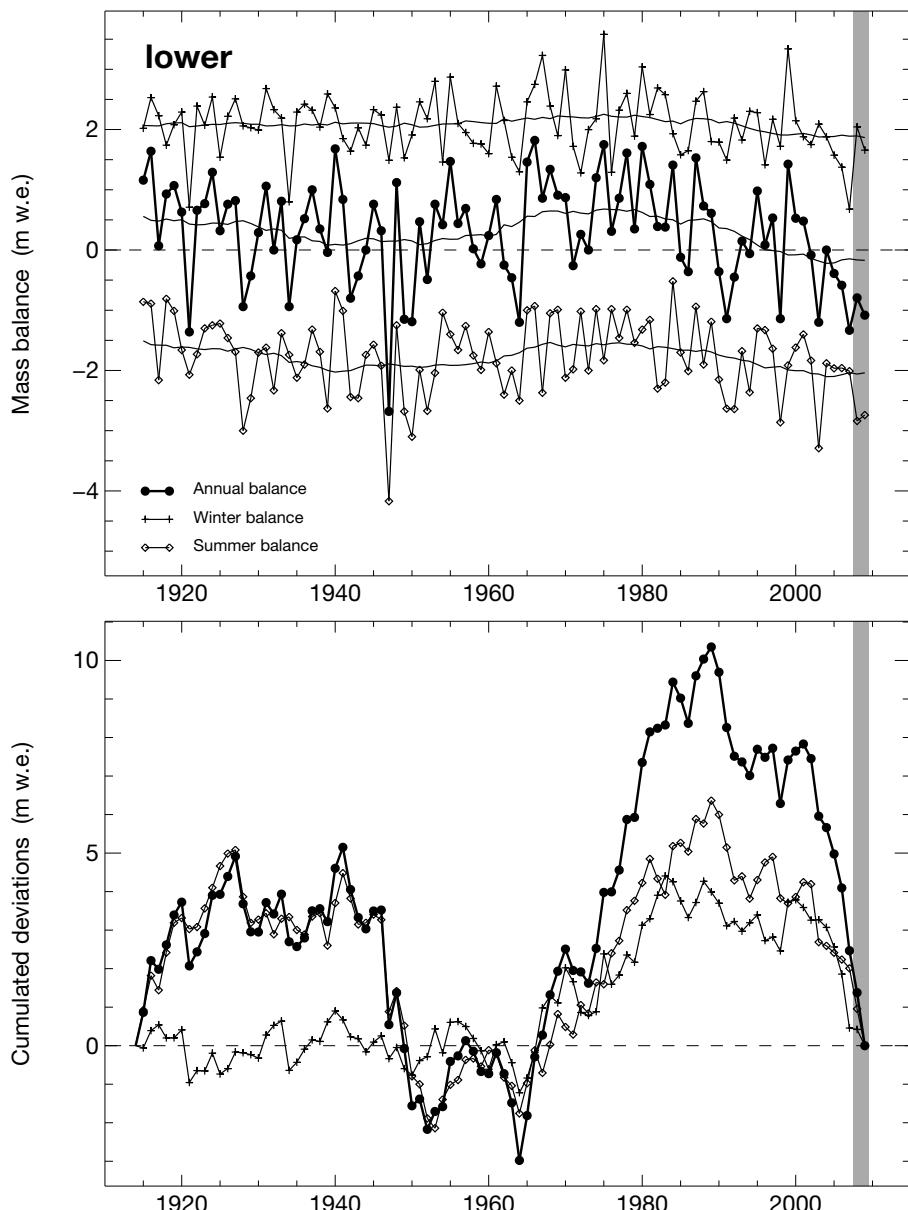


Figure 4.22: Mass balance (top) and cumulated deviation changes (bottom) of the lower stake on Claridenfirn over the whole observation period. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

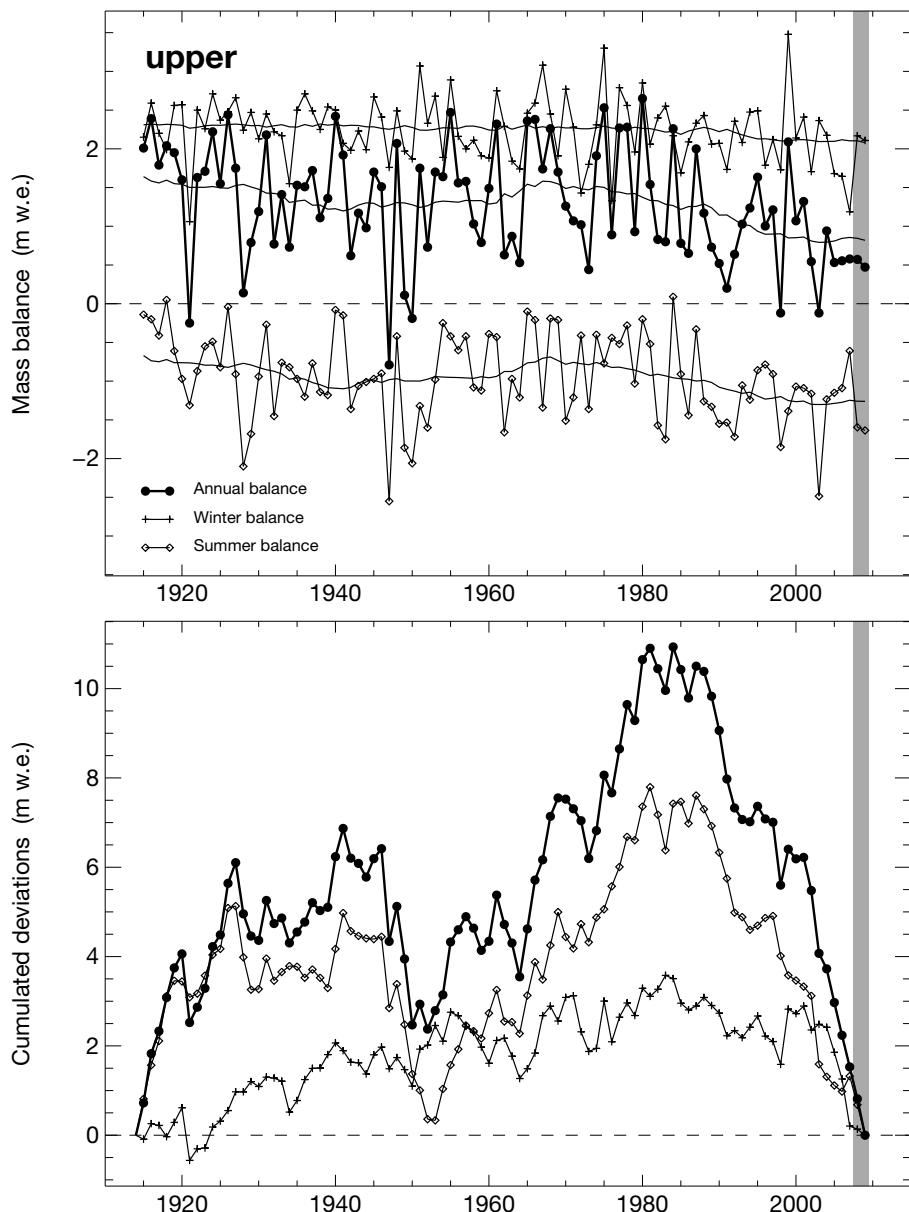


Figure 4.23: Mass balance (top) and cumulated deviation changes (bottom) of the upper stake on Claridenfirn over the whole observation period. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

4.11 Grosser Aletsch (Jungfraufirn)

Introduction

Grosser Aletschgletscher is the largest ice mass in the Alps and borders to the main northern Alpine crest. The three main tributaries merge at the Konkordiaplatz and form the common tongue which extends southwards for about 15 km. Starting in 1918, the first stake was installed at 3350 m a.s.l. on Jungfraufirn and snow accumulation and annual mass balance was measured almost continuously at P3 (Figure 4.24). Huss and Bauder (2009) compiled and homogenized all existing measurements to a continuous time series of seasonal resolution (see Section 4.10 in volume 127/128).

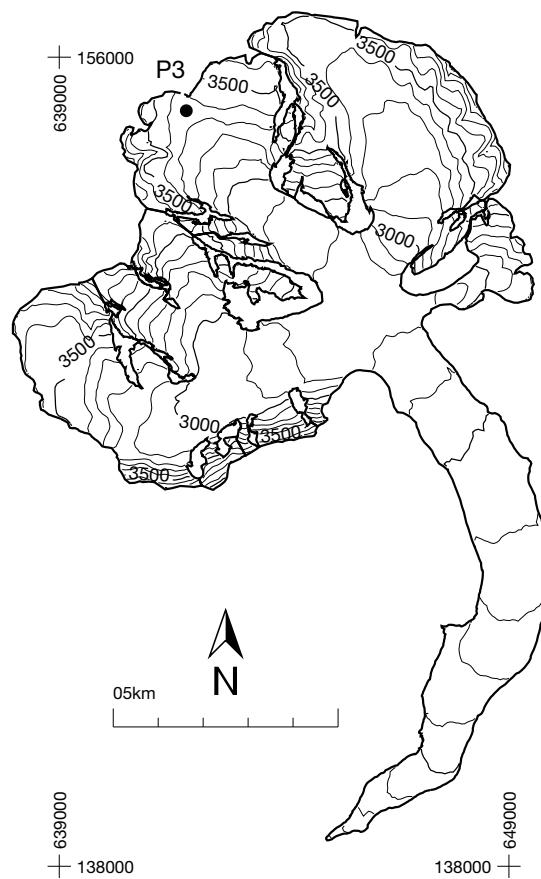


Figure 4.24: Surface topography and observational network of the Grosser Aletschgletscher.

Investigations in 2007/08

The investigations consist of snow depth measurements and density profiling with a firn drill in spring and fall. This program is supplemented by stake readings approx. twice a month. The measurements were taken in spring on June 1st and in fall on October 10th. The layer of winter accumulation included several distinct horizons clearly detected by snow depth sampling as well as in the the firn drillings. Buried beneath 20 cm of fresh snow, a very distinct layer of Sahara dust was present, deposited during an intense foehn storm at the end of May. The Sahara dust layer was no longer visible in the firn drillings performed in October. In addition, the position of the stake was surveyed using a high-precision differential GPS.

Investigations in 2008/09

The same set of measurements were done as in the previous period. The spring field survey was carried out on May 5th and the fall survey on October 6th. Snow depth measurement and firn coring in May showed a homogeneous layer of winter accumulation with no distinct ice lenses. Corresponding measurements from stake readings, firn drilling, and snow depth measurements all correlated similar results. A distinct surface crust and several ice lenses were present in October.

Table 4.15: Aletsch - Individual stake measurements of winter and annual balance.

| stake | start | period spring | end | coordinates | | mass balance | |
|-------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| | | | | (m / m / m a.s.l.) | | b _w | b _a |
| P3 | 07.10.2007 | 01.06.2008 | 10.10.2008 | 641825 / 154810 / 3343 | | 1958 | 2924 |
| P3 | 10.10.2008 | 05.05.2009 | 06.10.2009 | 641825 / 154810 / 3342 | | 2151 | 1144 |

5 Velocity

5.1 Introduction

On some specific glaciers (Figure 5.1) long-term investigations are carried out with measurements of the ice flow velocity. The VAW/ETHZ has been contracted by two hydro-electric power companies Kraftwerke Mattmark, and Force Motrice de Mauvoisin SA to survey the glaciers in the operated catchments. The main objective of this research assignment is to observe the flow conditions of the glaciers, particularly with regard to their potential threat to the buildings and operation of the power station in the valley. The observations are mainly focused on the two glaciers Giétron and Corbassière in the Mauvoisin area (Val de Bagnes) and the two glaciers Allalin and Schwarzberg in the Mattmark area (Saastal).

From 1924 until 1998 the ablation areas of the Aaregletscher (Figure 5.6) were geodetically measured and reported each year by the Flotron AG geodetic surveying firm on behalf of the Oberhasli



Figure 5.1: Investigated glaciers for velocity measurements.

hydro-electric power company (KWO). Starting in 1998, investigations were carried out only once in a 5-year period. Detailed information with annual movement values for 2008/09 and ice volume change for 2005–09 in the ablation area for the two glaciers Oberaar and Unteraar, is contained in the reports on the measurement of the Aaregletscher (Flotron, 1924–2010). The results are provided in the present report (Tables 5.4 and 5.3).



Mattmark area in 2008 where ice flow is measured at 10 locations on Schwarzberggletscher (left), Allalingletscher (center) and Hohlaubgletscher (right)
(Photo: U. Bläsi)

5.2 Glacier du Giétre

Introduction

One of the longest measurement series in existence, for Glacier du Giétre (Figure 5.2) in Val de Bagnes (Valais), is being continued by VAW/ETHZ under contract of the Force Motrice de Mauvoisin SA. The aim of these annual observations is the early recognition of glacier break-off, which can endanger the dammed lake located below it. The measurements, which have been carried out for more than 30 years, include periods of glacier growth and recession (VAW, 1997, 1998; Bauder et al., 2002; Raymond et al., 2003).

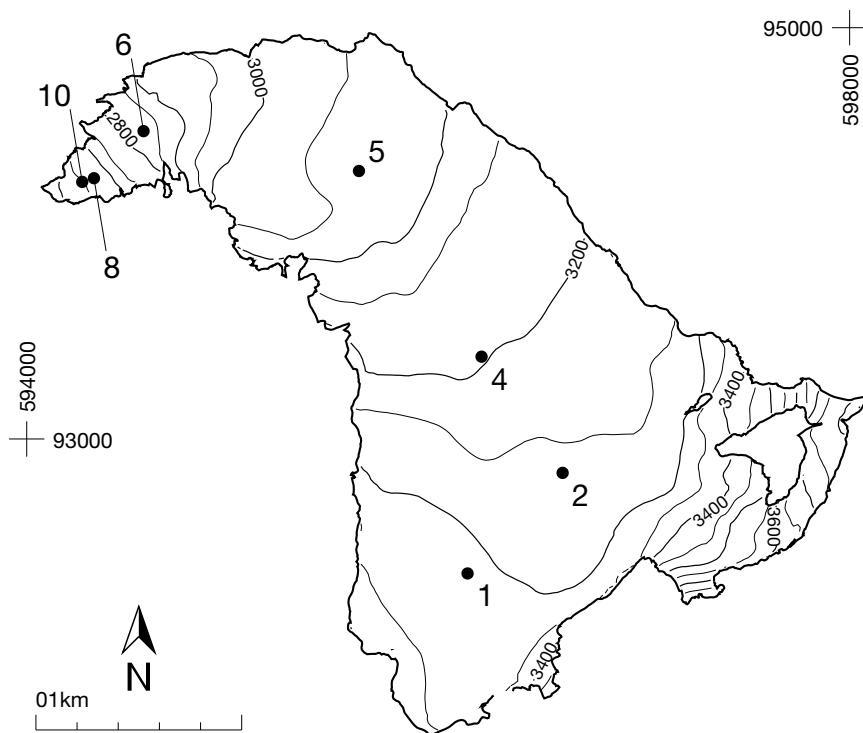


Figure 5.2: Surface topography and observational network of the Glacier du Giétre.

Figure 5.3 shows the velocity measurements at 7 stakes along the central flow line of the glacier, taken since 1966. There are 3 distinct periods: in the first (1966-1976), the velocities in the accumulation area (stakes 1, 2 and 4) are approximately 5-20 m per year, in the central region of the glacier (stake 5) about 35 m per year and in the steep tongue area (stakes 6, 8 and 10) they are in the range of 50-90 m annually. The second period (1977 to 1982) is marked by a distinct acceleration phase, in which the speeds (for example at stake 6) increase from 90-120 m per year.

From the middle of the 1980s onward, the velocities decrease sharply again and in the last years have reached the lowest values measured since 1966.

Investigations in 2007/08 and in 2008/09

Seven stakes exist for measurements of velocity and local mass balance. The field survey in late summer 2008 was carried out on September 8th. At the end of August the melt extended over the entire firn plateau. Only some fresh snow from snowfall in early September covered the surface. On September 7th 2009, the field measurements were taken in the second period. The melt extent was greater than ever previously observed. There was a greater negative mass balance than in the previous 5 years, only surpassed during the hot summer of 2003.

Table 5.1: Glacier du Giétra - Individual measurements of annual flow velocity and thickness change

| stake | period | | coordinates (m / m / m a.s.l.) | thickness change (m) | velocity (m a ⁻¹) |
|-------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | start | end | | | |
| P1 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 596143 / 92346 / 3310 | -0.79 | 3.73 |
| P1 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 596143 / 92346 / 3310 | -1.66 | 1.08 |
| P2 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 596605 / 92835 / 3255 | -1.22 | 9.33 |
| P2 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 596605 / 92835 / 3255 | -0.62 | 9.19 |
| P4 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 596211 / 93400 / 3195 | -1.76 | 14.36 |
| P4 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 596211 / 93400 / 3195 | -1.38 | 14.80 |
| P5 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 595615 / 94303 / 3060 | -0.92 | 23.06 |
| P5 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 595615 / 94303 / 3060 | -0.74 | 24.42 |
| P6 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 594568 / 94497 / 2830 | -2.93 | 36.50 |
| P6 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 594568 / 94497 / 2830 | | 35.11 |
| P8 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 594327 / 94268 / 2670 | | 4.68 |
| P8 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 594327 / 94268 / 2670 | | 2.89 |
| P10 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 594270 / 94250 / 2660 | | 2.55 |
| P10 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 594270 / 94250 / 2660 | | 1.27 |

Velocity in 2007/08 and in 2008/09

Due to the ongoing glacier retreat with complete ice melt at the glacier snout, the lowest sites can no longer be set at the same initial position. The fact that the initial positions of these stakes have been compromised and no longer exist does hamper the direct comparison with previous measurements.

Whereas the ice flow velocity stays constant in both periods on the firn plateau (P1 - P4), the two stakes closest to the terminus (P8, P10) continued their pronounced decrease. The decreasing speed results from the significant reduction of the ice thickness over the past couple years. Stakes P6 and P8 show a slight increase in velocity during the two periods. Reasons for increased velocity may be due to larger melt water input and associated higher sliding (P6) and partly due to relocation of the stake to a position where the ice is thicker.

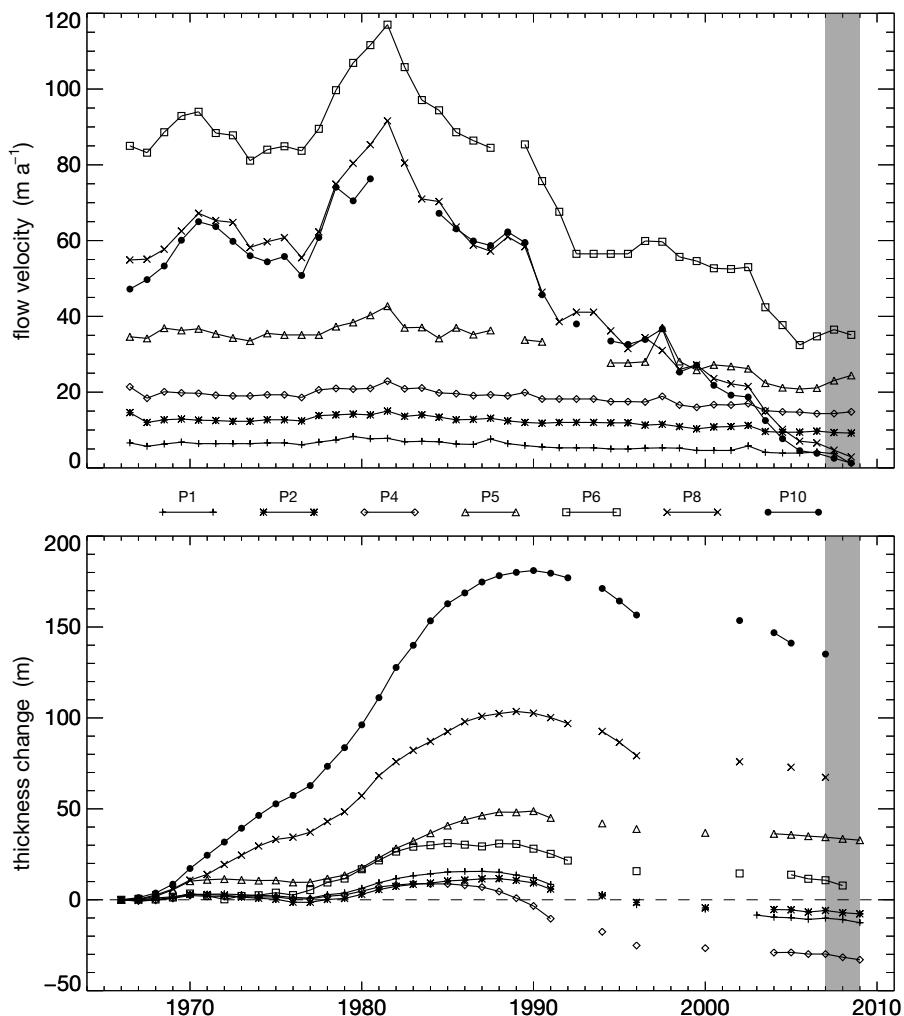


Figure 5.3: Annual flow velocities (top) and thickness change (bottom) of the Glacier du Giéetro at all 7 stakes. Note the gaps that hamper the interpretation of the total thickness change. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

5.3 Glacier de Corbassière

Introduction

Glacier de Corbassière (Figure 5.4) has been under observation since 1955 by taking length change measurements. This glacier was threatening the water intake of the Mauvoisin power company at the front of the tongue. In the ablation area of the glacier, two profiles made by stakes are observed annually to determine the velocities (Table 5.2). Figure 5.5 shows the annual velocities for the two profiles since 1967.

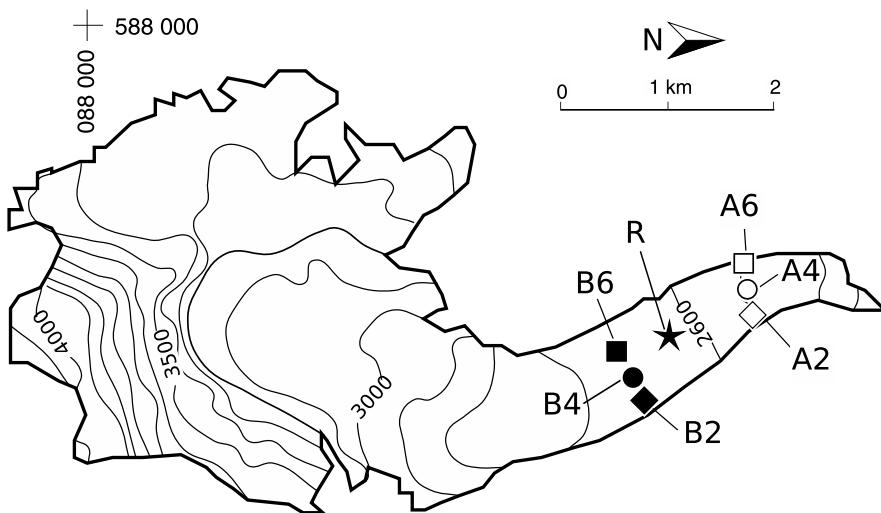


Figure 5.4: Surface topography and observational network of the Glacier du Corbassière.

Investigations in 2007/08 and in 2008/09

The field surveys were carried out on September 8th, 2008, and on September 7th, 2009, respectively. As in previous years seven stakes were maintained on the glacier tongue. The continuous reduction in ice thickness and glacier width in the lower profile increasingly impedes the surveying and resetting of the stakes to their initial position.

Velocity in 2007/08 and in 2008/09

The ice velocity decreased in the two periods at all stakes. The general trend toward steadily decreasing ice flow velocity accompanied by a lowering of the surface height is sustained. Concomitant registered at the stakes reveals a greater negative mass balance in both periods since the hot summer of 2003.

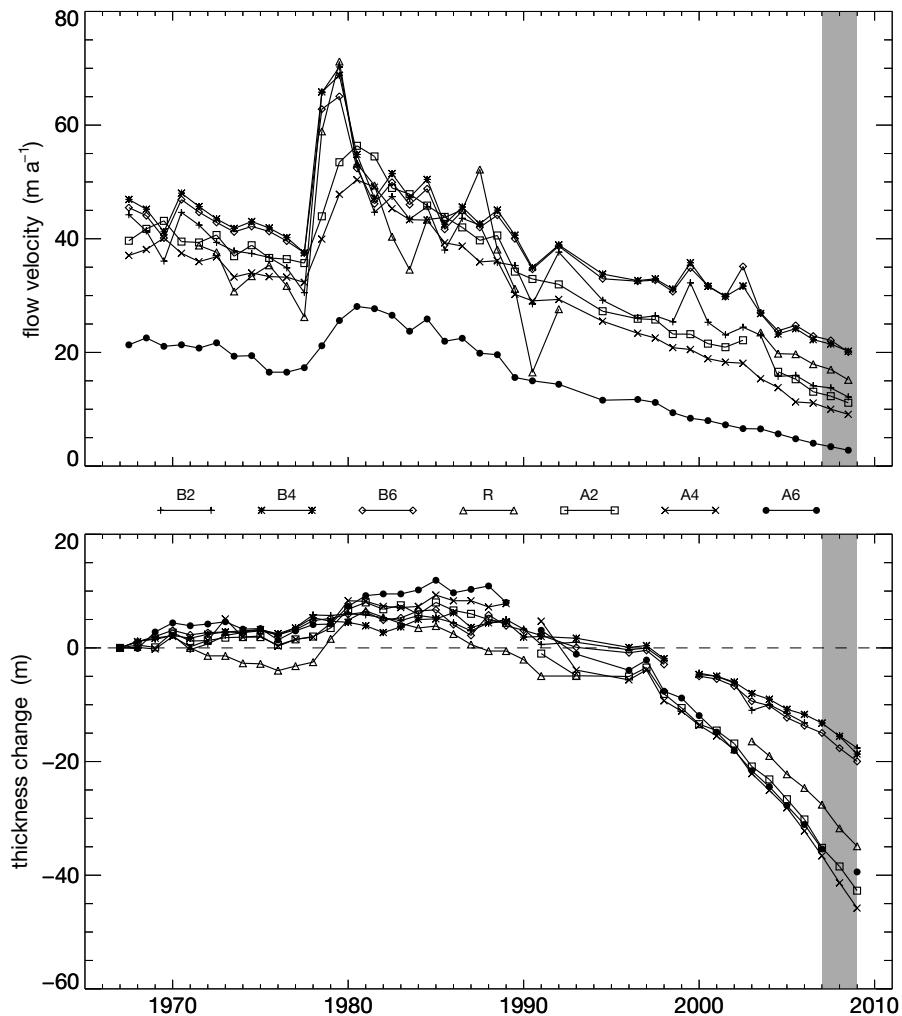


Figure 5.5: Annual flow velocities (top) and thickness change (bottom) of the Glacier de Corbassière at two profiles with 3 stakes each and the additional stake in between. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

Table 5.2: Glacier de Corbassière - Individual measurements of annual flow velocity and thickness change

| stake | period | | coordinates (m / m / m a.s.l.) | thickness change (m) | velocity (m a ⁻¹) |
|-------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | start | end | | | |
| B2 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 589577 / 93202 / 2650 | -2.31 | 13.75 |
| B2 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 589577 / 93202 / 2650 | -2.12 | 12.15 |
| B4 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 589392 / 93101 / 2650 | -2.34 | 21.47 |
| B4 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 589392 / 93101 / 2650 | -3.11 | 20.20 |
| B6 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 589230 / 93012 / 2655 | -2.67 | 22.13 |
| B6 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 589230 / 93012 / 2655 | -2.33 | 20.08 |
| R | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 589150 / 93650 / 2620 | -4.16 | 16.99 |
| R | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 589150 / 93650 / 2620 | -3.16 | 15.17 |
| A2 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 588650 / 94315 / 2475 | -3.28 | 12.30 |
| A2 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 588650 / 94315 / 2475 | -4.26 | 11.14 |
| A4 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 588450 / 94257 / 2460 | -4.75 | 10.00 |
| A4 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 588450 / 94257 / 2460 | -4.44 | 9.11 |
| A6 | 03.09.2007 | 08.09.2008 | 588273 / 94207 / 2470 | | 3.41 |
| A6 | 08.09.2008 | 07.09.2009 | 588273 / 94207 / 2470 | -4.03 | 2.79 |

5.4 Aaregletscher

Introduction

Ice flow velocity and thickness change has been systematically observed along transverse profiles since the 1920s on the Unteraargletscher, and later on an extended network on Oberaargletscher (Figure 5.6).

Starting in 1996, aerial photographs of the Aare glaciers were processed using digital photogrammetric analysis tools. Generation of an orthophoto mosaic and a digital elevation model (DEM) of the glacier surface are standard products, opening up new possibilities for the evaluation of glacier movements. Digital elevation models have been further refined since 1997, allowing even more detailed representations of local ablation and accumulation to be made.

The use of digital photogrammetry has made it possible to improve the spatial resolution of the DEM drastically. The grid size of the measured points is 7 m enhanced by additional break-lines (terrain edges). Using the method of simultaneous mono-plotting (Kääb, 1996), horizontal displacement is determined with an estimated accuracy of 0.3 m along the 17 profiles (Figure 5.7).

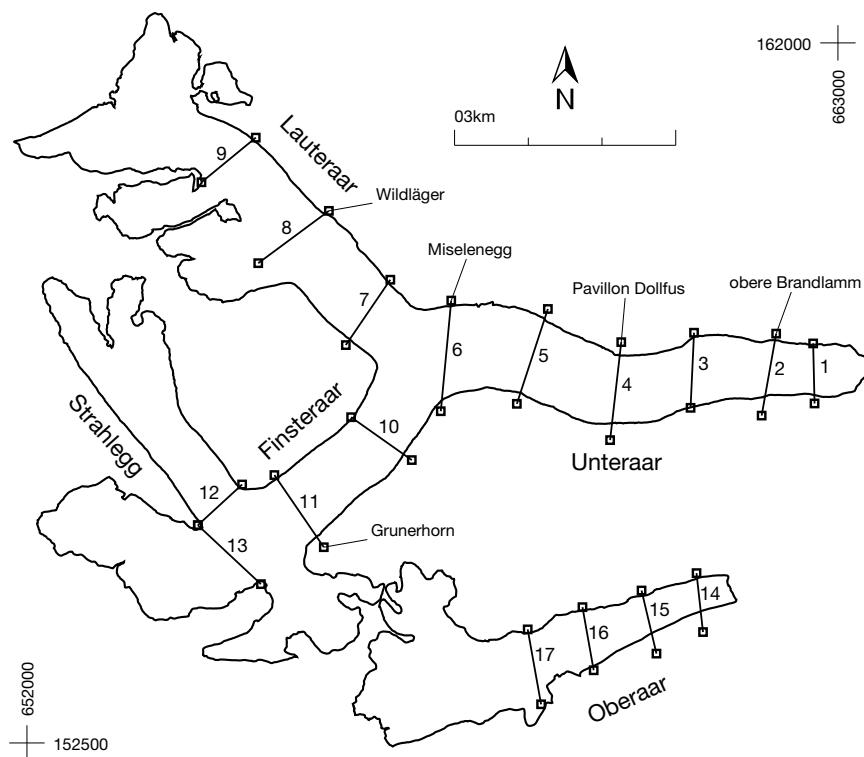


Figure 5.6: Outline and observational network of the Aaregletscher.

Investigations on ice flow velocities

Aerial photographs have been acquired on August 8th, 2008, and August 19th, 2009. The observation period for the determination of the movement is 356 days. In accordance of a continued decrease in thickness, the flow velocities have also steadily decreased (Figure 5.7, Table 5.4).

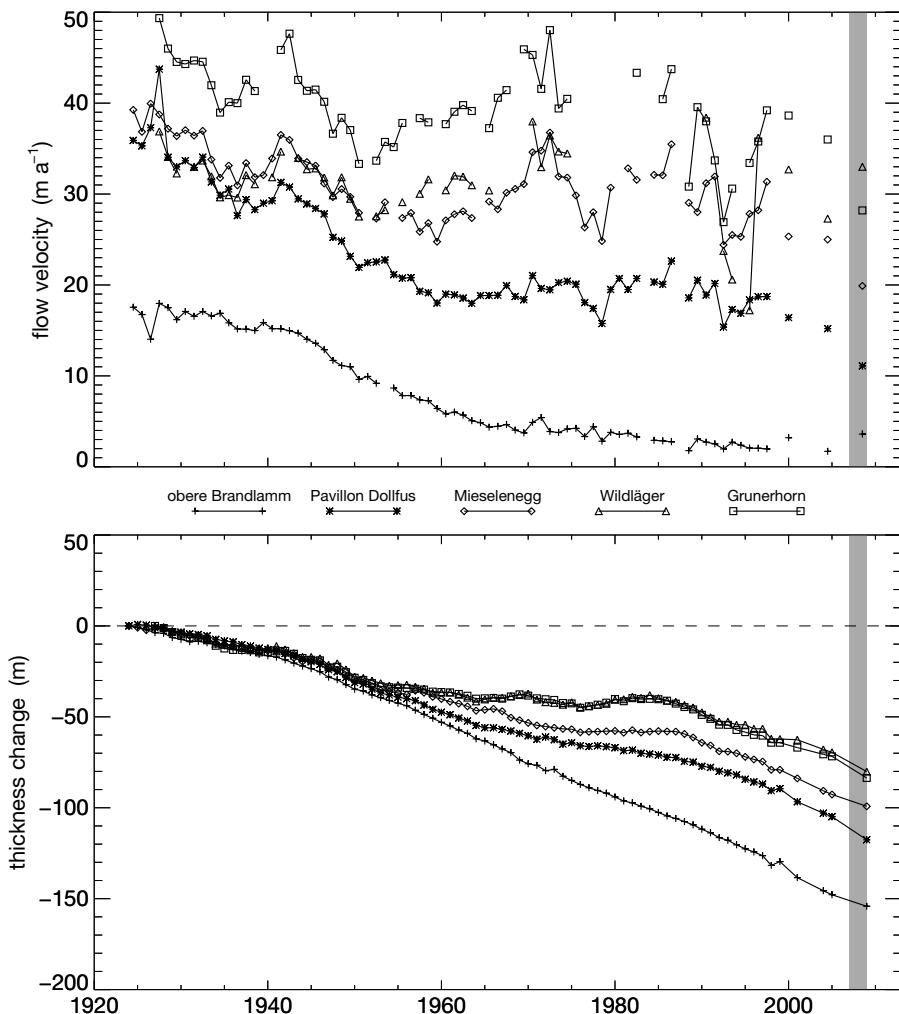


Figure 5.7: Annual ice flow velocities (top) and thickness change (bottom) of the Aaregletscher at five selected transverse profiles since 1924. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

Investigations of thickness change

The observation period of 1475 days spans the interval since the previous report in fall 2005. The reduction in glacier size in the terminus areas goes along with a mean thickness decrease in all the analysed profiles (Figure 5.7, Table 5.4) and an ice volume loss (Table 5.3) in all sections. These changes can be observed clearly with the aid of ortho-photos, contour line maps and cross-sectional profiles. The mean lowering of the Unteraargletscher and the Oberaargletscher amounts to 9.2 m and 9.7 m respectively, relating to the investigated surface area of 13.71 km², and 1.53 km². The results indicate that the total volume of ice lost was 126.4 million m³ for the Unteraargletscher, and 14.9 million m³ for the Oberaargletscher (Table 5.3), respectively. The loss observed over the entire four-year interval is about 215% of the record annual change in 1997/98.

Table 5.3: Aaregletscher - Change of area and volume in the period 2005 - 2009

| section | area change (m ²) | volume change (m ³) | section | area change (m ²) | volume change (m ³) |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Unteraar | | | Oberaar | | |
| Z - 2 | 66'627 | -959'959 | Z - 15 | 22'894 | -3'284'707 |
| 2 - 3 | | -9'385'084 | 15 - 16 | | -6'059'957 |
| 3 - 4 | | -9'446'498 | 16 - 17 | | -5'531'491 |
| 4 - 5 | | -14'172'651 | | | |
| 5 - 6 | | -15'037'566 | | | |
| 6 - 7/10 | | -21'839'238 | | | |
| Lauteraar | | | Unteraar | | -70'840'997 |
| 7 - 8 | | -15'205'491 | Lauteraar | | -27'388'872 |
| 8 - 9 | | -12'183'381 | Finsteraar | | -28'193'329 |
| Finsteraar | | | Oberaar | | -14'876'154 |
| 10 - 11 | | -13'932'867 | total | | -141'299'352 |
| 11 - 12/13 | | -14'260'462 | | | |

Table 5.4: Aaregletscher - Individual measurements of annual flow velocity and thickness change

| profile | period | | coordinates (m / m / m a.s.l.) | thickness change (m) | velocity (m a ⁻¹) |
|---------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | start | end | | | |
| 2 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 662085 / 157605 / 1979 | -3.5 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 3.6 |
| 3 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 661020 / 157500 / 2080 | -8.7 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 10.4 |
| 4 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 659990 / 157335 / 2172 | -8.3 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 11.1 |
| 5 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 658845 / 157710 / 2241 | -10.7 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 18 |
| 6 | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | 657690 / 157815 / 2318 | -9.7 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 19.9 |
| 7 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 656655 / 158385 / 2389 | -9.7 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 21.0 |
| 8 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 655670 / 159405 / 2479 | -8.4 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 33.0 |
| 9 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 654770 / 160440 / 2612 | -8.9 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 35.1 |
| 10 | 22.08.2001 | 01.09.2004 | 656780 / 156650 / 2411 | -8.1 | |
| | 01.09.2004 | 05.08.2005 | | | 21.0 |
| 11 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 655635 / 155730 / 2533 | -9.2 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 28.20 |
| 12 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 654620 / 155735 / 2594 | -7.4 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 14.9 |
| 13 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 654740 / 155060 / 2623 | -9.1 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | |
| 15 | 05.08.2008 | 19.09.2009 | 660420 / 154215 / 2443 | -9.2 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 4.6 |
| 16 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 659610 / 153930 / 2520 | -9.7 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 5.6 |
| 17 | 05.08.2005 | 19.08.2009 | 658850 / 153710 / 2644 | -8.4 | |
| | 28.08.2008 | 19.08.2009 | | | 13.6 |

5.5 Mattmark

Introduction

The first ice flow velocity and mass balance measurements in the Mattmark area date back to 1955 (VAW, 1999; Antoni, 2005). Investigations were carried out with a network of up to 22 stakes on the glaciers Allalin, Hohlaub, Kessjen, Schwarzberg and Tälliboden. Currently, measurements are continued on 10 selected stakes as part of the investigations by VAW/ETHZ for the Mattmark hydro-power company (Figure 5.8).

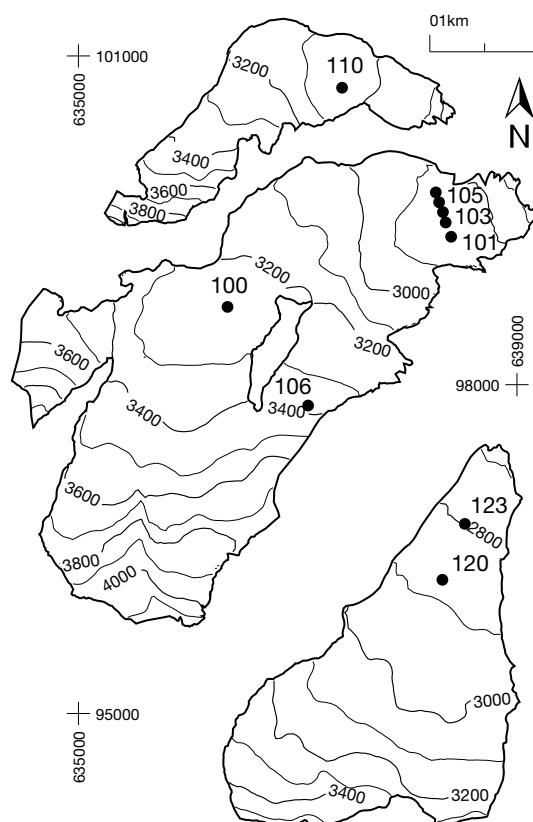


Figure 5.8: Surface topography and observational network of the Mattmark glaciers.

Investigations in 2007/08

The measurements at the stakes on Schwarzbergletscher, Hohlaub as well as the on Allalinletscher began on September 21st, 2007 and ended on September 16th, 2008. The individual

results of the horizontal flow velocity and thickness change for each glacier are given in the Tables 5.5, 5.7 and 5.7.

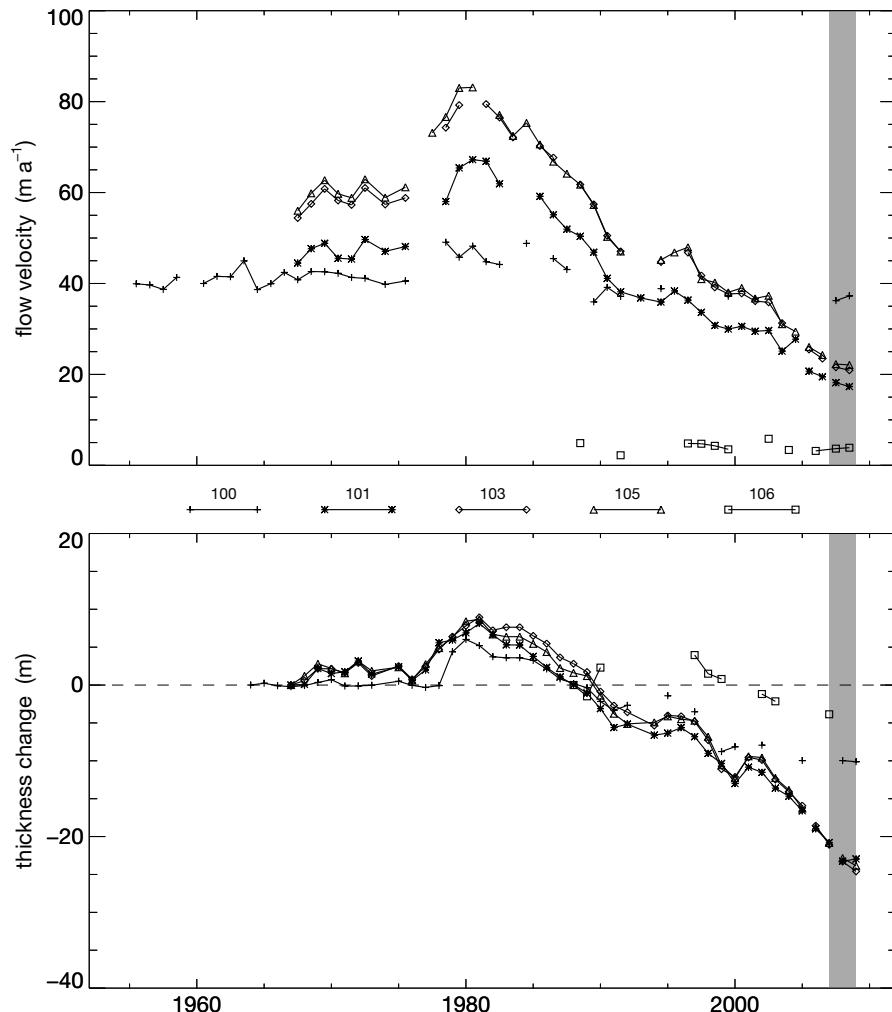


Figure 5.9: Annual flow velocities (top) and thickness change (below) of the Allalin-gletscher at 5 stakes. The gray shaded area highlights the years of the current report.

Investigations in 2008/09

The field survey was carried out on September 22nd, 2009. The results of the horizontal flow velocity and thickness change for each individual glacier are presented in the following Tables 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7.

Table 5.5: Allalin - Individual measurements of annual flow velocity and thickness change

| stake | period | | coordinates (m / m / m a.s.l.) | thickness change (m) | velocity (m a ⁻¹) |
|-------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | start | end | | | |
| 100 | 21.09.2007 | 16.09.2008 | 636360 / 98710 / 3230 | 0.00 | 36.22 |
| 100 | 16.09.2008 | 22.09.2009 | 636360 / 98710 / 3230 | -0.15 | 37.27 |
| 101 | 21.09.2007 | 16.09.2008 | 638400 / 99360 / 2850 | -2.45 | 18.17 |
| 101 | 16.09.2008 | 22.09.2009 | 638400 / 99360 / 2850 | 0.29 | 17.32 |
| 102 | 21.09.2007 | 16.09.2008 | 638350 / 99480 / 2850 | -2.57 | 20.93 |
| 102 | 16.09.2008 | 22.09.2009 | 638350 / 99480 / 2850 | -0.70 | 19.97 |
| 103 | 21.09.2007 | 16.09.2008 | 638325 / 99575 / 2855 | -2.21 | 21.59 |
| 103 | 16.09.2008 | 22.09.2009 | 638325 / 99575 / 2855 | -1.30 | 20.91 |
| 104 | 21.09.2007 | 16.09.2008 | 638290 / 99665 / 2865 | -2.07 | 22.26 |
| 104 | 16.09.2008 | 22.09.2009 | 638290 / 99665 / 2865 | -1.19 | 21.52 |
| 105 | 21.09.2007 | 16.09.2008 | 638260 / 99755 / 2885 | -1.99 | 22.26 |
| 105 | 16.09.2008 | 22.09.2009 | 638260 / 99755 / 2885 | -1.02 | 22.09 |
| 106 | 21.09.2007 | 16.09.2008 | 637095 / 97810 / 3375 | | 3.67 |
| 106 | 16.09.2008 | 22.09.2009 | 637095 / 97810 / 3375 | | 3.87 |

Table 5.6: Hohlaub - Individual measurements of annual flow velocity and thickness change

| stake | period | | coordinates (m / m / m a.s.l.) | thickness change (m) | velocity (m a ⁻¹) |
|-------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | start | end | | | |
| 110 | 21.09.2007 | 16.09.2008 | 637405 / 100710 / 3050 | -1.09 | 8.84 |
| 110 | 16.09.2008 | 22.09.2009 | 637405 / 100710 / 3050 | -2.03 | 10.86 |

Table 5.7: Schwarzberg - Individual measurements of annual flow velocity and thickness change

| stake | period | | coordinates (m / m / m a.s.l.) | thickness change (m) | velocity (m a ⁻¹) |
|-------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | start | end | | | |
| 120 | 21.09.2007 | 16.09.2008 | 638320 / 96220 / 2880 | -1.22 | 9.11 |
| 120 | 16.09.2008 | 22.09.2009 | 638320 / 96220 / 2880 | -1.60 | 8.77 |
| 123 | 21.09.2007 | 16.09.2008 | 638525 / 96730 / 2805 | -1.41 | 7.82 |
| 123 | 16.09.2008 | 22.09.2009 | 638525 / 96730 / 2805 | -2.47 | 7.12 |



Gornergletscher in fall 2008 with the glacier tongue in the foreground and the firn saddle of Colle Gnifetti where englacial temperatures are measured visible in the background
(Photo: U. Bläsi)

6 Englacial Temperature

6.1 Introduction

At the end of the 19th century and into the beginning of the 20th century, Vallot (1893, 1913) observed in the Mont Blanc area that cold firn on high altitude mountain tops is widespread. In the 1950's observations of cold firn and ice have been reported from the Monte Rosa area (Fisher, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1963) and the Jungfrau area (Haefeli and Brentani, 1955). Lliboutry et al. (1976) and Haeberli (1976) were the first who systematically investigated the distribution of cold ice and firn in the Alps.



Figure 6.1: Investigated site for englacial temperatures.

In the last 20 years, research activities have started to increase in the cold high-mountain accumulation areas in the Alps, many studies have been undertaken in connection with hazards and core drillings (Alean et al., 1983; Blatter and Haeberli, 1984; Haeberli and Alean, 1985; Haeberli and Funk, 1991; Laternser, 1992; Lüthi and Funk, 1997; Lüthi, 2000; Lüthi and Funk, 2001; Oeschger

et al., 1977; Suter, 2002; Suter et al., 2001, 2004; Suter and Hoelzle, 2002; Vincent et al., 1997, 2007).

Besides glacier mass balance, firn and ice temperatures of ice bodies can be considered as a key parameter in detecting global warming trends. These temperatures have a sort of a memory function as they register short- and mid-term evolution of the energy balance at the surface. By looking at firn and ice temperature measurements it is possible to assess climate changes in areas where no direct measurement of common climatic parameters are available. Cold firn and ice in glaciers, ice caps and ice sheets occur when the firn and ice show permanently negative temperatures over the minimum time span of a year. If this is not the case, glaciers are temperate, thus their temperature is at the pressure melting point. Most of the existing cold ice bodies are not cold throughout. These ice bodies are called polythermal (Blatter and Hutter (1991) and Cuffey and Paterson (2010)).

Measurements of englacial temperatures have been added to the Swiss glacier monitoring program (see chapter 1.1 of the volume number 125/126). The Colle Gnifetti site was selected to perform regular measurements updating the existing measurements made in the years 1983, 1991, 1999, 2000, 2007 and 2008. In this report, results of measurements in the year 2008 on Colle Gnifetti are presented. Last reported results see volume number 125/126.

6.2 Colle Gnifetti (Monte Rosa)

Introduction

Colle Gnifetti is a small and very wind exposed firn saddle at 4450 m asl. in the area of Monte Rosa, Valais Alps, Switzerland. The saddle is being situated between Zumsteinspitze and Signalkuppe with the famous Margerita hut and belongs to the accumulation area of Grenzgletscher a tributary of Gornergletscher. Strong wind erosion causes extraordinary low annual accumulation of snow. Alean et al. (1983) and Lüthi (2000) showed accumulation rates of 0.1 m a^{-1} at the north-west slope of Signalkuppe to 1.2 m a^{-1} at the sunny south slope of Zumsteinspitze. Therefore, Colle Gnifetti represents a unique Alpine key site to find long term ice core records. According to a recent decision of the Swiss Cryospheric Commission, englacial temperature measurements on the Colle Gnifetti saddle in the Monte Rosa area are part of the Swiss glacier observation network.

Investigations

In summer 2005, the University of Heidelberg (D. Wagenbach / O. Eisen) has drilled the borehole B05-1 to 62 m depth (measurements B05-1 and B05-1). Temperature measurements in this borehole have been performed in November 2007 to a depth of 62 m and in August 2008 to a depth of 58 m. In the year 2007, a permanent thermistor cable in the borehole B07-1 was installed by the University of Zurich (M. Hoelzle, M.Zemp), whereas the first measurement was carried out in November 2007 (B07-1) and a second measurement in August 2008 (B07-1). Within a major

field campaign in the year 2008, the University of Zurich (G. Darms, M. Hoelzle) have drilled with the Heucke steam drill equipment seven additional boreholes on Colle Gnifetti, Grenzgletscher and Seserjoch (B08-1, B08-2, B08-3, B08-5, B08-6, B08-7 and B08-8). The measured temperatures at a depth of around 20 m (corresponding roughly the zero annual amplitude ZAA) are in a range of -2.5°C to -13.14°C. At the Seserjoch (B08-6, B08-7, and B08-8) and Grenzgletscher (B08-5) sites generally warmer temperatures are observed. In contrast, the warmest observed temperature on Colle Gnifetti (B08-1, B08-2 and B08-3) was -10.38 °C in a depth of 20 m (Table 6.1 and 6.2).

As a summary of the already existing measurements, it can be stated that a range of englacial temperature measurements has been acquired in the Monte Rosa area at the border of Switzerland and Italy since 1982. All these englacial temperatures revealed no evidence of warming at the firm saddle of Colle Gnifetti at 4452 m a.s.l. between 1982 and 1991. The 1991-2000 period then showed an increase of 0.05 °C per year at a depth of 20 m. From 2000 to 2008 a further increase of 0.16 °C per year was observed, indicating that the amount of infiltrating and refreezing melt water at Colle Gnifetti has probably increased since 2000. The measured temperatures give clear evidence of firn warming. This is confirmed by five existing boreholes with measured temperature down to bedrock, which were drilled in 1982, 1995, 2003 and 2005. All the observed temperature profiles show a slight bending to warmer temperatures in their uppermost part indicating a warming of the firn, which can be related to the observed atmospheric warming in the 20th century. However, the drilling sites on Colle Gnifetti are still located in the recrystallisation-infiltration zone. Detailed analysis can be found in Hoelzle et al. (2011)

Table 6.1: Borehole number, measurement date, total depth of the borehole, coordinates of the borehole location, used type of thermistors were YSI 44031 and publication describing the measurements in detail (Hoelzle et al., 2011)

| number | date | depth | coordinates (m / m / m a.s.l.) | drill types |
|--------|------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| B05-1 | 04.11.2007 | 62 | 634002 / 86554 / 4452 | mechanical |
| B05-1 | 24.08.2008 | 62 | 634002 / 86554 / 4452 | mechanical |
| B07-1 | 04.11.2007 | 35 | 633872 / 86418 / 4470 | steam |
| B07-1 | 04.11.2007 | 35 | 633872 / 86418 / 4470 | steam |
| B08-1 | 24.08.2008 | 26 | 633795 / 86574 / 4450 | steam |
| B08-2 | 24.08.2008 | 28 | 633811 / 86586 / 4452 | steam |
| B08-3 | 24.08.2008 | 24 | 633918 / 86374 / 4483 | steam |
| B08-5 | 25.08.2008 | 25 | 633500 / 85900 / 4250 | steam |
| B08-6 | 26.08.2008 | 24 | 633750 / 85765 / 4293 | steam |
| B08-7 | 26.08.2008 | 20 | 633836 / 85802 / 4306 | steam |
| B08-8 | 26.08.2008 | 31 | 633686 / 86620 / 4335 | steam |

Table 6.2: Colle Gnifetti - Englacial temperature measurements in the years 2007 and 2008 in boreholes. The measurements are published by Hoelzle et al. (2011)

| Borehole: B05-1 | | | Borehole: B07-1 | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| depth (m) | 04.11.2007 temperature (°C) | 24.08.2008 temperature (°C) | depth (m) | 04.11.2007 temperature (°C) | 24.08.2008 temperature (°C) |
| 1.2 | | -10.96 | 5.2 | -11.97 | -12.80 |
| 1.6 | | -11.11 | 5.4 | -11.80 | -12.88 |
| 2.0 | | -11.58 | 5.8 | -11.44 | -13.04 |
| 2.3 | -11.70 | | 6.2 | -11.30 | -13.12 |
| 2.5 | | -11.91 | 6.6 | -11.33 | -13.27 |
| 3.5 | | -12.54 | 7.0 | -11.38 | -13.31 |
| 5.0 | | -14.14 | 7.5 | -11.61 | -13.43 |
| 7.0 | | -15.19 | 8.0 | -11.87 | -13.47 |
| 9.0 | | -14.53 | 8.5 | -12.08 | -13.53 |
| 10.0 | | -13.09 | 9.0 | -12.18 | -13.54 |
| 11.0 | | -12.13 | 10.0 | -12.48 | -13.53 |
| 12.0 | | -12.69 | 12.0 | -12.87 | -13.48 |
| 12.3 | -12.98 | | 14.0 | -12.92 | -13.32 |
| 15.0 | | -12.84 | 15.0 | -12.97 | -13.26 |
| 20.0 | | -12.87 | 16.0 | -13.06 | -13.26 |
| 22.3 | -12.99 | | 18.0 | -13.06 | -13.17 |
| 31.0 | | -12.81 | 20.0 | -13.11 | -13.14 |
| 32.3 | -12.85 | | 25.0 | -13.17 | -13.20 |
| 41.0 | | -12.24 | 30.0 | -13.14 | -13.17 |
| 42.3 | -12.61 | | 35.0 | -13.07 | -13.09 |
| 46.0 | | -12.26 | | | |
| 47.3 | -12.59 | | | | |
| 51.0 | | -12.27 | | | |
| 52.3 | -12.50 | | | | |
| 57.3 | -12.41 | | | | |
| 58.0 | | -12.28 | | | |
| 59.8 | -12.33 | | | | |
| 62.3 | -12.18 | | | | |

| Date | 24.08.2008 | | 25.08.2008 | |
|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| depth (m) | B08-1 temperature (°C) | B08-2 temperature (°C) | B08-3 temperature (°C) | B08-5 temperature (°C) |
| 1.0 | | -7.01 | -8.00 | |
| 1.5 | | -7.22 | | |
| 2.0 | | -8.07 | | |
| 4.0 | | | | -2.69 |
| 3.0 | -7.54 | -9.86 | -9.49 | |
| 5.0 | -10.14 | -11.56 | -11.35 | -3.98 |
| 6.0 | -10.62 | | -11.84 | -4.70 |
| 7.0 | -9.80 | -11.91 | -12.34 | |
| 8.0 | | -12.35 | | |
| 9.0 | | -12.65 | | |
| 10.0 | | | | -4.08 |
| 11.0 | -10.58 | | -12.61 | |
| 13.0 | | -12.46 | | |
| 15.0 | | | | -2.42 |
| 16.0 | -10.72 | | -12.44 | |
| 18.0 | | -12.21 | | |
| 25.0 | | | | -2.62 |
| 26.0 | -9.87 | | -12.27 | |
| 28.0 | | -12.08 | | |

| Date | 26.08.2008 | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| depth (m) | B08-6 temperature (°C) | B08-7 temperature (°C) | B08-8 temperature (°C) |
| 1.0 | -4.41 | | -6.72 |
| 1.5 | | | -6.98 |
| 2.0 | | -2.60 | -7.75 |
| 2.5 | | | -8.34 |
| 3.0 | -7.08 | | -8.96 |
| 4.0 | -7.61 | -3.67 | -10.00 |
| 5.0 | -8.30 | | |
| 6.0 | | | -11.38 |
| 8.0 | | | -11.47 |
| 9.0 | -8.89 | -7.12 | -12.03 |
| 10.0 | | | -12.03 |
| 14.0 | -7.81 | -6.68 | -11.86 |
| 19.0 | | -6.40 | -11.49 |
| 24.0 | -6.64 | | |
| 29.0 | | | -11.76 |



Riedgletscher with its heavily debris-covered flat glacier tongue in the foreground barely connected in a step zone in 2008 (Photo: G. Kappenberger)

7 Glacier Inventory

The following two sections illustrate how glacier outlines from two inventories can be used to derive cumulative length changes. The derived values for several glaciers are compared with the field measurements over the same time period. The results demonstrate that such a direct comparison is challenging for a number of reasons, but still offer the opportunity to identify systematic errors in both of the datasets.

7.1 Observed changes in glacier length from 1973 to 1998/99

Figures 7.1 to 7.3 show a comparison of glacier extents from the Swiss glacier inventory from 1973 (blue and white lines) with the satellite derived outlines from 1998/99 (black and red lines). Numbered glaciers are in the Swiss length change network and are highlighted by black/blue outlines. The figures illustrate that in general the larger glaciers in a region are measured, and that the unmeasured smaller glaciers do also show strong changes in length or area, several have even disappeared since 1973. With a focus on length changes at the glacier front, the measured glaciers show a large variability of changes within a small region, from virtually no change to strong retreat during this period.

The Aletsch region depicted in Figure 7.1 (top) indicates rather small retreat values for Langgletscher and Oberaletschgletscher and larger ones for Mittelaletschgletscher and Grosser Aletschgletscher. In the case of Langgletscher, a readvance of the glacier tongue after 1980 is the reason for the small total change. In the Bernina region (Figure 7.1 bottom) Vadret da Roseg shows a considerable retreat that was also forced by formation of a pro-glacial lake, Vadret da Tschierva retreated only slightly as a result of an intermittent advance from 1967 to 1985 and Vadret da Morteratsch started to retreat considerably after 1990.

Near Grimselpass (Figure 7.2 top) the retreat of Oberaargletscher and Gauligletscher is clearly visible, but the retreat of Unteraargletscher is much larger although the debris cover on the glacier adds some uncertainty for the exact position of the terminus. The retreat in the region around Mont Blanc de Cheillon (Figure 7.2 bottom) has also a high variability. Strong retreat is observed for Glacier d'Ottemma, a medium one for Glacier de Cheillon and Glacier du Breney, and little change is visible for the other four glaciers. While for Glacier de l'En Darrey the overall changes are small and debris cover adds uncertainty to the terminus position, the other three glaciers had advance phases after 1973 and retreated until 1998 approximately to their 1973 extent.



Figure 7.1: The Aletsch area (top) with Grosser Aletschgletscher (5), Oberaletschgletscher (6) Mittelaletschgletscher (106), and Lang (18) and part of the Bernina massiv (bottom) with Vadret da Roseg (92), Vadret da Tschierva (93), and Vadret da Morteratsch (94).

The four glaciers close to Nufenenpass (Figure 7.3 top) also behave differently. While Ghiacciaio del Basòdino shows virtually no change due to an advance phase after 1973, Ghiacciaio di Valleggia retreated slightly after 1985, and Ghiacciaio del Cavagnoli retreated strongly and is currently

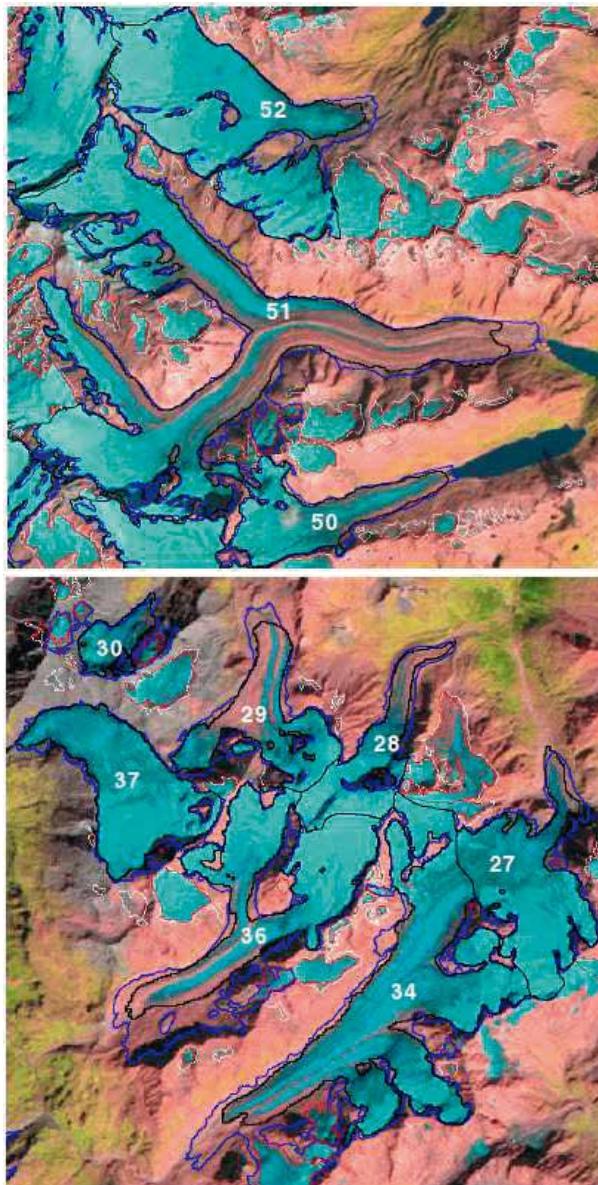


Figure 7.2: The Grimsel area (top) with Oberaargletscher (50), Unteraargletscher (51), and Gauligletscher (52) and the Mont Blanc de Cheillon region (bottom) with Bas Glacier d'Arolla (27), Glacier de Tsidjoure Nouve (28), Glacier de Cheillon (29), Glacier de l'En Darrey (30), Glacier d'Otemma (34), Glacier du Breney (36), and Glacier du Giétero (37).

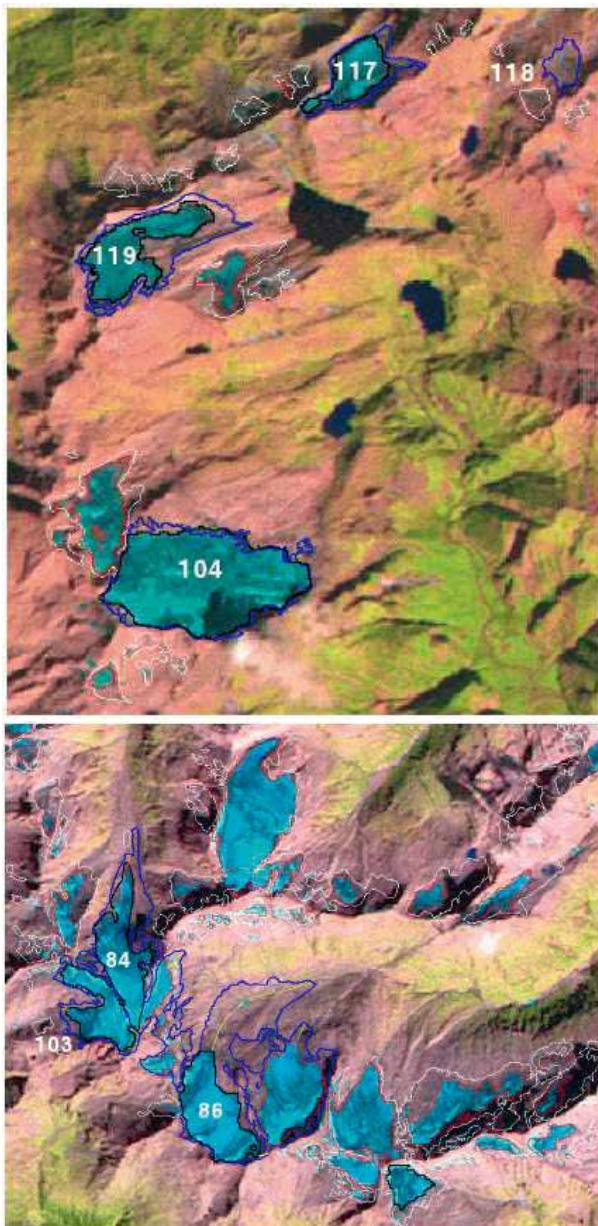


Figure 7.3: The north-western Ticino (top) with Ghiacciaio del Basòdino (104), Ghiacciaio di Valleggia (117), Ghiacciaio di Val Torta (118), and Ghiacciaio del Cavagnoli (119) and the Rheinwald area (bottom) with Lentagletscher (84), Paradisgletscher (86), and Vadrecc di Bresciana (103).

disintegrating. The Ghiacciaio di Val Torta is largely covered by debris and not correctly mapped in the satellite image. In the Rheinwald region (Figure 7.3 bottom) the Vadrecc di Bresciana and Lentagletscher retreated slightly, but Lentagletscher shows a considerable loss of area. The central part of Paradiesgletscher lost its tongue below a steep slope and its western part also shranked considerably, while its eastern part shows only a small retreat.

When comparing only two points in time, the changes in-between are not resolved and remain speculative. For example, a 'no change' over the 25 year time period could also be related to a glacier advance after 1973 and a retreat to the former position afterwards. Whereas the annual measurements in the field resolve this variability for a selection of glaciers, the satellite derived values are cumulative but provide data for the entire sample. To assess whether the satellite-derived changes are reliable, a direct comparison with the field data has to be made.

7.2 Comparison of length changes from 1973 to 1998/99

The above analysis shows that it is important to define where the measurements are performed before they can be compared. In general, the reported length changes based on direct measurements are a mean of several measurement points that use different lines of sight from fixed points in the glacier forefield to the glacier terminus. When these measurements are compared to values derived from two points only (like here), they are per se different. Moreover, there is some uncertainty in obtaining the terminus position from satellite imagery correctly when a glacier is debris covered as the terminus might be hardly visible. In this case, a direct comparison is not advisable.

However, there is a considerable potential to largely extend the sample of measured glaciers to unmeasured ones by using multi-temporal satellite imagery. This requires, at least to some extent, that the satellite-derived values have a similar quality than the field measurements (of course, the latter can also have errors). There is thus a need to determine the quality of satellite-derived length changes by comparison with field measurements. As a starting point for such a quality assessment, we list for a selection of 18 glaciers (see also Figures 7.1 to 7.3) the field-based measurements and the satellite-derived values in Table 7.1. The latter are obtained by manually selecting two points on the two outlines from 1973 and 1998/99 and by measuring their horizontal distance.

For 11 of the 18 glaciers the differences are within acceptable limits (+/-2 image pixels). A better agreement cannot be expected due to internal uncertainties (interpretation of mixed pixels, geolocation accuracy, etc.). For six glaciers the differences are between 5 and 11 pixels. This is clearly beyond the internal uncertainty and requires a more detailed analysis of the reasons for the deviations. Possible reasons are:

- a wrong interpretation of the in most cases debris-covered termini in the satellite image
- a terminus in cast shadow might have been wrongly interpreted as well
- a wrong transfer of the extents on the 1973 aerial images to the topographic maps
- errors in digitizing the extents from 1973 from the topographic maps

- different parts of the terminus have been measured in the field and averaged
- errors in the field measurements.

For Paradiesgletscher, most of the 700 m difference between the direct and remote length change determination might also be explained by the different measurement technique. Whereas the field measurements follow the slope of the surface, the satellite-derived values are horizontally projected. For steep slopes and over long distances (like in this case) the differences due to this effect can be considerable. Moreover, in the case of a curved retreat, the approximation with straight line segments will always give shorter values. However, despite these possible explanations a re-inspection of the field data will be done as a part of the GLAMOS strategy to frequently evaluate all measurements.

Table 7.1: Comparison of cumulative length changes for 18 selected glaciers between 1973 and 1998/99. The difference is expressed in the number of Landsat image pixels of 25 m.

| Glacier | No. | Length change Field (m) | 1973-89/99 Satellite (m) | Difference (Pixel) | Comment |
|-----------------|-----|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Grosser Aletsch | 5 | -760 | -726 | -1 | |
| Oberaletsch | 6 | -160 | -173 | 0 | |
| Mittelaletsch | 106 | -315 | -327 | 0 | |
| Oberraar | 50 | -185 | -210 | +1 | |
| Unterraar | 51 | -900 | -614 | +11 | strongly debris covered |
| Gauli | 52 | -300 | -229 | +2 | steep slope with shadow |
| Arolla (Bas) | 27 | 50 | -84 | -5 | debris covered |
| Tsidjiore Nouve | 28 | 75 | 106 | +1 | |
| Cheillon | 29 | -276 | -396 | -5 | debris covered, different points used? |
| En Darrey | 30 | -100 | -167 | -2 | |
| Otemma | 34 | -1050 | -763 | +11 | debris covered, wrong 1973 extent? |
| Brenney | 36 | -150 | -380 | -9 | wrong 1973 extent? |
| Giétero | 37 | -60 | -34 | 0 | |
| Basòdino | 104 | -30 | -5 | 0 | |
| Valleggia | 117 | -234 | -47 | +7 | wrong 1973 extent? |
| Cavagnoli | 119 | -240 | -203 | -1 | |
| Bresciana | 103 | -132 | -193 | -2 | |
| Paradies | 86 | -1922 | -1322 | +25 | Curved line, horizontally projected |

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A Remote Sensing

A.1 Aerial photographs

Aerial photographs were taken at periodic intervals in order to provide a baseline documentation for various applications (mapping, glacier change, natural hazards, etc). In addition to the periodical surveys conducted by the Swiss Federal Office of Topography (swisstopo), high resolution aerial photographs have been acquired which are designed in particular for glaciological applications. In addition to the aerial photographs listed in the following tables (A.1 and A.2), other aerial photos for updating the National Maps are available from swisstopo. In the year 2008, pictures were taken for the sheets 1:50'000 nos. 254, 255, 266, 267, 275 and 277 and in 2009 for nos. 236, 245, 246, 255, 256 and 257. The scale is approximately 1:30'000.

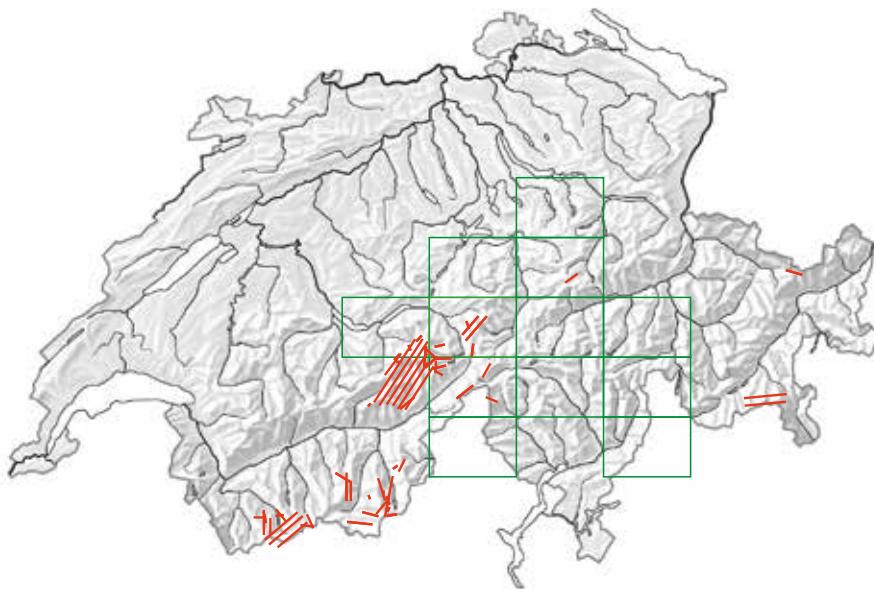


Figure A.1: Aerial photographs from the years 2008 and 2009.

Table A.1: Aerial photographs taken in 2008.

| Glaciers | Ct. | Date | Line No. | Scale | Type |
|--|--------|----------|------------|-------|------|
| Allalin ^P , Chessjen ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008067003 | 8500 | b-w |
| Allalin ^P , Hohlaub ^P , Kessjen ^c , Fee ^P , Hohbalm ^P , Ried ^P , Bider ^c | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008066024 | 12700 | b-w |
| Basodino ^c | TI | 29.08.08 | 2008066043 | 13800 | b-w |
| Birch ^c , Nest ^c | VS | 09.09.08 | 2008066504 | 10900 | b-w |
| Bis ^P , Brunegg ^P , Schali ^P , Hohlicht ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008066031 | 9800 | b-w |
| Cambrena ^c , Palü ^P , Pers ^P , Morteratsch ^P , Tschierva ^P , Roseg ^c , Tremoggia ^P , Fex ^P | GR | 09.09.08 | 2008066245 | 20500 | b-w |
| Clariden ^c , Hüfi ^P | GL | 29.08.08 | 2008066107 | 14300 | b-w |
| Corbassiere ^c , Boveire ^P , Mont Durand ^P , Tseudem ^P , Valsorey ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008068042 | 23900 | b-w |
| Corbassiere ^P | VS | 18.08.08 | 2008068041 | 10700 | b-w |
| Fee ^P , Hohlaub ^c , Chessjen ^c , Allalin ^c , Schwarzberg ^P , Findel ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008067001 | 40500 | b-w |
| Fee ^P , Hohlaub ^P | VS | 18.08.08 | 2008071001 | 6400 | b-w |
| Findel ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008066040 | 11700 | b-w |
| Findel ^P , Schwarzberg ^P , Allalin ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008067004 | 33300 | b-w |
| Gauli ^P | VS | 18.08.08 | 2008066071 | 8400 | b-w |
| Gauli ^P , Ob. Grindelwald ^P , Lauteraar ^P , Strahlegg ^c , Finsteraar ^P | BE | 09.09.08 | 2008066165 | 13100 | b-w |
| Gietro ^P | VS | 18.08.08 | 2008068001 | 9000 | col |
| Gietro ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008068002 | 14500 | b-w |
| Gorner ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008066079 | 11800 | b-w |
| Gries ^c , Corno ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008066013 | 13000 | b-w |
| Grosser Aletsch (Mönch-Süd) ^P | VS | 28.08.08 | 2008070023 | 9400 | b-w |
| Grosser Aletsch ^P | VS | 09.09.08 | 2008066016 | 14800 | b-w |
| Gruben ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008066026 | 6100 | b-w |
| Guggi ^P , Eiger ^P | VS | 28.08.08 | 2008070020 | 13200 | b-w |
| Gutz ^c , Ob. Grindelwald ^P | BE | 09.09.08 | 2008066505 | 14400 | b-w |
| Hohlicht ^P , Bis ^P , Brunegg ^P , Turtmann ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008066030 | 13100 | b-w |
| Minstiger ^c | VS | 09.09.08 | 2008066087 | 12400 | b-w |
| Mutten ^c , Witenwasseren ^c , Geren ^c , Chüeboden ^c , Pizzo Rotondo ^c | VS, UR | 29.08.08 | 2008066138 | 18100 | b-w |
| Oberaar ^P | VS | 28.08.08 | 2008065004 | 15700 | b-w |
| Rhone ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008066012 | 9700 | b-w |
| Roseg ^P , Tschierva ^P , Morteratsch ^P , Pers ^P , Cambrena ^P | GR | 09.09.08 | 2008066244 | 22600 | b-w |
| Rossboden ^c , Gruben ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008066035 | 13900 | b-w |
| Schwarzberg ^P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008067005 | 8000 | b-w |
| Seewijnen ^P , Tälliboden ^c | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008067006 | 8900 | b-w |
| Silvretta ^c , Verstancla ^c , Tiatscha ^P | GR | 09.09.08 | 2008066001 | 14700 | b-w |
| Trift ^P | VS | 18.08.08 | 2008066004 | 8800 | b-w |
| Trift ^P , Stein ^c , Wallenbur ^P , Chelen ^c | VS | 09.09.08 | 2008066003 | 17200 | b-w |
| Diechter ^c , Alpli ^c , Flachenstein ^P , Rhone ^P | | | | | |
| Trift ^P , Steinlimi ^c , Stein ^P | VS | 09.09.08 | 2008066002 | 19600 | b-w |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----------|------------|-------|-----|
| Turtmann P, Brunegg P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008069006 | 12600 | b-w |
| Unt. Grindelwald P, Fiescher P | BE | 18.08.08 | 2008066007 | 15400 | b-w |
| Unteraar (Finsteraar) P | VS | 28.08.08 | 2008065001 | 14000 | b-w |
| Unteraar (Lauteraar) P | VS | 28.08.08 | 2008065002 | 13700 | b-w |
| Unteraar P | VS | 28.08.08 | 2008065003 | 10000 | b-w |
| Weingarten P | VS | 29.08.08 | 2008066643 | 11100 | b-w |

Table A.2: Aerial photographs taken in 2009.

| Glaciers | Ct. | Date | Line No. | Scale | Type |
|--|--------|----------|------------|-------|------|
| Allalin ^P , Hohlaub ^P , Kessjen ^C , Fee ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009067003 | 26100 | b-w |
| Alpli ^C , Diechter ^C , Trift ^P , Chelen ^C , Stei ^C , Steilimi ^P , Wallenbur ^C , Flachenstein ^P , Rütifirn ^P | BE | 08.09.09 | 2009066003 | 17200 | b-w |
| Arolla ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009066163 | 13000 | b-w |
| Arolla ^P , Mont Collon ^P , Otemma ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009066162 | 12300 | b-w |
| Baltschieder ^C , Lang ^C , Jegi ^P , Anung ^C , Grosser Aletsch ^P , Guggi ^P , Eiger ^C , Unt. Grindelwald ^P | VS | 08.09.09 | 2009066170 | 22100 | b-w |
| Birch ^C , Nest ^C | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009066504 | 11000 | b-w |
| Corbassiere ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009068041 | 10700 | b-w |
| Corbassiere ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009068004 | 21800 | b-w |
| Corbassiere ^P , Tsessette ^C , Mont Durand ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009068005 | 19500 | b-w |
| Diablons ^C , Turtmann ^P , Brunegg ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009069006 | 12600 | b-w |
| Diechter ^P , Trift ^P , Taleggli ^C , Gigli ^C , Chelen ^P , Steilimi ^P , Stei ^P | BE | 08.09.09 | 2009066002 | 19600 | b-w |
| Eiger ^C , Guggi ^C , Giesen ^C , Rottal ^C , Grosser Aletsch (Jungfraufirn) ^P | VS, BE | 08.09.09 | 2009066021 | 16700 | b-w |
| Findelen ^P , Schwarzberg ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009066040 | 11600 | b-w |
| Gauli ^P | BE | 07.09.09 | 2009066071 | 8400 | b-w |
| Gietro ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009068001 | 9000 | col |
| Gorner ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009066079 | 11900 | b-w |
| Gredetsch ^C , Oberaletsch ^P , Mittelaletsch ^P , Grosser Aletsch ^P , Fiescher ^P , Unt. Grindel- wald ^P , Ob. Grindelwald ^P , Lauteraar ^P , Gauli ^P | VS | 08.09.09 | 2009066172 | 19300 | b-w |
| Gries ^C , Corno ^P | VS | 08.09.09 | 2009066013 | 13000 | b-w |
| Grosser Aletsch (Mönch-Süd) ^P | VS | 08.09.09 | 2009070023 | 9400 | b-w |
| Grosser Aletsch ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009066016 | 14800 | b-w |
| Grosser Aletsch ^P , Fiescher ^P , Oberaar ^P , Fin- steraar ^P | VS | 08.09.09 | 2009066175 | 21700 | b-w |
| Grosser Aletsch ^P , Oberaletsch ^P , Mitte- laletsch ^P , Fiescher ^P , Finsteraar ^P | VS | 08.09.09 | 2009066174 | 20200 | b-w |
| Grosser Aletsch ^P , Oberaletsch ^P , Mitte- laletsch ^P , Fiescher ^P , Finsteraar ^P , Lauter- aar ^P , Unt. Grindelwald ^P | VS | 08.09.09 | 2009066173 | 19100 | b-w |
| Gruben ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009066026 | 6000 | b-w |
| Guggi ^P , Eiger ^P | BE | 08.09.09 | 2009070020 | 13200 | b-w |
| Gutz ^C , Ob. Grindelwald ^P | BE | 07.09.09 | 2009066505 | 14400 | b-w |
| Hohlicht ^P , Bis ^P , Brunegg ^P , Turtmann ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009066030 | 14000 | b-w |
| Lauteraar ^P , Finsteraar ^P , Unteraar ^P , Ober- aar ^P , Galmi ^P , Minstiger ^P , Bächi ^P , Ob. Grindelwald ^P | VS | 08.09.09 | 2009066176 | 16800 | b-w |
| Mont Durand ^C , Otemma ^P , Brenay ^C , Gi- etro ^C , Mont Collon ^P , Tsijiore Nouve ^P , Piece ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009068007 | 20400 | b-w |

| Glaciers | Ct. | Date | Line No. | Scale | Type |
|---|-----|----------|------------|-------|------|
| Mont Durand ^c , Tsessette ^c , Brenay ^P , Gi- etro ^c , Cheillon ^P , Tsijiore Nouve ^c , Piece ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009068006 | 19900 | b-w |
| Oberaar ^P | VS | 19.08.09 | 2009065004 | 15700 | b-w |
| Otemma ^P , Mont Collon ^P , Arolla ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009068008 | 19800 | b-w |
| Rhone ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009066012 | 9800 | b-w |
| Schwarzberg ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009067005 | 8000 | b-w |
| Seewjinen ^c , Monte Moro ^c , Tälliboden ^c , Schwarzberg ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009067006 | 8900 | b-w |
| Silvretta ^c , Verstandcla ^c , Tiatscha ^P | GR | 09.09.09 | 2009066001 | 14800 | b-w |
| Studer ^P , Finsteraar ^P , Strahlegg ^c , Lauter- aar ^P , Ob. Grindelwald ^P , Gauli ^P | BE | 08.09.09 | 2009066165 | 13100 | b-w |
| Trift ^P | BE | 07.09.09 | 2009066004 | 8900 | b-w |
| Unt. Grindelwald ^P | BE | 07.09.09 | 2009066007 | 15400 | b-w |
| Unteraar (Finsteraar) ^P | VS | 19.08.09 | 2009065001 | 14000 | b-w |
| Unteraar (Lauteraar) ^P | VS | 19.08.09 | 2009065002 | 13700 | b-w |
| Unteraar ^P | VS | 19.08.09 | 2009065003 | 10000 | b-w |
| Weingarten ^P | VS | 07.09.09 | 2009066643 | 11100 | b-w |
| Üssere Baltschieder ^P , Oberaletsch ^P , Lang ^P , Grosser Aletsch ^P , Unt. Grindelwald ^P , Ob. Grindelwald ^P | VS | 08.09.09 | 2009066171 | 20500 | b-w |

c Glacier shown completely
 p Glacier shown partially

Type of film: b-w black-and-white
 col colour

B Remarks on Individual Glaciers

1 Rhone

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 29.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ.
(VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ.
(VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

2 Mutt

2008: Die Höhen wurden zum zweiten Mal mit dem Höhenmesser am Taschenmesser ge-
messen. (U. Wittdorf)

3 Gries

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 29.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ.
(VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 8.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ.
(VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

4 Fiescher

2008: Der Gletscher geht weiter stark zurück. Bei Punkt 5 und 15 ist kein Eis mehr sichtbar
gewesen. (P. Aschilier)

2009: Bei Punkt 14 habe ich letztes Jahr in ein kleines "Tal" gemessen. Durch das starke
Schmelzen ist dort der Gletscher stark verändert. Der jetzige Punkt stimmt wieder für 2010.
(P. Aschilier)

5 Grosser Aletsch

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 9.9.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ.
(VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ.
(VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

6 Oberaletsch

2008: Begehung am 11.9.2008. Der Gletscher ist dermassen geschmolzen und der Rest mit
Schutt und Steinen übersät. Aus diesem Grund konnte keine Messung durchgeführt werden.
(C. Theler)

2009: Begehung am 23.8.2009. Der Gletscher ist dermassen geschmolzen und der Rest mit Schutt und Steinen übersät. Aus diesem Grund konnte keine Messung durchgeführt werden. (C. Theler)

7 Kaltwassergletscher

2008: Die Veränderung ist sehr klein. Auf der ganzen Gletscherzunge ist ein kleiner Zuwachs zu beobachten. (M. Schmidhalter)

2009: Der Rückgang des Gletschers ist doch verhältnismässig gross, wenn man an den langen schneereichen Winter zurückdenkt. (M. Schmidhalter)

10 Schwarzberg

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 29.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Kraftwerke Mattmark AG. (VAW/ETHZ – H. Bösch)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Kraftwerke Mattmark AG. (VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

11 Allalin

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 29.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Kraftwerke Mattmark AG. (VAW/ETHZ – H. Bösch)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Kraftwerke Mattmark AG. (VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

12 Chessjen

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 29.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Kraftwerke Mattmark AG. (VAW/ETHZ – H. Bösch)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Kraftwerke Mattmark AG. (VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

13 Fee

2008: Messung am 29.9.08: Die Messpunkte aus dem Jahr 2007 konnten nicht alle übernommen werden. Der Gletscher hat sich hinter einem Felsen zurückgezogen. Der untere Gletscherrand ist daher vom Messpunkt der elektronischen Distanzmessung aus nicht mehr überall sichtbar. Dafür konnten viel weiter rechts und beim mittleren Gletschertor je ein Messpunkt aufgenommen werden. Der Gletscher ist am linken Rand leicht vorgestossen und hat sich rechts zurückgezogen. Beim Gletschersee hat sich keine wesentlich sichtbare Veränderung ergeben. Die Beurteilung ist auch nicht einfach, weil der Wasserspiegel nicht immer gleich hoch ist. (U. Andenmatten)

2009: Messung am 5.10.09: Dabei konnte die Gletscherzunge wieder auf der gesamten Breite eingemessen werden. Daher wurden die Messpunkte neu eingeteilt. Der Gletscher ist am rechten Rand stärker zurückgegangen als am linken Rand. Rückgang des Gletschertores um 10.54 Meter. Hinter einem Felsen entlang der Gletscherzunge bilden sich neue Wassertaschen. Seit dem grossen Gletscherabbruch vom 20.9.09 brechen immer wieder kleinere Bereiche nach. (U. Andenmatten)

16 Findelen

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 29.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ.
(VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ.
(VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

17 Ried

2008: Der Messpunkt FP72 ist im Gelände frisch markiert worden. Alle Messungen erfolgten von diesem Punkt und sind mit Fotos dokumentiert. (P. Rovina)

18 Lang

2008: Zwei Gletschertore. Nur aus einem Tor fliest Wasser. (H. Henzen)

22 Zinal

2008: Je n'ai pas pu mesurer le glacier en septembre à cause d'une entorse à la cheville. Ensuite, à la fin d'octobre, l'accès au glacier est devenu impossible après les chutes de neige. (M. Barmaz)

2009: Le recul de 16.9 m est une moyenne sur deux ans. En 2009, j'ai reporté le point A repéré à 22 m de la limite de la glace et le point B à 15 m de la glace. (M. Barmaz)

23 Moming

2009: A cause de la neige, le point de ref. 2008 n'a pas été trouvé. Ses coordonnées seront mesurées en 2010. Le glacier n'a toutefois pratiquement pas reculé (P. Stoebener)

24 Moiry

2009: Pas de mesure, la route du barrage a été fermée plus tôt que d'habitude, suite à un mouvement de terrain. (F. Pralong)

29 Cheillon

2009: Nouvelle méthode de mesure et déplacement des anciens points. (O. Bourdin)

30 En Darrey

2009: Nouvelle méthode de mesure et déplacement des anciens points. (O. Bourdin)

34 Otemma

2008: Les points 1 et 2 ne sont plus mesurables. Dangereux! Nouveau Pt 16/08 sur l'axe 15/95. Lors de mes mesures du 17.9.2000 j'avais marqué un bloc sur la partie gauche de la langue glaciaire, dans l'axe 360°N à la base de l'éperon sous le Pt 2744 de la Petit Aouille, bloc que j'ai essayé en vain de retrouver par la suite! Cette année en montant sur le portail gauche, mon bloc était là prêt à basculer dans le torrent! Le voyage est pour l'instant terminé pour lui. Devant le front, les grosses crues ont dégagé quelques gros blocs se trouvant sur notre axe de visée où j'ai établi le pt 16/08. Le portail et la partie droite du front glaciaire sont complètement effondrés et tout se disloque autour, y compris le glacier soutenant la moraine

droite. La partie centrale du glacier est dans le même état. Le portail gauche est affaissé et 3 grandes crevasses transversales superposées se sont formées au-dessus. (J.-J. Chabloz)

2009: Un cataclysme torrentiel doit s'être produit ici! Une masse de débris rocheux s'est éboulée de la moraine latérale gauche laissant apparaître très haut de la glace morte. D'autre part le gros bloc sur lequel j'avais marqué le nouveau pt 16/08 a disparu. Sur tout l'avant terrain il n'y a rien pour le remplacer, donc je repars au pt 15/95 à 642 mètres de là! Rive gauche, le torrent venant du Glacier de l'Aouille arrive directement au portail sous une arche de glace prête à s'effondrer et une grande dépression montre bien la forte fonte de la langue. Rive droite, celle-ci se disloque également et le grand cône de glace recouvert de sable a pratiquement disparu. (J.-J. Chabloz)

35 Mont Durand

2008: Ancien Pt 8/99 trop exposé sur le glacier. J'ai établi un nouveau Pt 9/08 plus un Pt de réserve sur le même axe. La mesure + 28 mètres ne vaut pas grand chose! Car la voûte du portail s'est cassée et s'est affaissée vers le centre du front dans l'axe de visée pt 8/99. D'autre part, le franchissement du torrent devient très difficile et des rochers tombent sans arrêt sur la langue du glacier au point de mesure. J'ai donc établi un nouvel axe plus rive gauche, ainsi qu'un point de réserve sur cet axe. Le front du glacier se creuse toujours plus, de ce fait il n'y a plus de rimayes latérales. Plus haut sur le glacier, on voit bien le socle rocheux se dégager. Grosse fonte à ce niveau également, donc masse glaciaire en régression. (J.-J. Chabloz)

2009: Il n'y a qu'à regarder les photographies! Tout s'effondre, la langue foncera dessous que dessus, le retrait est très marqué jusqu'au grand seuil à 2700-2800 mètres. Au front, la voûte du portail complètement fissurée va s'affaisser dans le torrent. (J.-J. Chabloz)

36 Brenay

2008: J'ai établi un nouveau Pt 20/08 sur l'axe du Pt 19/86. La chute d'un gros rocher depuis la moraine gauche m'a permis de gagner 462 mètres sur le même axe, c'est le bonheur! Donc nouveau pt 20/08. Malgré le recul peu marqué -22.6 mètres, c'est aussi la débâcle. La langue est complètement plate, les portails gauche et droite inexistant. Plus en amont, le glacier se creuse entre les deux bords couverts de débris rocheux et plus haut, au niveau des Séracs du Brenay, la rive droite s'éloigne maintenant de la paroi rocheuse de la Serpentine, (l'œil) est toujours plus gros. (J.-J. Chabloz)

2009: Ici aussi les grandes crues ont dû être impressionnantes au vu des débris rocheux sur l'avant terrain et au déplacement complet du lit des torrents. Le glacier est toujours plus bas à côté de la moraine de droite et le socle rocheux bien visible au niveau des séracs du Brenay dont la glace au-dessus de l'(œil) est crevassée dans tous les sens et dont l'épaisseur a diminué très fortement. (J.-J. Chabloz)

37 Gietro

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 18.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch Photogrammetrie Perrinjaquet im Auftrag der Force Motrices de Mauvoisin SA. Bestimmung der Längenänderung durch VAW/ETHZ. (VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch Photogrammetrie Perrinjaquet im Auftrag der Force Motrices de Mauvoisin SA. Bestimmung der Längenänderung durch VAW/ETHZ. (VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

38 Corbassiere

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 18.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Force Motrices de Mauvoisin SA. (VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Force Motrices de Mauvoisin SA. (VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

39 Valsorey

2009: En rive gauche, il y a maintenant un espace de 4.0 - 5.0 m entre le glacier et le rocher sur une centaine de mètres (décollement). La perte de la langue du glacier est de 60

40 Tseudet

2008: Le glacier progresse en raison du fluage du front de la langue. (J. Médico)

41 Boveyre

2009: La langue glaciaire va fondre très rapidement ces prochaines années car elle mesure 6.0 m de large sur une épaisseur de 2 à 3 m. (J. Médico)

42 Saleinaz

2009: Le front du glacier a fortement changé. La partie rive gauche, sous les éboulis, fond moins vite que la partie droite. (J. Médico)

43 Trient

2008: Forte perte d'épaisseur. Beaucoup de glace morte. Débit important du torrent. (J. Ehinger)

2009: De 2008 à 2009, le glacier du Trient a reculé de 151 mètres, dans l'extrémité la plus en aval de la langue. Le front se trouve à environ 2080 mètres d'altitude. (J. Ehinger)

44 Paneyrosse

2008: Diminution spectaculaire de l'épaisseur, mais difficile à estimer. (J.-Ph. Marlétaz)

2009: Comme 2008 diminution spectaculaire de l'épaisseur du glacier. (J.-Ph. Marlétaz)

45 Grand Plan Névé

2008: Création le 10.9.2008 de 5 nouveaux points côté ouest 81 à 85. Pour 2009 les points 5 et B120 sont à supprimer car plus représentatifs. Grottes glaciaire au-dessus points 81-84. (J.-Ph. Marlétaz)

2009: Abandon des pts 5 et B120. Nouvelles mesure pts 81 à 85. (J.-Ph. Marlétaz)

47 Sex Rouge

2008: Point 1 à 4: Je propose de renoncer purement et simplement aux mesures de ces points, le glacier n'est plus apparent ou très difficilement discernable. Point 5: Comme annoncé l'année dernière, j'ai établi un nouveau point, l'ancien étant aujourd'hui recouvert par une coulée de matériau provenant des contreforts de la Becca d'Audon. Point 51: J'ai jugé utile d'implanter un point intermédiaire entre P5 et P6. (J. Binggeli)

2009: Point 1 à 3: Conformément à ce que j'annonçais l'année dernière, ces points n'ont pas été mesurés, le glacier n'étant plus apparent ou très difficilement discernable (recouvert par des éboulis de pente). Point 4: en revanche et contrairement à l'année dernière, de la glace est à nouveau apparente dans ce secteur. Le point a donc été mesuré. Le recul serait de 15.40 mètres le 13.9.07 (dernière mesure) et le 10.9.09. (J. Binggeli)

48 Prapio

2008: Malgré la saison bien avancée, le bas du glacier était encore recouvert, partiellement de névés et de matériel de déjection provenant des falaises le surplombant. La mesure n'est donc pas aussi précise que souhaité. (J. Binggeli)

2009: De la neige morte, détachée du corpus, est présente à l'avant du front glaciaire. (J. Binggeli)

52 Gauli

2008: Innerhalb von 3 Jahren hat sich der Gletscher um 253 m zurückgezogen. Dementsprechend dehnt sich der See aus und die Eisberge darin sind gegenüber den früheren Jahren spärlicher geworden. (R. Straub)

2009: Eisberge verdecken die Sicht zur Gletscherzunge. Auch ist die Distanz für die Lasermessung zu weit. Der Rückzug beträgt mindestens 100 m, verursacht durch das Kalben des Gletschers in den See. Dieser ist bereits ca. 1/4 km² gross. (R. Straub)

53 Stein

2008: Auffallend ist das geröllfreie Toteis der rechten Seitenmoräne. (R. Straub)

54 Steinlimi

2008: Das Toteis auf der orographisch rechten Seite ist bis auf kleinste Reste geschmolzen. Etwas Toteis befindet sich noch auf der orographisch linken Seite. Reste des Gletscherarmes von der Steinlimi, der sich weit zurückgezogen hat, haben zur Folge, dass die Gletscherzunge orographisch links wesentlich stärker zurückgeschmolzen ist als rechts, wo der Gletscherarm vom Tierberg noch bis hinunter reicht. (R. Straub)

55 Trift (Gadmen)

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 18.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ. (VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ. (VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

59 Eiger

2008: Das Messverfahren wurde auf Laser-Entfernungsmessung umgestellt. Als Referenzpunkt im Gelände neben der Hauptmoräne diente der am 29.8.2008 angelegte Punkt (640945.2/158196.9/2269.3). (R. Zumstein)

60 Tschingel

2008: Teilweise neblig und relativ kalt, daher geringe Wasserführung. Auf der orographisch linken Gletscherseite Vorstoss, auf der rechten Rückzug im üblichen Rahmen. Der Gletscher wird schmäler, der seitliche Abstand wird grösser. Keine neuen Punkte angelegt, nur neu gefärbt. Höhenmessung ab Punkt E Schwammberger. (R. Zumstein)

2009: Die Aufwärmung der Fels- und Schuttpartien führt zu einem massiven Abschmelzen der orographisch linken Gletscherseite. Dies gibt Anlass zu Anpassungen im Messsystem. Im zentralen Bereich ist erstmals das Eis unüberdeckt sichtbar. Partiell Gegengefälle. Die Messung verlief einigermassen normal. (R. Zumstein)

61 Gamchi

2008: Punkte E, a und c wurden neu gesetzt. Punkt A wurde aufgegeben. (R. Descloux)

62 Schwarz

2008: Nachmessung h mit Azimut 162^g - wie zuletzt 2004. Neuanlage der Messung ab Punkt i mit Azimut 162^g

2009: Die Überdeckung mit Schutt macht eine zuverlässige Messung im Bereich der seitlichen Zungen sehr schwierig - wie die Zahlen im Vorjahresvergleich zeigen. Am verlässlichsten ist sicher der Messpunkt i1 beim Gletschertor. (C. Coleman Bratschen)

64 Blümlisalp

2008: Bei den Punkten B und C ist der Gletscher mit Schutt überdeckt. (U. Fuhrer)

66 Tiefen

2008: Der Gletscher ist im Torbereich eingebrochen. Der Tiefenbach fliesst nur noch nördlich der Felsrippe mit Pkt. 06. Der Messpunkt 95 wurde von einem Hochwassereignis unterspült und verschoben. Im Steilaufschwung südlich des Kartenpunktes 2765 wird die Fliessbreite immer geringer. Der heutige Zungenbereich wird von oben kaum mehr genährt. Der Pkt. 09 ist nicht auf die anderen Punkte eingemessen. (J. Marx)

2009: Im südlichen Zungenbereich ist der Gletscher praktisch unverändert. Sogar die im Vorjahr vom Gletscher abgebrochene Eisscholle ist noch weitgehend vorhanden. Im nördlichen Bereich ist der Rückgang ausgeprägter. (J. Marx)

67 St. Anna

2008: Der an sich schon kleine Firn schrumpft von allen Seiten. Partien, welche in den 80er-Jahren als Folge der Skipistenpräparation nie ausaperten, sind heute durchgehend eisfrei. Dank einer Schutndecke fällt der Rückgang im westlichen Zungenbereich etwas bescheidener aus. (J. Marx)

2009: Dank grösserer Schneemengen, als Folge andauernder Südstaulagen, ist der Gletscher weniger stark ausgeapert als in den vergangenen Jahren. Der Längen- und Massenverlust hält jedoch weiterhin an. (J. Marx)

68 Chelen

2008: Ab dem Messpunkt 2004 A zielt die Messlinie am Zungenbereich vorbei und trifft bei 207 m fast tangential auf das Eis. Diese Distanz wurde für die Berechnung der mittleren Veränderung nicht berücksichtigt. (J. Marx)

2009: Der Rückgang ist erneut sehr ausgeprägt. Der stark von Schutt bedeckte Zungenbereich "hungert" zunehmend aus. (J. Marx)

69 Rotfirl

2009: Der Massenverlust ist weiterhin augenscheinlich. Der schuttbedeckte Zungenbereich wird von oben kaum mehr genährt und fällt in sich zusammen. (J. Marx)

70 Damma

2008: Der Zugang zum vor 2 Jahren eingerichteten Messpunkt war witterungs- und steinschlagbedingt nicht möglich. Anlässlich der Messungen im Chelenalptal wurden vom Standort "Berg" zwei Panoramaaufnahmen gemacht. (J. Marx)

2009: Anlässlich der Messungen im Chelenalptal wurden vom Standort "Berg" Aufnahmen gemacht. Der Zungenbereich ist für Messungen nicht begehbar. (J. Marx)

71 Wallenbur

2008: Es gibt zwei Gletschertore. Im Bereich des westlichen Gletschertores (ca. 20 m breit und beinahe 10 m hoch) ist ein rund 100 m langer gut begehbarer Tunnel entstanden. Die Entwässerung erfolgt jedoch zum grossen Teil über das östliche, kleinere Tor (ca. 8 breit). Der Massenverlust (Höhenverlust) zum Vorjahr ist augenfällig, obwohl der gemessene Rückgang bescheiden ist. Der östliche Gletscherbach führt deutlich mehr Wasser, als jener beim westlichen Tor. Der Gletscherbach tritt erst ca. 20 m vor dem Tor in den Tunnel (von Ost). (J. Marx)

2009: Die Voralpreuss tritt nach wie vor an zwei Stellen aus dem Gletscher. Die Eisdicke über den Toren schwindet rasch. Das östliche Tor ist ca. 8 m breit. Dieser Gletscherbach führt mehr Wasser als jener beim westlichen Tor, welches ca. 30 m breit ist (außen). Es verengt sich schnell auf etwa 18 m und ist ca. 8-10 m hoch. Der Bach tritt von Ost wenige Meter vor dem Tor in ein Tunnel. Die äusseren Gletscherzungenteile sind stark mit Steinen überdeckt. Einbrüche in diesen Bereichen führen zu einem überdurchschnittlichen Rückgang. (J. Marx)

72 Brunnifirn

2009: Erstmals seit 2003 wurde der Gletscher besucht und eingemessen. Die 2003 neu angelegten Messpunkte wurden alle gefunden. Der Gletscher hat sich nun soweit zurückgezogen, dass neue Messpunkte näher beim Gletscher und mit direkter Sicht gesetzt werden konnten (Punkte 9, 10, 11). Die Längenänderung in 6 Jahren ist nicht sehr gross, hingegen ist der Verlust in der Höhe sehr markant und auf den Photos gut sichtbar. Die Berge zwischen Brunni pass und Fuorcla da Strem Sut "wachsen" von Jahr zu Jahr. (J. Marx)

73 Hüfi

2008: Die Gletscherzunge ist nach wie vor nicht zugänglich, aber noch knapp sichtbar. Mittels elektr. Distanzmessung wurde ein Rückgang von 12.0 m ermittelt. (J. Marx)

2009: Der Gletscher ist ab Punkt 2002 immer noch sichtbar. Eine genaue Messung ist jedoch nicht mehr möglich. Der elektronisch gemessene Wert ist als Schätzung zu betrachten. (J. Marx)

74 Griess

2009: Beim Punkt 2007/3 konnte der Eisrand nicht gefunden werden. Der Zungenbereich wird von keiner Seite mehr genährt. Er ist jedoch unter einer Schuttschicht gut konserviert. (J. Marx)

75 Firnalpeli

2008: Gletscher am 24.8.2008 nicht schneedeckt. Die GPS-Aufnahmen funktionierten auch dieses Jahr nicht. (U. Walser)

2009: Vermessung am 24.8.2009. Der Gletscher war beinahe blank. Insbesondere beim VP3 zeigt sich aufgrund der warmen Witterung eine markante Veränderung: Ausbildung eines Gletscherbaches inkl. Gletscherhöhle. (U. Walser)

77 Biferten

2008: Die Messung erfolgt am 26.10.2008. Das Gletschertor ist um 0.8 m zurückgeschmolzen und liegt auf 1969 m.ü.M. Beim tiefsten Punkt, der nun auf 1967 m.ü.M. liegt, beträgt der Schwund beträchtliche 2.8 m. Dies, weil sich der Gletscherbach dort in einer Gebirgsmulde hinunterschlängelt und das Eis darüber abschmilzt. Der Massenberechnungspunkt hat sich bereits nahe an den Gletscherrand bewegt und ist heute auf der Höhe von 2019.5 m.ü.M. angelangt. Dies sind ebenfalls wieder 3.2 m, die am Gletscher in der Masse verloren gehen. Schliesslich ist noch das letzte augenfällige Merkmal am Gletscher erwähnt. Nämlich der Abstand zur Fassung 2. Dieser erhöht sich um 0.6 m auf einen Abstand von 167.0 m. Über die gemessene Breite von 478.6 m und der Schwundfläche von 4151.6 m² ergibt sich wiederum die beachtliche Verkleinerung des Gletschers von 8.7 m als Mittel. Einmal mehr muss ich ein starkes Schwinden des Gletschers ausweisen. (H. Klauser)

78 Limmern

2008: Punkte 1 und 2 sind stark schuttbedeckt. (U. Steinegger)

2009: Punkt 1 ist stark schuttbedeckt. Gletscher weitgehend ausgeapert. Firn- und Eisflächen verschwinden in grossem Tempo. Ein neuer Nunatak ragt mitten aus dem Eis oberhalb der Forschungshütte. (U. Steinegger)

79 Sulz

2008: Mittlerer Rückgang von -3.80 m. (J. Walcher)

2009: Mittlerer Rückgang von -7.60 m. (J. Walcher)

80 Glärnisch

2008: Die Messung erfolgte am 27.9.2008. Die Gletscherzunge kann ganz eindeutig und klar ausgemacht werden. Das Wetter war angenehm und der Himmel wolkenlos. Die Station 13 ist mein Standort von dem aus ich den ganzen Gletscher kartieren kann. Einzig der Gletscherbachpunkt ist nicht direkt einsehbar ab Station 13. Die Höhe des Gletscherbaches ist nur um 20 cm gestiegen auf eine Höhe von 2345.6 m.ü.M. Dies kann dem nun recht abgeflachten Vorgelände zugeordnet werden. Dafür ist beim tiefsten Punkt des Gletschers einiges gegangen, dieser hat sich um 5.8 m auf 2339.5 m.ü.M. zurückgezogen. Die Schwundfläche über die ganze gemessene Breite von 455 m beträgt dieses Jahr 1119.3 m². Dies ergibt schliesslich die 2.5 m Schmelze als Mittel. Weitere Beobachtung: die beiden Couloirs zum Bächistock weisen keine durchgehenden Gletscherzungen zu ihrem Gipfel mehr aus. (H. Klauser)

2009: Die Station 13 ist wiederum mein Standort von dem aus ich den ganzen Gletscher kartieren kann. Mit 50 Messungen kann ich mittels meines Juniors wieder die ganze Zunge des Gletschers auf das Genaueste erfassen. Das Resultat war von Beginn weg deutlich bemerkbar. Der Gletscher schwindet im Mittel um 12.57 m auf eine Zungenbreite von 483.3 m. Der Austritt des Gletscherbaches hat sich um 2.4 m nach oben, auf eine Höhe von 2348.0 m.ü.M geschoben. Mit diesem Effekt zieht natürlich auch der tiefste Punkt unausweichlich mit und verschiebt sich um beinahe 5m auf eine Kote von 2344.59 m.ü.M. Während der Messung konnte ein Eisabbruch beobachtet werden. (H. Klauser)

81 Pizol

2008: Die Gletscherkontrolle erfolgte am 26. September. Die Witterungsbedingungen waren gut. Trotz leichter Schneelage bestanden keine Probleme, die Messpunkte zu finden und auch die Ansprache des Gletscherrandes wurde vom Schnee nicht beeinträchtigt. Die Gletscheroberfläche bot sich relativ gleichmässig dar, "ausgeglichen" durch die Schneebedeckung. Die Längenmessungen erfolgten ab der C-Linie, in den Punkten C2 bis C5, alle im Beobachtungszazimut 244 Neugrad. Im Punkt C1 ergab sich wiederum kein vernünftiger Schnitt (der Gletscherrand befindet sich hinter einem Felsvorsprung) und im Punkt C6 scheint der Gletscher definitiv verschwunden zu sein. Im Mittel war die Länge in etwa stabil. (Th. Brandes)

2009: Die Gletscherkontrolle erfolgte am 24. September. Die Witterungsbedingungen waren gut. Die Längenmessungen erfolgten ab der C-Linie, in den Punkten C2 bis C5, alle im Beobachtungszazimut 244 Neugrad. Gegenüber der Messung von 2008 ergaben sich keine Veränderungen bezüglich der Schnittpunkte. Im Punkt C1 ergab sich wiederum kein vernünftiger Schnitt (der Gletscherrand befindet sich hinter einem Felsvorsprung) und im Punkt C6 scheint der Gletscher definitiv verschwunden zu sein. (Th. Brandes)

82 Lavaz

2008: Gletschermessung am 20.8.2008 bei frischer, aber schöner Witterung. Aufgrund des schlechten Untergrundes gerade in Gletscherseenähe musste bereits bei der letzten Messung 2006 festgestellt werden, dass auch in Zukunft mit Verschiebungen von Basispunkten zu rechnen ist. Zur langfristigen Sicherung der Messqualität wurde von den Basispunkten ausgehend ein Fixpunkt auf der gegenüberliegenden, nord-östlichen Seite des Gletschers auf sicherem Grund installiert. Von diesem Fixpunkt aus wurde der gesamte Gletscherrand neu eingemessen. Der Gletscher wird in der Falllinie durch eine Moräne getrennt. Unter dieser Moräne befinden sich nicht sichtbare Gletschermassen. In Linie zu dieser Moräne lag bei der Messung 2006 der Grenzpunkt 2/06. Damals wurde festgestellt, dass die Linienführung zu

einem einzelnen Gletscherfenster wenig aussagekräftig sei. Der sichtbare Gletscherrand sei vom Südosten Richtung Nordwesten zur Moräne und von dieser wieder weiter zu führen. Dies wurde bei der diesjährigen Messung berücksichtigt. Es muss mit Sturzereignissen in den Talflanken gerechnet werden. (R. Lutz)

2009: Keine Messung wegen langanhaltender Schneedecke (August) und frühem Wintereinbruch. (R. Lutz)

83 Punteglia

2008: Das Wetter bei der Messung am 20.10.2008 war schön und wolkenlos bei 15°C. Im Messbereich war kein Schnee vorhanden, der Gletschersee zeigte nur vereinzelt eine ganz dünne Eisschicht. Aus dem Gletscher tritt an verschiedenen Stellen Wasser aus. Der Schmelzprozess hat sich während der Messung deutlich verstärkt. Wo der von Schutt beladene Gletscherkörper zu Tage tritt, herrschte reger Steinschlag durch abrutschende Steine und Feinmaterial. Aus dem westlichsten Gletschertor floss kein Wasser ab. Aus dem mittleren Gletscherkörper trat mäßig viel und klares Wasser aus, während sich zwischen der mittleren und der östlichsten Zunge ein regelrechter Bach seinen Weg in den See suchte. In den See treten entsprechend von zwei Seiten Wasserläufe ein. Die Ferrera führt durchschnittlich viel Wasser (etwas mehr als in 2007). Sie entspringt nach wie vor dem Gletschersee. Der See wird durch den Materialeintrag von N und NW zunehmend kleiner. Der See ist damit bereits zu über 40% verlandet und wird wohl in den nächsten 10 Jahren ganz verlanden. Der Gletscher an sich besteht aus 3 Gletscherkörpern, die alle in Richtung SO fliessen. Der Mächtigste befindet sich ganz im Osten und ist von braunem Schutt bedeckt. Westlich angrenzend befindet sich der Zweitmächtigste, der von grauem Schutt bedeckt ist. Ganz im Westen befindet sich noch ein kleinerer, breiter und flacher Gletscherkörper, der ebenfalls von grauem Schutt bedeckt ist. Beobachtung Ost, zwischen braunem und grauen Gletscherkörper: Der im 2006 erstmals beobachtete "Schmelzkrater" von rund 25 m Durchmesser ist kaum mehr erkennbar (offener Eisaufschluss verschwunden, nur noch ein von Schutt bedeckter Eiskörper). Hier entsteht derzeit ein immer deutlicheres Tal, das von der Gletscherzunge her zunehmend eisfrei sein wird. Allerdings ist es aufgrund des vielen Schuttes schwierig zu bestimmen, wo sich derzeit zwischen den beiden Zungen noch Eis befindet. Hier wachsende Pflanzen lassen ebenfalls keinen klaren Rückschluss zu. Beobachtung mittlere Gletscherzunge: Hier hat sich das Bild seit 2007 stark verändert. Bis 2006 war diese Zunge komplett von Schutt bedeckt. Eis war keines sichtbar. Im 2007 wurde eine Eiswand zwischen dem mittleren und dem westlichsten Gletscherkörper beschrieben. Im 2008 hat sich auf einer Länge von gut 100 m eine Eiswand von rund 10 m Höhe "aufgebaut". Sie ist interessanterweise nicht die Spitze der mittleren Zunge, sondern verläuft seitlich. Beobachtung Gletschertor West (westliches Ende): Rund 10 m breit, 2 m hoch und 15 m tief. Es ist gut begehbar und lässt einen Blick auf die klare, von Luftblasen durchzogene Eismasse zu. Kein Wasseraustritt. Beobachtung nördlich Gletschertor West: ähnliches Bild wie 2007. Eisfreie Vertiefung zwischen den zwei Gletscherkörpern. Die eindrückliche Eiswand von 2007 hat sich abgeflacht. Es scheint noch mehr Eis vorhanden zu sein, als im 2007 angenommen. Der Gletscher hat sich seit 2007 um 10.25 m zurückgezogen. Der Gletscherschwund fand vorwiegend am mittleren Gletscherkörper statt (rund 30 m). Gerade dieser Bereich ging seit 2003 kaum zurück (jeweils nur einige Meter pro Jahr). Nun scheint hier "das Eis gebrochen" zu sein. Ansonsten ist der Rückgang gering und im Rahmen der letzten Jahre. (Chr. Buchli)

2009: Keine Messung möglich. Zum Zeitpunkt der Aufnahmetage spielte das Wetter nicht mit. Später lag dort bereits Schnee und die Gletscherränder waren schwierig zu finden. (Chr. Buchli)

84 Länta

2008: Auf der linken Talseite wurde im Verlauf der vergangenen 10-20 Jahre die Seitenmoräne freigelegt. Dieser Vorgang ist noch nicht abgeschlossen. Die freigelegte Moräne erodiert sehr stark, was in den letzten Jahren zu grossen Geschiebeverfrachtungen geführt hat. Die Probleme aus 2007 (Verlust von Weideland, Verlegung des Wanderweges in den Hang, Überschwemmung / Zerstörung der Zufahrt zur Alp Lampertschalp) bestehen nach wie vor. (B. Riedi)

2009: Die Erosion an der Seitenmoräne scheint sich zu verlangsamen. Die Problematik von 2007 besteht jedoch weiterhin. (B. Riedi)

85 Vorab

2008: Das Wetter war schön und windstill am 1.10.08. Der Gletscher war leicht schneedeckt und es konnten Gletscherspalten erkannt werden. (J. Brunold)

2009: Es wird ein grosser Wasserabfluss beobachtet. (J. Brunold)

86 Paradies

2008: Der Gletscherrand wurde anhand von GPS Aufnahmen festgestellt. Die Veränderung zwischen 2007 und 2008 wurde graphisch durch 18 Messungen im Abstand von 10 m ermittelt und beträgt +2,1 m. Diese leichte Zunahme ist vor allem durch den Wiederzusammenschluss im östlichen Bereich von Eisblöcken mit der Gletscherzungue zu begründen. Die Mächtigkeit des Gletschers ist hingegen stark zurückgegangen. Das Moränenmaterial im Talboden unterhalb der Felsen wurde durch Starkniederschläge stark erodiert. (C. Fisler)

2009: Der Gletscherrand wurde anhand von GPS Aufnahmen festgestellt. Die Veränderung zwischen 2008 und 2009 wurde graphisch durch 12 Messungen im Abstand von 10 m ermittelt und beträgt +1,9 m. Diese leichte Zunahme ist vor allem durch den Wiederzusammenschluss im östlichen sowie westlichen Bereich von Eisblöcken mit der Gletscherzungue zu begründen. Ebenso ist sie auf die grossen Schneemengen vom letzten Winter zurückzuführen. Da die Gletscherzungue immer flacher wird, ist es kaum möglich, genau zu bestimmen, wo sich Eis und letztyähriger Schnee trennen. Die Mächtigkeit des Gletschers ist weiter leicht zurückgegangen. Wasser tritt überall ein bisschen aus. Das bis letzten Jahr bezeichnete Haupttor ist nicht mehr ersichtlich. Das Nebentor von 2008 führt am meisten gesammeltes Wasser. Dieses wird nun als Haupttor bezeichnet. (C. Fisler)

87 Suretta

2008: Der Referenzpunkt GL10 (748285/153445) konnte mit dem GPS ermittelt werden. Für die Ermittlung des Gletscherrandes wurden von Punkt GL10 aus, anhand eines elektronischen Distanzmessers 12 Punkte gemessen. Der Rückzug zwischen 2007 und 2008 wurde graphisch durch 26 Messungen im Abstand von 10 m ermittelt und beträgt -2,1 m. Anhand eines Fotovergleiches mit Punkt G10 ist dieser bescheidene Rückgang durchaus plausibel. (C. Fisler)

2009: Für die Ermittlung des Gletscherrandes wurde von Punkt GL10 aus, anhand eines elektronischen Distanzmessers 12 Punkte gemessen. Der Rückzug wurde graphisch durch 29 Messungen im Abstand von 10 m ermittelt und beträgt +0,4 m. Anhand eines Fotovergleiches von Punkt G10 kann man sagen, dass dieses Resultat durchaus plausibel ist. Die Messungen aus einer Distanz von mehr als 200 m sind wegen dem Zielen der Punkte an der Gletscherzungue zum Teil ungenau. Nächstes Jahr soll versucht werden, mit Hilfe des GPS direkt Punkte am Gletscherrand aufzunehmen. Die seitlichen Moränen sind sehr erosionsanfällig. Die Gletscherzungue ist sehr steil und grössere Eisblöcke könnten sich lösen. (C. Fisler)

88 Porchabella

2008: Die Messungen wurden stellenweise durch eine dünne, aber geschlossene Neuschneedecke beeinträchtigt. Die Genauigkeit dürfte aber genügend sein. Die Höhe der Schneelinie war praktisch den gesamten Sommer über auf ca. 3200 m.ü.M., d.h. der ganze Gletscher war wieder mehrere Monate ausgeapert. Entsprechend musste wieder eine massive Massenabnahme im Bereich der Spaltenfelder auf ca. 3100 m.ü.M. und am Fuss der Keschnadel registriert werden. (Chr. Barandun)

2009: Die mittlere Längenänderung 2008-2009 beträgt: -16,5 m. Die Höhe der Schneelinie lag trotz schneereichem Winter 2008/09 praktisch den Sommer auf ca. 2100 m.ü.N. (Chr. Barandun)

89 Verstankla

2008: Am Tag der Gletschermessung war das Wetter dank Föhn bis gegen 14 Uhr mit ca. 15°C recht schön und mild. Der Winter 2007/08 wies in höher gelegenen Gebieten über lange Strecken überdurchschnittliche Schneemächtigkeiten auf. Der Sommer war dann eher warm und recht nass. Der Gletscher war in den Randgebieten ausgeapert. Die Gletscherzungue ist mit viel Blockschutt und Feinmaterial beladen. Die markierten Basispunkte sind mit Ausnahme von PN nach wie vor gut auffindbar. Die Gletscherrandlinie wurde gleich wie in den letzten Jahren mit dem GPS-Gerät aufgenommen (Knickpunkte / Gletschertore). Um die Werte der neuen Messungen in die alte Messreihe zu integrieren, wurden die Distanzen von den einzelnen Fixpunkten bis zum Gletscherrand mit dem vorgegebenen Azimut (118°) unter Berücksichtigung des Höhenunterschiedes umgerechnet. Seit der letzten Messung hat sich der Gletscher um -9,6 m zurückgezogen. Der Rückzug ist deutlich geringer als im Vorjahr. (M. Maikoff)

2009: Der Winter 2008/09 wies zum Teil grosse Schneemächtigkeiten, mit unterdurchschnittlichen Temperaturen auf. Hingegen verzeichneten wir im Frühjahr überdurchschnittlich hohe Temperaturen. Am Tag der Gletschermessung war das Wetter sehr schön und mit 16°C recht mild. Der Gletscher zeigt viel blankes Eis. Die Gletscherzungue ist mit viel Blockschutt und Feinmaterial beladen. Die markierten Basispunkte sind mit Ausnahme von PN nach wie vor gut auffindbar. Die Gletscherrandlinie wurde wie in den letzten Jahren mit dem GPS-Gerät aufgenommen (Knickpunkte / Gletschertore). Insgesamt sind 15 Randpunkte eingemessen worden. Um die Werte der neuen Messungen in die alte Messreihe zu integrieren, wurden die Distanzen von den einzelnen Fixpunkten bis zum Gletscherrand mit dem vorgegebenen Azimut (118°) unter Berücksichtigung des Höhenunterschiedes umgerechnet. Der Rückzug ist etwa gleich gross wie im Vorjahr. (M. Maikoff)

90 Silvretta

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 9.9.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ.
(VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 9.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ.
(VAW/ETHZ – A. Bauder)

91 Sardona

2008: Die Kontrolle fand am 25. September statt. Es lag leichter Schnee sowohl auf dem Gletscher, wie auch im Vorfeld. Der Gletscherrand war in den Linien 1-5 gut erkennbar. Nach wie vor existiert das letztes Jahr erwähnte Bodeneisfeld weiter südlich der Linie 1. Der durchschnittliche Rückgang hat sich gegenüber 2007 wesentlich reduziert, liegt aber immer noch bei 7.6 m. Wir haben darauf verzichtet, den Schnittpunkt der Linie 6 wieder zu bestimmen. Dieser Eisteil ist kaum mehr Bestandteil des Gletschers und da der Schnitt zudem hangparallel ausfällt würde ein Einbezug die Längenveränderung eher zu gering erscheinen lassen. Wie letztes Jahr angetönt, haben wir eine neue Messlinie festgelegt und eingemessen. Die Punkte 1-4 haben wir nach vorne verlegt. Im Bereich der Linie 5 konnte kein geeigneter Punkt für eine Messung gefunden werden, so dass auf dem bestehenden Punkt 5 verblieben wird. Mit den neuen Punkten werden die Distanzen kürzer und die Sicht vom Punkt auf den Gletscherrand ist auf allen Linien möglich. (T. Brandes)

2009: Die Kontrolle erfolgte am 28. August. Nach Sonne am Anfang zog Bewölkung auf. Es lag kein Schnee. Die Messung erfolgte an den gleichen Punkten wie 2008. Das Finden von guten Fixpunkten für die Messlinie gestaltet sich schwierig. Die Punkte 1B und 3B dürften auf anstehendem, festen Fels liegen. 2B und 4B sind grössere Steine, welche als stabil erachtet werden. In der Regel ist ein Gletscherrand in allen Linien deutlich erkennbar. Durch den Rückzug des Gletschers bleiben aber verschiedene Eisflächen im Vorfeld zurück, welches meist von Schutt überdeckt ist. Zudem wirkt der Gletscherrand gelappt, sodass Abweichungen in der Richtung rasch unterschiedliche Masse ergeben. Beim Punkt 2B dürfte die Messung 2008 zu weit gegangen sein: der Gletscherrand wurde über einer Schuttfläche bestimmt, welche auch aus Eis und Moränenmaterial gebildet wird. Eis konnte aber schon deutlich weiter unten festgestellt werden. Für die Bestimmung des Schwundes wird auf die alte Randbestimmung zurückgegriffen. Dies, weil sich die Kante gegenüber 2008 markant zurückgebildet hat (der 2008 auf der Kante liegende Block ist abgestürzt). Auch wenn der Rückgang in Meter gegenüber den Vorjahren bescheiden ausfällt (Durchschnitt: 2.1 m), bietet das Bild vor Ort einen in Auflösung befindlichen Gletscher. (T. Brandes)

92 Roseg

2008: Erneuter Holzfund. Viel Toteis auf linker Seite. Die Kaverne linksseitig besteht noch. (G. Bott)

2009: Starker Abschmelzprozess linksseitig. Rechter Zungenrand ist beim neuen Gletschertor aus dem See geschmolzen. Die Grotte von 2008 ist abgeschmolzen. (G. Bott)

93 Tschierva

2008: Es wurden zahlreiche Felsplatten freigelegt. (G. Bott)

2009: Links- und rechtsseitig ist je ein Felskopf vom Eis freigelegt. Diverse Holzfunde inkl. altem Eispickel/Stiel. (G. Bott)

94 Morteratsch

2008: Die linksseitige Zunge ist mit Geröll überdeckt und "dicker". Die Messung erfolgte ab dem Fixpunkt 2004 konventionell und mit GPS. (G. Bott)

2009: Linksseitige Zunge stark mit Geröll überdeckt. Messung ab Fixpunkt 2004. Höhlensystem ist abgeschmolzen. (G. Bott)

95 Calderas

2008: Die alten Gletscherstände ab 1893 wurden mit Alutafeln markiert. Die Gletscherzunge wurde enger und sehr dünn. Neuer Fixpunkt für Messungen ab 2009 mit neuer Messrichtung = (243^g) (G. Bott)

2009: Messpunkt neu ab 2009. Viel Toteis, ohne Kontakt zur Hauptzunge. Enormer Schmelzprozess und Bildung eines sehr grossen Baches. (G. Bott)

96 Tiatscha

2008: Die Gletscherbäche führen wenig Wasser. Es herrschten gute Messbedingungen. (G. Bott)

2009: Die Gletscherzunge ist dünner geworden und es fliesst sehr viel Schmelzwasser. Links ist ein grosses Gletschertor entstanden. Beim Messpunkt C ist eine Eisnase vorgestossen. Bei Messpunkt E liegen Eisbrocken des Eisfalls. (G. Bott)

97 Sesvenna

2008: Konventionelle Messmethode & Zungenlinie mit GPS. (G.C. Feuerstein)

2009: Konventionelle Messmethode & Zungenlinie mit GPS. (G.C. Feuerstein)

98 Lischana

2008: Konventionelle Messmethode & Zungenlinie mit GPS. (G.C. Feuerstein)

2009: Keine Messung möglich (früher Wintereinbruch). (G.C. Feuerstein)

99 Cambrena

2008: Laghetto di fronte ai punti 1-3 (nessun pericolo). (G. Berchier)

2009: Aufgrund Verletzung und früher Schneefälle keine Einmessung möglich. (D. Steiner)

100 Palü

2008: Misurazione con Distomat (G. Berchier)

2009: Aufgrund Verletzung und früher Schneefälle keine Einmessung möglich. (D. Steiner)

101 Paradisino (Camp)

2008: Il lato N del ghiacciaio, esposto al sole, si ritira sempre più, mentre la parte S, ai piedi del Corn da Camp, rimane invariato, perché protetto dalla ghiaia e dell'ombra. (G. Berchier)

2009: Aufgrund Verletzung und früher Schneefälle keine Einmessung möglich. (D. Steiner)

103 Bresciana

2008: Il fronte di questo ghiacciaio si trova attualmente a una quota di 2939 mslm. La parte terminale del ghiacciaio ha un andamento orizzontale ed è molto ripida. La lingua continua ad appiattirsi ed il confronto fatto su alcuni punti tra il profilo del 2003 e del 2008 mostra una diminuzione con una variazione di spessore tra i 9.00 e 11.30 metri. Il ghiacciaio è arretrato in media 7.0 m rispetto al 2007. (C. Valeggia)

2009: Il fronte di questo ghiacciaio si trova ora a una quota di 2938 mslm. La parte terminale del ghiacciaio ha un andamento orizzontale ed è molto ripida. Il confronto con il 2008 mostra una diminuzione di spessore tra i 0.50 ed i 1.15 metri ed un arretramento medio di 2.7 m. (C. Valeggia)

104 Basodino

2008: Il fronte del ghiacciaio continua ad appiattirsi e a diminuire di spessore. Il confronto tra il profilo del 2007 e quello del 2008 mostra, nella zona misurata, una perdita di spessore di 2 metri. L'arretramento medio rispetto al 2007 è stato di 12.40 m. (C. Valeggia)

2009: Il confronto tra il profilo del 2008 e quello del 2009 mostra, nella zona misurata, una perdita di spessore di 0.70 metri. L'arretramento medio rispetto al 2008 è stato di 2.70 m. (C. Valeggia)

105 Rossboden

2008: Bereits bei der Gletscherkontrolle im Jahr 2007 wurde darauf hingewiesen, dass eine Trennung zwischen dem oberen und dem unteren Teil stattfindet. Durch die Schutt und Geröllauflage ist aber eine genaue Abklärung sehr schwer. Auf Grund der heutigen Situation haben wir uns entschlossen, im mittleren Bereich einen Messpunkt einzurichten. Von diesem markanten Stein aus kann man in den nächsten Jahren die Kontrollen sehr gut durchführen. Die stärkste Veränderung ist im unteren Teil des Gletschers, wo der See liegt, festzustellen. Der See ist bedeutend kleiner als im Vorjahr, die Eiswand, die zum See führt, ist viel weniger hoch. Die Eisdicke im unteren Teil hat stark abgenommen. Der Hauptgletscher ist viel stärker mit Geröll zugedeckt. (G. Zurbriggen)

2009: Keine Messungen aber Dokumentation mit Fotos. Im Sommer kam es zu einem grösseren Abbruch. Die Messstelle aus dem Jahr 2008 wurde verschüttet. Zum jetzigen Zeitpunkt ist er nicht mehr sichtbar. Auf eine Messung wird daher verzichtet. Zwischen dem eigentlichen Hauptgletscher oben und dem unteren Teil gibt es keine Verbindung mehr. Auf einer Felskuppe wird ein neuer Messpunkt eingerichtet. Der untere Teil wird beobachtet, allerdings werden keine Messungen vorgenommen. Trotz der Verschüttungen durch den Abbruch kann man im Bereich der Seen wieder einen Rückgang feststellen. Die Eiswand, die zum See führt, ist wieder weniger hoch. (G. Zurbriggen)

109 Alpetli (Kanderfirn)

2009: Kleines Gletschertor (U. Fuhrer)

111 Ammerten

2008: Die Messung konnte zu einem relativ späten Zeitpunkt im Oktober ohne Probleme durchgeführt werden. Durch das perfekte Herbstwetter und den sogar noch zu selben Nacht gefallenen Schnee, hoben sich die Konturen des Gletschers auf eine speziell schöne Art hervor. Allerdings erscheinen mir die unterhalb der letzten Steilstufe befindlichen Geröllansammlungen und Hügel mehr und mehr fragwürdig. Ich gehe davon aus, dass wir in ein paar Jahren hochzusteigen haben, um zu überprüfen, inwiefern die unterste Gletscherzunge noch mit dem oberen Gletscher zusammenhängend ist. Auf der linken Seite der Felsinsel scheint grundsätzlich kein Nachschub mehr zum unteren Teil dazukommen. Den Messpunkt 4 werde ich definitiv nicht mehr messen, dafür haben wir jetzt Punkt 5, der viel genauer ist. (W. Hodel)

2009: Die Messung am P5 hat dieses Jahr eine längere Messdistanz als zum Vorjahr. Die Messung erfolgte aber in der exakt gleichen Linie - lediglich die Distanz wurde verlängert, da ich einen besseren witterungsgeschützten Geländepunkt gefunden hab. Die Bedingungen für die Feldbegehung waren wie letztes Jahr nahezu optimal. Kurz vor Einwinterung - erster Schnee, aber messpunkte schneefrei. Zum Vorjahr hat sich sehr wenig verändert, was sich deutlich in den Messwerten spiegelt. Nebst dem trockenen Herbst war der Sommer nicht extrem heiß. Das Eis konnte sich unter der Geröllecke gut halten. Der Nachschub zur Gletscherzunge scheint indes aber auch nicht mehr sehr stark zu sein, da sich auch kein leichtes eindeutiges Wachstum abzeichnet hat. (W. Hodel)

112 Dungel

2008: Der Gletscher war zur Zeit der Vermessung vollständig mit Neuschnee bedeckt. Die Gletscherzunge hob sich so deutlich vom nur wenig Schnee aufweisenden Gletschervorfeld ab, sodass eine reguläre Vermessung möglich war. (A. Wipf)

2009: Am Gletscher herrschten ideale Bedingungen für die Vermessung. Die Gletscherzunge konnte auf der ganzen Länge vermessen werden. Der Gletscher ist wieder leicht zurückgeschmolzen. (A. Wipf)

113 Gelten

2008: Obwohl um die Gletscherzunge noch etwas Neuschnee lag, konnte diese zuverlässig gemessen werden. Der Schwund hat sich wie in den vorangegangenen Jahren insbesondere auf der NW-Seite der Gletscherzunge abgespielt (asymmetrische Gletscherzunge). Der orographisch rechte Teil der Gletscherzunge ist durch seine Schuttbedeckung etwas vor dem Abschmelzen geschützt. Bei diesem Bereich dürfte es sich um Toteis handeln, da hier die Zunge seit dem Jahr 2005 die Verbindung zum oberen Teil verloren hat. (A. Wipf)

2009: Die Verhältnisse waren für eine Vermessung ideal: leicht schneebedeckte Zunge und schneefreies Umfeld. Der Gletscher ist weiter abgeschmolzen, insbesondere auf der südost-exponierten Seite schreitet der Schwund rasant voran. Auf den Vergleichsfotos ist auch festzustellen, dass die Eisdicke im Bereich des Plateaus (ca. 2680 m) abgenommen hat. (A. Wipf)

114 Plattalva

2009: Punkt 5: Rand spitzwinklig zu Messrichtung. Gletscher vollständig ausgeapert. (U. Steinegger)

115 Scaletta

2008: Bei Punkt D Lawinenschnee, vermutlich von Anfang April 2008 (B. Teufen)

2009: Massiver Gletscherschwund seit 2005. Gletscher hat sich mehr oder weniger in 4 Teile geteilt. Diese sind alle sehr klein und ein eigentliches Abfließen nach unten findet kaum mehr statt, da sie von oben zu wenig genährt werden. Beim unteren Gletscherteil, der heute von uns gemessen wurde, handelt es sich um Toteis. Ein Messpunkt wurde von einem Felssturz vollständig zertrümmert. Das Gebiet ist bei warmen Wetter sehr aktiv. (B. Teufen)

117 Valleggia

2008: Ha una lingua che termina in un avvallamento delimitato da uno sperone roccioso e dal versante disgregato della quota 2626 mslm. Il suo fronte non è più così ripido come gli anni precedenti, lo spessore di ghiaccio sciolto dal 2008 varia tra i 2.55 ed i 3.90 metri. L'arretramento medio rispetto al 2007 è di 9.14 m. (C. Valeggia)

2009: Il suo fronte continua ad appiattirsi e la diminuzione di spessore dal 2008 al 2009 è notevole (1.50 e 2.20m). L'arretramento medio rispetto al 2008 è stato di 0.80 m. (C. Valeggia)

118 Val Torta

2008: Il ghiacciaio si è appiattito notevolmente senza avere una coltre di ghiaccio molto consistente ed è in gran parte ricoperto da detriti di roccia. Il ghiacciaio è in fase di estinzione (ghiaccio morto) non ha più alimentazione e, probabilmente, scomparirà nei prossimi anni! La spessore di ghiaccio sciolto nel 2008 è di 1.50 metri. L'arretramento medio rispetto al 2007 è stato di 12.00 m. (C. Valeggia)

2009: Il ghiacciaio è in fase di estinzione (ghiaccio morto) e non ha più una zona di alimentazione. La parte terminale del ghiacciaio è ricoperta da neve con uno spessore che varia tra 0.30 a 4.50 m. Dal 2008 non ci sono state variazioni di lunghezza. (C. Valeggia)

119 Cavagnoli

2008: La parte terminale del ghiacciaio continua a ritirarsi, ad appiattirsi e a perdere spessore (da 4.30 a 8.60 m dal 2007 al 2008). Il ritiro è favorito dal fatto che il ghiacciaio termina in un laghetto formatosi una decina di anni fa nel terreno pianeggiante. Ad alcune decine di metri dal fronte, parallelo al medesimo, nel 2007 il grosso crepaccio si è distaccato e la massa di ghiaccio è ceduta. Il ghiacciaio non dispone più di una zona di accumulo e la tendenza in atto da parecchi anni, di dividersi in campi isolati di ghiaccio morto, continua. Lo spessore di ghiaccio sciolto dal 2008 è di 3.00 metri. L'arretramento medio rispetto al 2007 è stato di 20.64 m. (C. Valeggia)

2009: La parte terminale del ghiacciaio continua a ritirarsi, ad appiattirsi e a perdere spessore. Il ritiro è favorito dal fatto che il ghiacciaio termina in una zona pianeggiante con un laghetto formatosi una decina di anni fa e rilevato anche nell'ultima edizione della CN1:25000. Il ghiacciaio non dispone più di una zona di accumulo e la tendenza in atto da parecchi anni, di dividersi in campi isolati di ghiaccio morto, continua. Lo spessore di ghiaccio sciolto nel 2009 varia da 1.00 a 1.40 metri. L'arretramento medio rispetto al 2008 è stato di 4.50 m. (C. Valeggia)

120 Corno

2008: Il ghiacciaio si ritira sempre di più sopra una fascia di rocce ripide e si è praticamente diviso in due parti : Una con zona die accumulazione ed ablazione che dal 2007 al 2008 ha perso 2.00 metri di spessore, l'altra con ghiaccio morto. L'arretramento medio rispetto al 2007 è stato di 4.00 m. (C. Valeggia)

2009: La parte di ghiacciaio rimasta attiva con zona di accumulo ed una di ablazione non ha perso di spessore nel periodo 2008-2009 ma è arretrata. L'arretramento medio rispetto al 2008 è stato di 1.30 m. (C. Valeggia)

173 Seewinen

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 29.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Kraftwerke Mattmark AG. (VAW/ETHZ – H. Bösch)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Kraftwerke Mattmark AG. (VAW/ETHZ – H. Bösch)

174 Hohlaub

2008: Luftbildaufnahmen am 29.8.2008, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Kraftwerke Mattmark AG. (VAW/ETHZ – H. Bösch)

2009: Luftbildaufnahmen am 7.9.2009, photogrammetrische Auswertung durch VAW/ETHZ im Auftrag der Kraftwerke Mattmark AG. (VAW/ETHZ – H. Bösch)

352 Crosrina

2008: La lingua del ghiacciaio è ormai molto in alto sopra il laghetto formatosi all'inizio degli anni novanta, che ha assunto la sua forma definitiva. La lingua continua ad appiattirsi ed il confronto fatto su alcuni punti tra il profilo del 2007 e del 2008 mostra una diminuzione di spessore di 2.00 metri. L'arretramento medio rispetto al 2007 è stato di 2.40 m. (C. Valeggia)

2009: Il rilievo del profilo non ha mostrato variazioni di spessore mentre la lunghezza si è ridotta in media di 0.50 m. (C. Valeggia)

353 Vadrecc di Camadra

2008: Questo ghiacciaio si trova nel comune di Ghirone ad una quota di 2921 mslm, tra la Cima di Camadra ed il Piz Medel. Il ghiacciaio è stato misurato la prima volta il 29.8.2005. Nel 2008 il ghiacciaio non è stato misurato. (C. Valeggia)

2009: Nel 2009 il ghiacciaio non è stato misurato. (C. Valeggia)

C Investigators

C.1 Length Variation (2009)

| Glacier | No. | Investigator |
|----------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Albigna | 116 | currently not observed |
| Allalin | 11 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Alpetli (Kanderfirn) | 109 | KAWA/BE, Ueli Fuhrer |
| Ammerten | 111 | Walter Hodel |
| Arolla (Mont Collon) | 27 | DWL/VS, Frédéric Pralong |
| Basòdino | 104 | SF/TI, Claudio Valeggia |
| Bella Tola | 21 | currently not observed |
| Biferten | 77 | Hanspeter Klauser |
| Blüemlisalp | 64 | KAWA/BE, Ueli Fuhrer |
| Boveyre | 41 | DWL/VS, James Medico |
| Breney | 36 | Jean-Jacques Chablotz |
| Bresciana | 103 | SF/TI, Claudio Valeggia |
| Brunegg (Turtmann) | 20 | currently not observed |
| Brunni | 72 | AFJ/UR, Jann Marx |
| Calderas | 95 | AfW/GR, Giachem Bott |
| Cambreña | 99 | AfW/GR, Gilbert Berchier |
| Cavagnoli | 119 | SF/TI, Claudio Valeggia |
| Cheillon | 29 | DWL/VS, Olivier Bourdin |
| Corbassière | 38 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Corno | 120 | SF/TI, Claudio Valeggia |
| Croslina | 352 | SF/TI, Claudio Valeggia |
| Damma | 70 | AFJ/UR, Jann Marx |
| Dungel | 112 | Andreas Wipf |
| Eiger | 59 | KAWA/BE, Rudolf Zumstein |
| En Darrey | 30 | DWL/VS, Olivier Bourdin |
| Fee (Nord) | 13 | DWL/VS, Urs Andenmatten |
| Ferpècle | 25 | DWL/VS, Frédéric Pralong |
| Fiescher | 4 | DWL/VS, Peter Aschilier |
| Findelen | 16 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Firnalpeli (Ost) | 75 | AWR/OW, Urs Walser |
| Forno | 102 | AfW/GR, Heiko Lohre |
| Gamchi | 61 | KAWA/BE, Roland Descloux |
| Gauli | 52 | Rudolf Straub |
| Gelten | 113 | Andreas Wipf |

| Glacier | No. | Investigator |
|--------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| Giétro | 37 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Glärnisch | 80 | Hanspeter Klauser |
| Gorner | 14 | Stefan Walther |
| Grand Désert | 31 | DWL/VS, François Vouillamoz |
| Grand Plan Névé | 45 | FFN/VD, J.-Ph. Marlétaz |
| Gries | 3 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Griess | 74 | AFJ/UR, Beat Annen |
| Griessen | 76 | AWR/OW, Urs Walser |
| Grosser Aletsch | 5 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Hohlaub | 174 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Hüfi | 73 | AFJ/UR, T. Arnold |
| Kaltwasser | 7 | DWL/VS, Martin Schmidhalter |
| Kehlen | 68 | AFJ/UR, Martin Planzer |
| Kessjen | 12 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Lang | 18 | DWL/VS, Hans Henzen |
| Lavaz | 82 | AfW/GR, Renaldo Lutz |
| Lenta | 84 | AfW/GR, Bernard Riedi |
| Limmern | 78 | Urs Steinegger |
| Lischana | 98 | AfW/GR, G. C. Feuerstein |
| Lämmern | 63 | KAWA/BE, Christian von Grünigen |
| Mittelaletsch | 106 | currently not observed |
| Moiry | 24 | Marcel Barmaz |
| Moming | 23 | DWL/VS, Pascal Stoebener |
| Mont Durand | 35 | Jean-Jacques Chabloz |
| Mont Fort (Tortin) | 32 | DWL/VS, François Vouillamoz |
| Mont Miné | 26 | DWL/VS, Frédéric Pralong |
| Morteratsch | 94 | AfW/GR, Giachem Bott |
| Mutt | 2 | Ueli Wittorf |
| Oberaar | 50 | Flotron AG |
| Oberaletsch | 6 | DWL/VS, Christian Theler |
| Oberer Grindelwald | 57 | Hans Boss |
| Otemma | 34 | Jean-Jacques Chabloz |
| Palü | 100 | AfW/GR, Gilbert Berchier |
| Paneyrosse | 44 | FFN/VD, J.-Ph. Marlétaz |
| Paradies | 86 | AfW/GR, Cristina Fisler |
| Paradisino (Campo) | 101 | AfW/GR, Gilbert Berchier |
| Pizol | 81 | KFA/SG, Thomas Brandes |
| Plattalva | 114 | Urs Steinegger |
| Porchabella | 88 | AfW/GR, Christian Barandun |
| Prapiro | 48 | FFN/VD, Jacques Binggeli |
| Punteglia | 83 | AfW/GR, Maurus Frei |
| Rhone | 1 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Ried | 17 | DWL/VS, Peter Rovina |
| Roseg | 92 | AfW/GR, Giachem Bott |
| Rossboden | 105 | DWL/VS, Gregor Zurbriggen |
| Rotfirn (Nord) | 69 | AFJ/UR, Martin Planzer |

| Glacier | No. | Investigator |
|---------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| Rätzli | 65 | currently not observed |
| Saleina | 42 | DWL/VS, James Medico |
| Sankt Anna | 67 | AFJ/UR, Jann Marx |
| Sardona | 91 | KFA/SG, Thomas Brandes |
| Scaletta | 115 | Bernardo Teufen |
| Schwarz | 62 | KAWA/BE, Evelyn Coleman Brantschen |
| Schwarzberg | 10 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Seewijnen | 173 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Sesvenna | 97 | AfW/GR, G. C. Feuerstein |
| Sex Rouge | 47 | FFN/VD, Jacques Binggeli |
| Silvretta | 90 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Stein | 53 | Rudolf Straub |
| Steinlimmi | 54 | Rudolf Straub |
| Sulz | 79 | AW/GL, Jürg Walcher |
| Suretta | 87 | AfW/GR, Cristina Fisler |
| Tiatscha | 96 | AfW/GR, Giachem Bott |
| Tiefen | 66 | AFJ/UR, Jann Marx |
| Trient | 43 | Jacques Ehinger |
| Trift (Gadmen) | 55 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Tsanfleuron | 33 | DWL/VS, J.-D. Brodard |
| Tschierva | 93 | AfW/GR, Giachem Bott |
| Tschingel | 60 | KAWA/BE, Rudolf Zumstein |
| Tseudet | 40 | DWL/VS, James Medico |
| Tsidjiore Nouve | 28 | DWL/VS, Frédéric Pralong |
| Turtmann | 19 | currently not observed |
| Unteraar | 51 | Flotron AG |
| Unterer Grindelwald | 58 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Val Torta | 118 | SF/TI, Claudio Valeggia |
| Valleggia | 117 | SF/TI, Claudio Valeggia |
| Valsorey | 39 | DWL/VS, James Medico |
| Verstankla | 89 | AfW/GR, Michel Maikoff |
| Vorab | 85 | AfW/GR, Jürg Brunold |
| Wallenbur | 71 | AFJ/UR, Pius Kläger |
| Zinal | 22 | Marcel Barmaz |
| Zmutt | 15 | currently not observed |

| | |
|----------|--|
| AFJ/UR | Amt für Forst und Jagd, Uri |
| AfW/GR | Amt für Wald, Graubünden |
| AW/GL | Abteilung Wald, Glarus |
| AWR/OW | Amt für Wald und Raumentwicklung, Obwalden |
| DWL/VS | Dienststelle für Wald und Landschaft/Service des forêts et du paysage, Wallis/Valais |
| FFN/VD | Service des forêts, de la faune et de la nature, Vaud |
| KAWA/BE | Amt für Wald, Bern |
| KFA/SG | Waldregion 3 Sargans, St. Gallen |
| SF/TI | Sezione forestale, Ticino |
| VAW/ETHZ | Versuchsanstalt für Wasserbau, Hydrologie und Glaziologie, ETH Zürich |

C.2 Mass Balance and Velocity

| Glacier | No. | Investigator |
|-------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| Allalin | 11 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Basòdino | 104 | Giovanni Kappenberger |
| Clariden | 141 | Giovanni Kappenberger |
| Corbassière | 38 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Findelen | 16 | GIUZ, Horst Machguth |
| Giétra | 37 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Gries | 3 | VAW/ETHZ, Martin Funk |
| Hohlaub | 174 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Oberaar | 50 | Flotron AG |
| Pizol | 81 | VAW/ETHZ / UFR, Matthias Huss |
| Schwarzberg | 10 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Silvretta | 90 | VAW/ETHZ, Andreas Bauder |
| Unteraar | 51 | Flotron AG |

C.3 Englacial Temperature

| Site (Glacier) | No. | Investigator |
|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| Colle Gnifetti (Gorner) | 14 | UFR, Martin Hoelzle |

VAW/ETHZ Versuchsanstalt für Wasserbau, Hydrologie und Glaziologie,
 ETH Zürich

GIUZ Geographisches Institut, Universität Zürich
UFR Département de Géosciences, Université de Fribourg