

Long-lived Stratospheric Ozone Depletion Over The South Pole During Spring 2015

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Stratospheric ozone loss during the Antarctic spring has been observed for several decades. The physical and chemical conditions leading to this loss are well understood, and in recent year some researchers have pointed to signs of recovery. Although the severity of ozone loss is usually gauged by the lowest amount of total column ozone (TCO), it could also be assessed by its geographical size, or persistence. During the Antarctic spring of 2015 the vortex surrounding the hole was unusually stable and measurement of TCO made with the Dobson spectrometer showed the longest-lived depletion period ever.

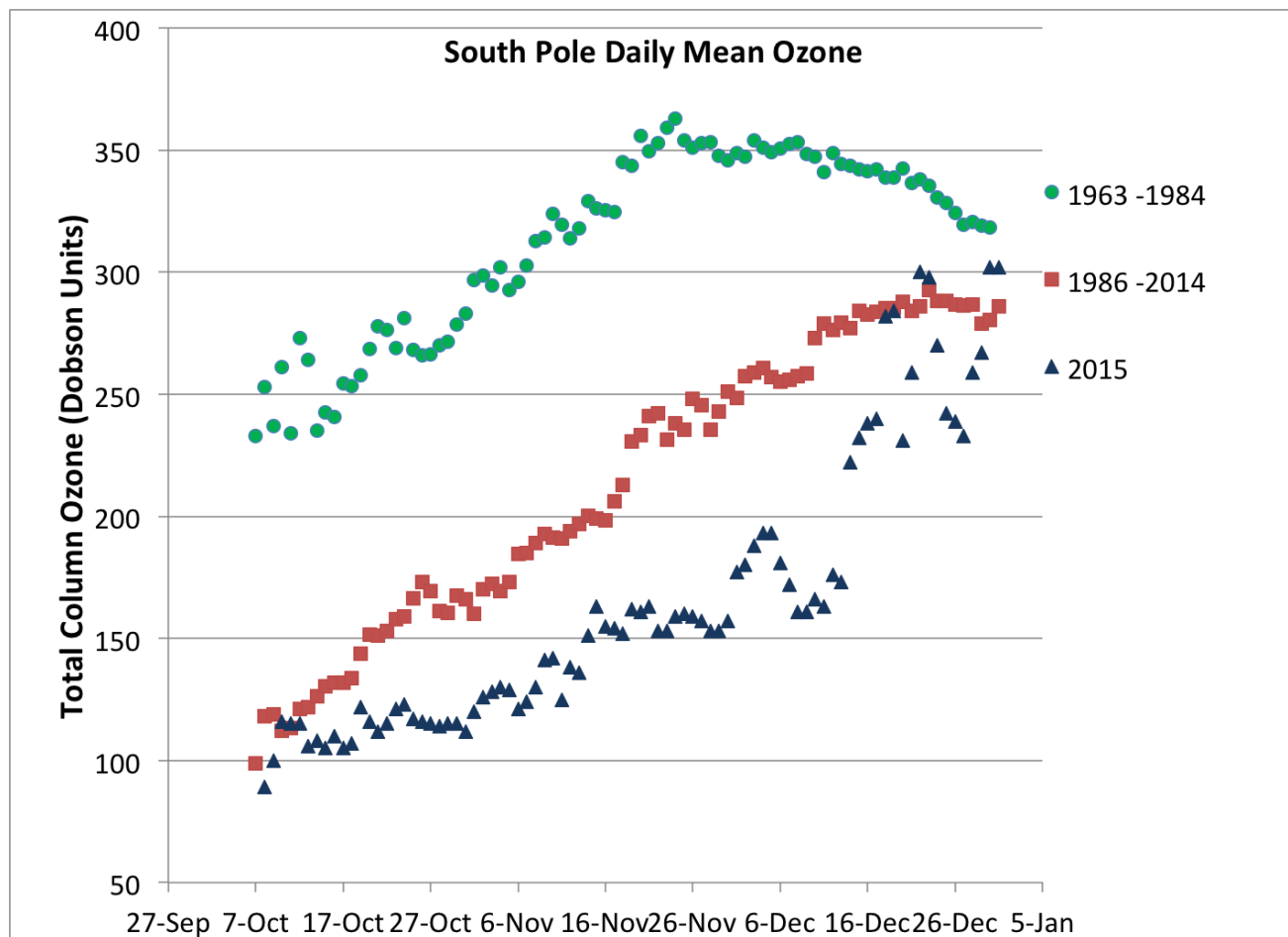


Figure 1. Plot of South Pole daily mean ozone by time period.