For the interested audience it is worth taking a look at the Arctic Sea Ice news for January.
http://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/

Seems indeed like the Atlantic inflow has remained close to the surface also this winter, and the thinning seems to have progressed to the point were there is no sea ice left in this region at all. Much like the situation from March 2012 in our Figure 2.

Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., 7, 245, 2013.