

FECN19 CWIS 191800

THIRTY DAY ICE FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR MID-MARCH TO MID-APRIL ISSUED BY THE NORTH AMERICAN ICE SERVICE ON 19 MARCH 2008. THE NEXT SCHEDULED ICE FORECAST WILL BE ISSUED ON 02 APRIL 2008.

Lake Superior

Below normal temperatures prevailed over the first 2 weeks of March. Ice conditions are now close to normal.

Forecast ice conditions from March 19th to March 31st

Below normal temperatures will continue over the forecast period.

1. Thunder Bay – Most of the bay will remain consolidated with thick and very thick lake ice. Medium lake ice will prevail in the entrance.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated with thick and very thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Thin and medium lake ice will prevail along the shore. However ice concentration will start to decrease rapidly late in the period.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Thin and medium lake ice will prevail during the first week of the period. Most of the ice will melt during the last week of March.
5. Southern Lake Superior west of Keweenaw Peninsula – Thick lake ice along most of the shore. Ice concentration to diminish late in the period. Signs of fracture will start to show around the Apostle Islands.
6. Southern Lake Superior east of the Keweenaw Peninsula – Little change during the first week of the period. Rapid decrease in ice concentration late in the period.
7. Whitefish Bay – Consolidated with thick and very thick lake ice.
8. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay – A 15 to 25 mile wide band of loose medium and thick lake ice will be present for most of the period. Rapid ice melt late in the period
9. From Michipicoten Bay to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – A 5 to 15 mile wide band of loose thin lake ice will be present early in the period. Rapid ice melt will occur during the last week of the month.
10. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Most of the ice in the western section will melt by month's end. Otherwise open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from April 01st to April 15th

Near to above normal temperatures are forecast.

1. Thunder Bay – Will remain consolidated with thick and very thick lake ice for most of the period. The western section will fracture during the second week of the period. Loose ice conditions prevailing in the entrance to the bay.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated with thick and very thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Open water conditions developing during the second week of April.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Open water conditions developing late in the first week of the forecast period.
5. Southern Lake Superior west of the Keweenaw Peninsula – Open water conditions developing during the second week of the period. The exception is around the

Apostle Islands where a significant amount of thick lake ice will still persist at mid-April.

6. Southern Lake Superior east of Keweenaw Peninsula – Most of the ice will melt before mid-month.
7. Whitefish Bay – The ice will fracture during the second week of the period. However close pack thick and very thick lake ice will prevail in most of the bay at the end of the forecast period.
8. From Whitefish Bay to Michipicoten Bay – Open water.
9. From Michipicoten Bay to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Open water.
10. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

Lake Michigan

Below normal temperatures were observed during the first 2 weeks of March.

Forecast ice conditions from March 19th to March 31st

Below normal temperatures are expected to continue during the last 2 weeks of March.

1. Green Bay – Consolidated with thick and very thick lake ice. However the northern section of the bay will fracture within a week into the forecast period.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan – Most of the ice southwest of Beaver Island and in Grand Traverse Bay will melt within a week into the forecast period. The northeast end of the lake will remain consolidated with thick and very thick lake ice. Otherwise little change.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – The coastal ice in the southern section of the lake will melt within a week into the forecast period. Otherwise open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from April 01st to April 15th

Temperatures will be near to above normal over the area.

1. Green Bay – The southern section will fracture a week into the forecast period. At the end of the forecast period the northern section will be open water while a significant amount of very thick lake ice persists in the southern section. At that time the Little and Big Bay de Noc will still be consolidated with very thick lake ice.
2. Northern Lake Michigan – The consolidated ice in the northeast end of the lake will fracture within a week into the forecast period and melt by mid-April.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Ice free except open water in the northern section.

Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Reported temperatures were below normal over the forecast area. In terms of break-up conditions are about a week late.

Forecast ice conditions from March 19th to March 31st

Below normal temperatures are expected over the next 2 weeks.

1. North Channel – Consolidated with thick and very thick lake ice.
2. St Mary’s River – Consolidated with thick and very thick lake ice.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron – Open water conditions developing within a week into the forecast period.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – Most of the mobile ice will melt during the last week of March. The area west of Bois Blanc Island will remain consolidated with thick and very thick lake ice throughout the period. Otherwise open water.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – The band of ice will melt during the second week of the period.
6. Saginaw Bay – The ice will fracture late in the period.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – The ice will gradually melt especially during the second week of the forecast period. At the end of March a narrow band of thick lake ice will persist along sections of the eastern shore.
8. Georgian Bay – A gradual decrease in ice concentration especially during the last week of the period. The consolidated ice will persist along the northeast shore.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron – Open water along the shore or ice edges and ice free in central Lake Huron.

Forecast ice conditions from April 01st to April 15th

Temperatures will be near to above normal for the entire area.

1. North Channel – The central section will fracture by mid-April. Otherwise no change.
2. St Mary’s River – The ice will gradually fracture during the period. Open water or loose ice areas will start to develop during the second week of the period.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron – Open water.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – The ice will fracture within a week into the forecast period and melt just before mid-month.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – Open water.
6. Saginaw Bay – Open water conditions developing a week to 10 days into the forecast period.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – The ice along the eastern shore will melt early in the period. Otherwise open water to ice free.
8. Georgian Bay – The mobile ice will melt within a week into the forecast period. The consolidated ice along the northeast shore will fracture by mid-April.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay – Open water except ice free in the central section.

Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Over the last 2 weeks temperatures have been below normal. In terms of break-up conditions are about 10 days late.

Forecast ice conditions from March 19th to March 31st

Temperatures will be generally below normal during the second half of March.

1. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin – The eastern section of Lake St Clair will fracture early in the forecast period then rapid melting is expected. Open water conditions will develop in the Western Basin and in Lake St Clair during the last week of the period.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – Moderate to rapid ice melt is expected. Open water conditions will develop in the western section late in the forecast period. In the eastern section of Lake Erie open water will also develop late in the period except for open drift to close pack conditions persisting south and east of Long Point Bay. The consolidated ice near Buffalo will fracture by month's end.

Forecast ice conditions from April 01st to April 15th

Temperatures will be near to above normal for the first half of April.

1. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin – Open water to ice free.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – Most of the ice will melt during the first week of the period except for patches of rotten thick lake ice in the eastern end of the lake.

Lake Ontario

Reported temperatures were below normal over the lake area during the past two weeks.

Forecast ice conditions from March 19th to March 31st

Below normal temperatures will continue over the forecast period.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – Most of the mobile ice in the northeast section of the lake will melt during the last week of March. At month's end signs of fracture will be visible in the entrance to the St Lawrence River. The consolidated ice along the northeast shore will persist.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
3. St Lawrence River – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Ice free with open water near the shore and along the ice edge.

Forecast ice conditions from April 01st to April 15th

Temperatures will be near normal for the first half of April.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – The ice in the entrance to the river and along the eastern shore will fracture early in the forecast period and melt 5 to 7 days later. Otherwise ice free except open water in the northeast end.
2. Bay of Quinte – The consolidated ice will fracture within a week into the forecast period and melt before mid-April.
3. St Lawrence River – The ice will fracture early in the period and melt a week or so later.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Ice free.

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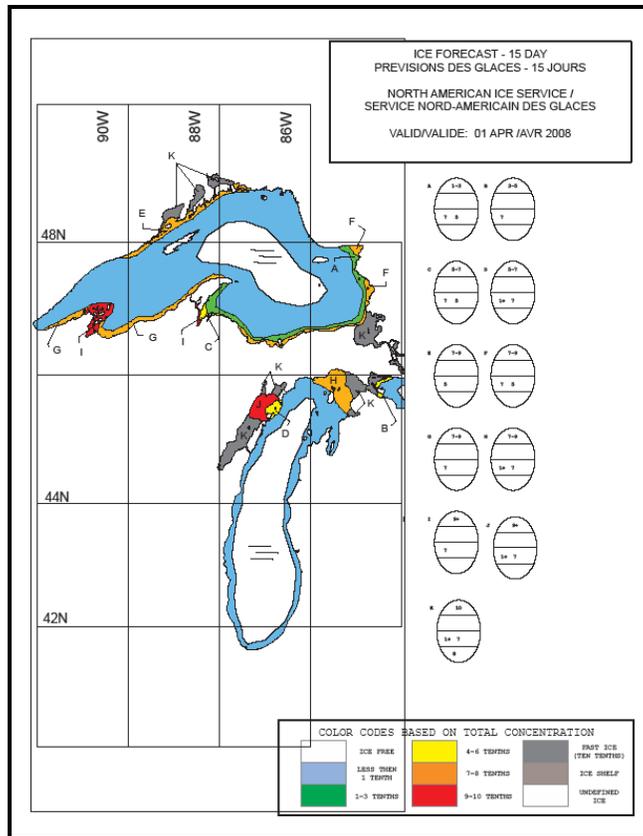


Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great lakes 01 April – 2008

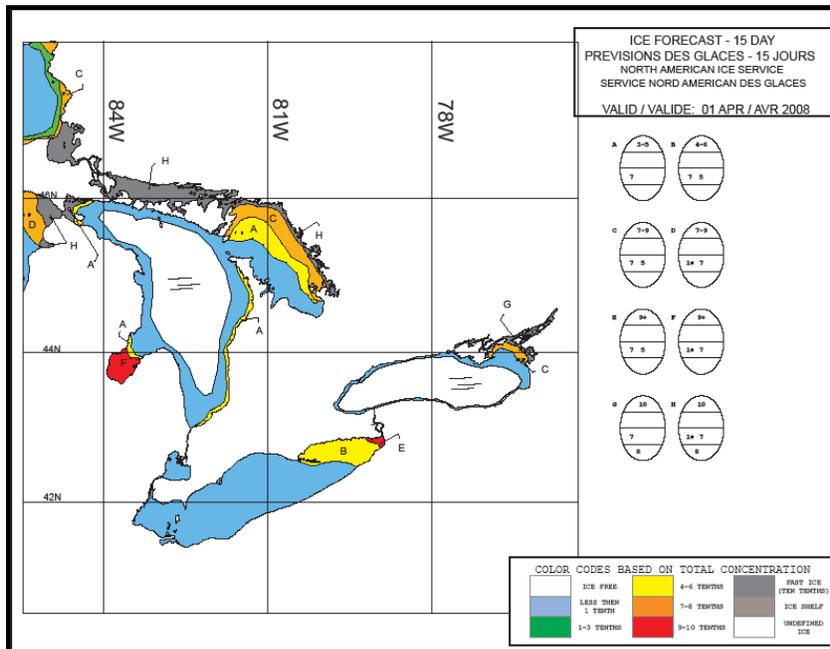


Figure 2: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes 01 April – 2008

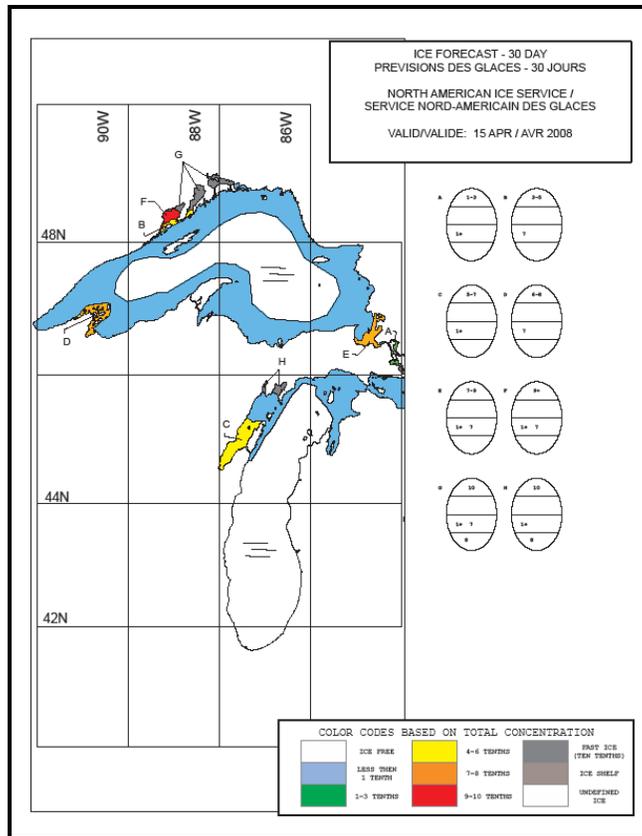


Figure 3: Ice forecast, Western Great lakes – 15 April 2008

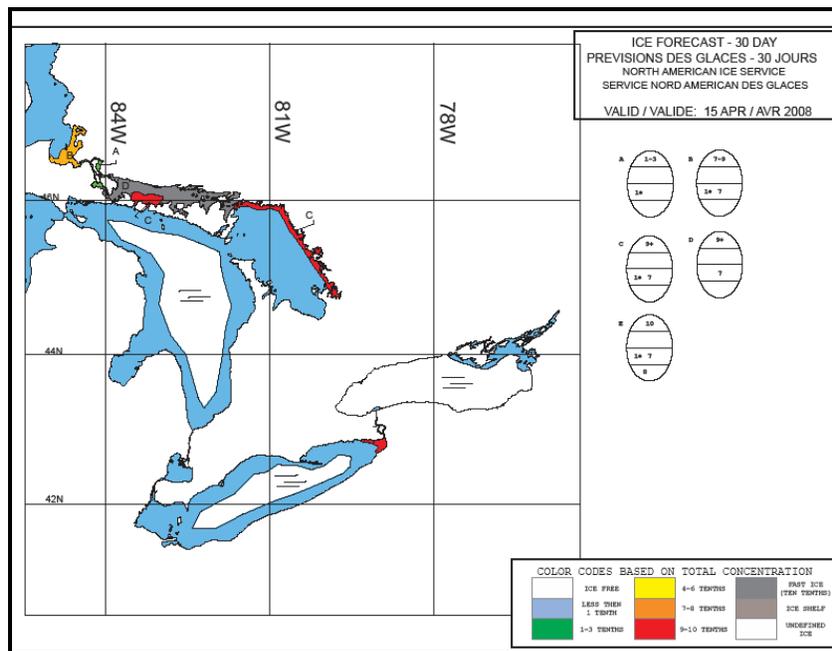


Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 April 2008