

FECN19 CWIS 191800

THIRTY DAY ICE FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR MID-DECEMBER TO MID-JANUARY ISSUED BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA ON 19 DECEMBER 2007. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED ON 04 JANUARY 2008.

Lake Superior

Since the beginning of December temperatures have been well below normal. As a result ice conditions are a week to 10 days ahead of normal in some areas.

Forecast ice conditions from December 19th to December 31st.

Above normal temperatures are generally expected over the Lake Superior area during the second half of December.

1. Thunder Bay – New lake ice will further develop during the period. By the end of December most of the bay will be covered with thin and new lake ice.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – The ice will continue to develop and by the end of December the bays will be covered by thin with some medium lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – A few patches of new lake ice will form during the last week of December.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Mainly open water.
5. Southern Lake Superior west of Keweenaw Peninsula – A narrow band of new and thin lake ice will persist throughout the period.
6. Southern Lake Superior east of the Keweenaw Peninsula – Mainly open water will prevail. Isolated patches of new lake ice to form late in the period.
7. Whitefish Bay – Narrow bands of new lake ice will prevail along the shore. Otherwise generally open water conditions will persist.
8. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay – Mainly open water will prevail during the period.
9. From Michipicoten Bay to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Mainly open water.
10. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th.

Temperatures will be near to above normal over the area.

1. Thunder Bay – The ice will continue to thicken during the period. By the middle of January, most of Thunder Bay will be consolidated with thin and medium thick lake ice. However the south central section of the bay will remain mobile.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated with medium and thin lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – A narrow band of new and thin lake ice will develop during the period.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Generally open water will prevail with occasional strips of new lake ice near the shore.
5. Southern Lake Superior west of the Keweenaw Peninsula – New and thin lake ice will continue to develop. At mid-January a 3 to 7 mile wide band of mostly thin lake ice will prevail along the shore. Some consolidated thin lake ice will form around the Apostle Islands during the first week of the year.

6. Southern Lake Superior east of Keweenaw Peninsula – Bands of new and thin lake ice will form within 2 to 6 miles along the shore especially during the second week of the period.
7. Whitefish Bay – New lake ice will spread over the rest of Whitefish Bay during the first week of January. By mid-month thin lake ice will predominate over the entire bay. Some consolidated thin and medium lake ice will be present in the smaller bays.
8. From Whitefish Bay to Michipicoten Bay – A 2 to 6 mile wide band of new and thin lake ice will form along the shore during the second week.
9. From Michipicoten Bay to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Mainly open water will prevail with some isolated patches of new and thin lake ice forming along the shore during the second week of January.
10. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

Lake Michigan

Below normal temperatures were observed during the first half of December over Lake Michigan. Ice conditions in Green Bay are about a week to 10 days earlier than normal in terms of ice formation.

Forecast ice conditions from December 19th to December 31st.

Temperatures are expected to stay above normal for the entire period.

1. Green Bay – Little ice expansion is expected during the second half of December in Green Bay. At the end of the year Little and Big Bay de Noc as well as the southern third of Green Bay will be consolidated with thin lake ice. At that time the rest of the bay will be mostly open water except for loose areas of new and thin lake ice in the central section.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan – Some new lake ice will begin to form near the entrance to the Straits of Mackinaw during the last week of December.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Mostly ice free with open water near the shore and ice edge.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th.

Temperatures will be near to above normal over the area.

1. Green Bay – During the first week of January, new lake ice will further develop and at mid-month the central section of Green Bay will be covered with mainly thin lake ice. The consolidated medium and thin lake ice in southern Green Bay will expand northward. The consolidated ice in the Little and Big Bay de Noc will thicken and reach the medium lake ice stage by mid-January.
2. Northern Lake Michigan – The ice in the northeastern portion of the lake will continue to expand southward and reach Beaver Island by the middle of January. The area will be covered with mostly thin lake ice. Some areas of consolidated thin lake ice could form along the shore near the Straits of Mackinaw.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Beyond the ice edge and shore mostly open water will prevail with the central portion of the lake being ice free. However loose areas of new lake ice could at times develop along the southern shore.

Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Reported temperatures were below normal during the first half of December. Ice conditions are a week to 10 days earlier than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from December 19th to December 31st.

Above normal temperatures are expected for the second half of December.

1. North Channel – Little new ice formation is expected over the next 5 days or so. New and thin lake ice will develop more rapidly during the last week of the year. By the end of December, most of the channel will be covered with thin and new lake ice. Some consolidated ice will form in the eastern and western portions of the channel during the last week.
2. St Mary's River – Will be consolidated with medium and thin lake ice.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron – Mainly open water except for some isolated patches of new lake ice along the shore during the last week of December.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – Open water with some patches of new ice forming along the shore late in December.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – Mainly open water with some loose areas of new and thin lake ice forming late in December.
6. Saginaw Bay – Thin lake ice will be predominant in the bay throughout the period. Consolidated thin lake ice will be present along the shore.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – Mostly open water conditions will prevail except for narrow bands of new and thin lake ice forming during the last week of the month.
8. Georgian Bay – A narrow band of consolidated thin lake ice will persist along most of the northeastern shore. A 2 to 6 mile wide band of new and thin lake ice will gradually develop along the northeastern shore during the last week of the year.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron – Open water along the shore or ice edge and ice free in central Lake Huron and in the south-western portion of Georgian Bay.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th.

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

1. North Channel – Most of the North Channel will be consolidated with medium and thin lake ice by the middle of January. However the central section will remain mobile and covered with mainly thin lake ice.
2. St Mary's River – Consolidated with medium lake ice.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron - New and thin lake ice will begin to form and expand. By the middle of January, the ice will extend to about 3 to 6 miles from the shore.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – The ice along the shore will continue to spread and reach Bois Blanc Island by the middle of January. Some consolidated medium lake ice will form along the shore.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – A narrow band of new lake ice will develop during the first week of the year. By mid-January a 4 to 8 mile wide band of thin lake ice will be present along most of the shore.

6. Saginaw Bay – Will become consolidated with medium lake ice during the second week of January.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – New and thin lake ice will begin to form along the southern shore south of Saginaw Bay and along the eastern shore during the first week of January. By mid-month a narrow band of thin with some medium lake ice will prevail along the eastern shore.
8. Georgian Bay – Ice growth and ice expansion will continue. By mid-January, the ice edge will extend about 10 to 20 miles from the shore. The ice will be mostly thin and medium lake ice. Some new and thin lake ice will form along the south-western shore during the second week of January.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay – Open water to ice free.

Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Temperatures were below normal over the region. Some coastal ice has developed in Lake St Clair and in the Western Basin which is close to 10 days earlier than normal.

Forecast ice conditions from December 19th to December 31st.

Temperatures will be above normal during the second half of December.

1. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin – Ice currently in these areas will melt during the next few days and give way to mostly open water conditions. During the last week of December some new and thin lake ice will begin to form in coastal areas.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – Thin lake ice will persist in Long Point and in Sandusky bays. Otherwise open water to ice free conditions will prevail.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th.

Temperatures will be near to below normal for the first two weeks of January.

1. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin – New and thin lake ice will gradually spread over Lake St Clair and the Western Basin during the period. At mid-January both areas will be covered with thin with some medium lake ice.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – During the first week of January, new and thin lake ice will form just east of the Western Basin and along parts of the northern shore of the lake. By mid-January a 5 to 10 mile wide band of new and thin lake ice will be present along the northern shore and parts of the southern shore. At that time the area of the lake west of Cleveland will be covered with thin and new lake ice.

Lake Ontario

Temperatures were below normal over the lake during the past two weeks. Ice has already formed in Bay of Quinte and in shallow bays along the eastern shore of Lake Ontario which is close to 2 weeks earlier than normal.

Forecast ice conditions from December 19th to December 31st.

Temperatures will be above normal during the period.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – Patches of new lake ice will form in the northeastern end of the lake during the last week of the year. Otherwise open water to ice free.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated with thin lake ice.
3. St Lawrence River – Some areas of new lake ice will persist throughout the period.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Ice free with open water near the shore.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th.

Temperatures will be near to below normal for the first half of January.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – The ice will continue to grow and spread during the first half of January. By the middle of January, a 4 to 8 mile wide band of thin lake ice will be present along the coast from Prince Edward County south-eastward to Stony Island. The coastal area of Prince Edward County will be covered with a narrow band of new and thin lake ice.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated medium lake ice at mid-month.
3. St Lawrence River – Most of the river will be covered with new and thin lake ice during the first week of January. By the middle of the month, the river will be mostly consolidated with thin and medium lake ice.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Mostly open water with ice free in the central portion of the lake. Isolated patches of new lake ice along the shore during the second week of the year.

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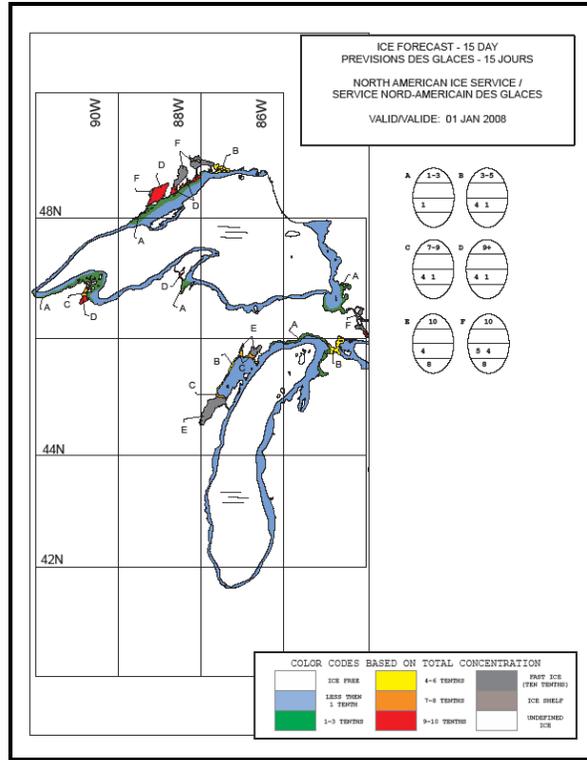


Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 1 January 2008

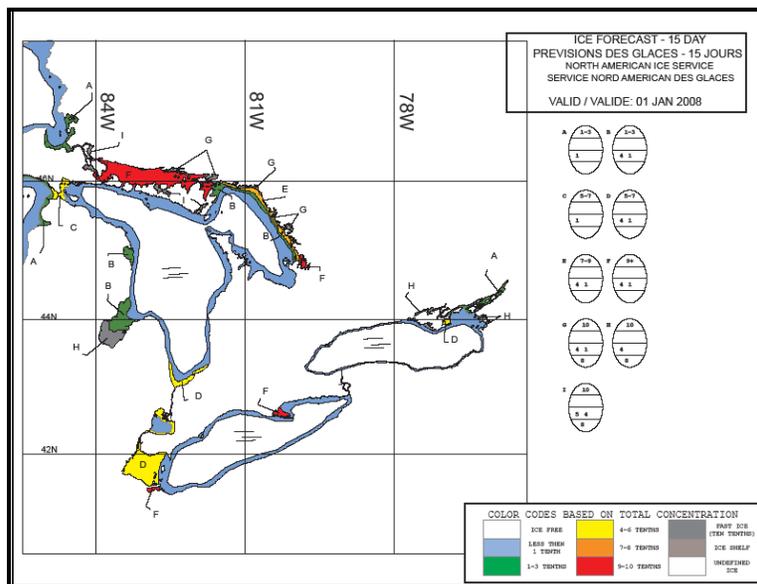


Figure 2: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 1 January 2008

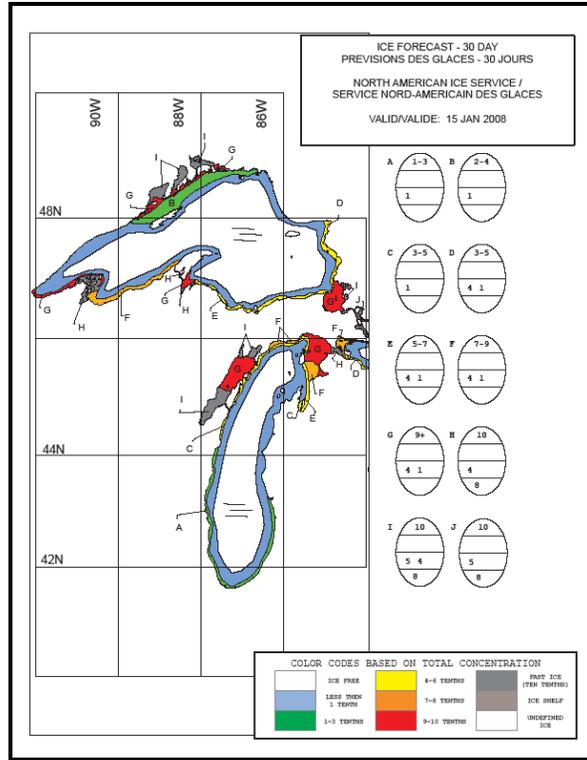


Figure 3: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 15 January 2008

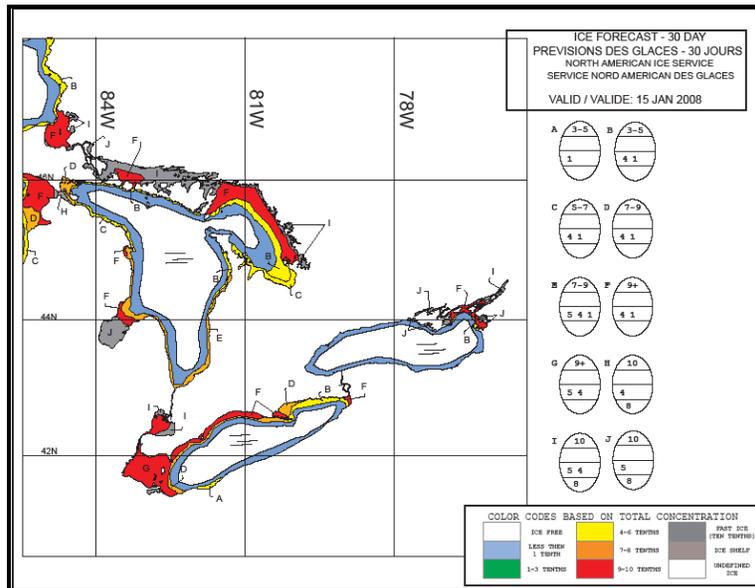


Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 January 2008