

FECN19 CWIS 151800

THIRTY DAY ICE FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR MID-FEBRUARY TO MID-MARCH ISSUED BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA ON 15 FEBRUARY 2008.
THE NEXT SCHEDULED BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED ON 05 MARCH 2008.

Lake Superior

Over the last 2 weeks near normal temperatures were generally reported except below normal over the northwestern section of the lake. Ice conditions remain close to 2 weeks behind normal.

Forecast ice conditions from February 16th to February 29th

Below normal temperatures will prevail for the first week of the forecast period. Near normal temperatures are expected over the second week.

1. Thunder Bay – The rest of the bay will be consolidated with thick lake ice early in the period.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – A 5 to 10 mile wide band of thin lake ice will gradually develop along the coast.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – A 5 to 10 mile wide band of thin lake ice will gradually develop.
5. Southern Lake Superior west of Keweenaw Peninsula – An 8 to 15 mile wide band of thin and medium lake ice will be present. In addition there will be a narrow band of mostly thick lake ice right along the shore. The ice around the Apostle Islands will remain consolidated.
6. Southern Lake Superior east of the Keweenaw Peninsula – A 5 to 10 mile wide band of thin with some medium lake ice will be present along the shore throughout the period.
7. Whitefish Bay – Consolidated with medium and thick lake ice.
8. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay – A 8 to 15 mile wide band of thin lake ice will be present along the shore.
9. From Michipicoten Bay to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Patchy new lake ice except for a 5 to 10 mile wide band of new and thin lake ice west of Marathon.
10. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free except for loose areas of new and thin lake ice in the western section developing early in the period.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to March 15th

Forecast temperatures will be near normal over the area.

1. Thunder Bay – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – A 15 to 25 mile wide band of thin and medium lake ice will predominate.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – A 15 to 25 mile wide band of thin lake ice will predominate.
5. Southern Lake Superior west of the Keweenaw Peninsula – Consolidated ice around the Apostle Islands. Otherwise a 10 to 20 mile wide band of medium and thick lake ice.

6. Southern Lake Superior east of Keweenaw Peninsula – A 8 to 15 mile wide band of medium lake ice.
7. Whitefish Bay – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
8. From Whitefish Bay to Michipicoten Bay – A 10 to 20 mile wide band of thin with some medium lake ice will be present throughout the period.
9. From Michipicoten Bay to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – A 10 mile wide band of thin lake ice will prevail west of Marathon. Otherwise patchy new and thin lake ice.
10. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – In the western section of the lake loose areas of thin and medium lake ice. Otherwise open water.

Lake Michigan

Slightly above normal temperatures were observed during the first 2 weeks of February.

Forecast ice conditions from February 16th to February 29th

Below normal temperatures are expected during the first week of the period. Near to slightly above normal temperatures are forecast for the last week of February.

1. Green Bay – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan – The northeast end of the lake will remain consolidated with thick lake ice. Thick lake will prevail east of Beaver Island. Thin lake ice will develop in Grand Traverse Bay and within 5 to 10 miles southwest of Beaver Island.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Bands of new and thin lake ice will persist along the shore over the first week of the period but will gradually melt during the second week. Otherwise mostly ice free with open water near the shore and ice edge.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to March 15th

Temperatures will be near normal over the area.

1. Green Bay – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
2. Northern Lake Michigan – The area northeast of Beaver Island will remain consolidated with thick lake ice. Thin and medium lake ice will be present within 10 miles southwest of Beaver Island and in Traverse Bay.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – The rest of the coastal ice will melt early in the forecast period. Then open water along the shore and ice edge and ice free in the central section.

Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Reported temperatures were generally above normal over the forecast area. Ice conditions are about 10 days behind normal.

Forecast ice conditions from February 16th to February 29th

Slightly below normal temperatures are expected over the next 2 weeks.

1. North Channel – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
2. St Mary's River – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron – A 5 to 10 mile wide band of thin lake ice will be present.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – The area west of Bois Blanc Island will consolidated early in the period with medium and thick lake ice. Thin and medium lake ice will prevail north, and within 20 miles east, of Bois Blanc Island.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – A 8 to 15 mile wide band of thin lake ice will prevail.
6. Saginaw Bay – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – Thin lake ice will generally predominate along the shore except for a narrow band of thick lake ice right along the eastern shore.
8. Georgian Bay – Thin and medium lake ice will gradually spread over most of the bay during the period. However thinner ice will generally prevail along the south-western 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 March 1st to March 15th

Temperatures will be near normal for the entire area.

1. North Channel – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
2. St Mary's River – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron – Most of the band of thin lake will melt by mid-March.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – The area from south of Bois Blanc Island to the Straits of Mackinaw will remain consolidated with thick lake ice. The ice north and east of Bois Blanc Island will start to melt late in the period.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – The 10 to 15 mile wide band of thin lake ice will persist but will start to melt late in the period.
6. Saginaw Bay – Consolidated with thick lake ice. Signs of break-up will appear during the second week of the forecast period.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – Thin and medium lake ice with a narrow band of thick lake ice right along the eastern shore. Ice will start to melt just before the end of the period.
8. Georgian Bay – Medium lake ice will predominate in most of the bay except thinner ice along the south-western shore.
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 generally been above normal. Ice extent is close to normal but ice thickness is less than normal.

Forecast ice conditions from February 16th to February 29th

Temperatures will be slightly below normal during the second half of February.

1. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin – Lake St Clair will be consolidated with mainly thick lake ice for most of the period. However signs of break-up will appear late in February. The Western Basin will be covered with medium and thick lake ice during the period. Ice will consolidate along parts of the shore of the basin early in the period.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – Medium and thin lake ice will prevail over most of the lake during the period. Some thick lake ice will develop along parts of the southern shore and in the northeast end of the lake. The coastal area near Buffalo will consolidate early in the period.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to March 15th

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

1. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin – The consolidated ice in Lake St Clair will fracture early in the period and significant melting is expected especially during the second week of March. Significant melting is also expected in the Western Basin during the period. At mid-March loose areas of medium and thick lake will still be present in parts of the basin.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – The western section of the lake will experience a moderate to rapid ice melt and at mid-March loose areas of medium and thick lake ice will prevail in the area. At that time the eastern section of the lake will remain covered with medium and thick lake ice except for looser ice conditions along the northern shore.

Lake Ontario

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

Forecast ice conditions from February 16th to February 29th

Temperatures will be slightly below normal during the period.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – The consolidated ice along the northeast shore will expand somewhat during the period. Thin and medium lake ice will predominate in the northeast section of the lake. New and thin lake ice will be present along the northern shore.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
3. St Lawrence River – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Patchy areas of new lake ice will develop along the shore. Otherwise ice free with open water near the shore and along the ice edge.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to March 15th

Temperatures will be near normal for first 2 weeks of March.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – Little change except for some melting of the mobile ice during the second week of the period.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
3. St Lawrence River – Consolidate with thick lake ice.

4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Patchy areas of new lake ice forming during the first week of the period. Otherwise ice free except open water along the shore and ice edge.

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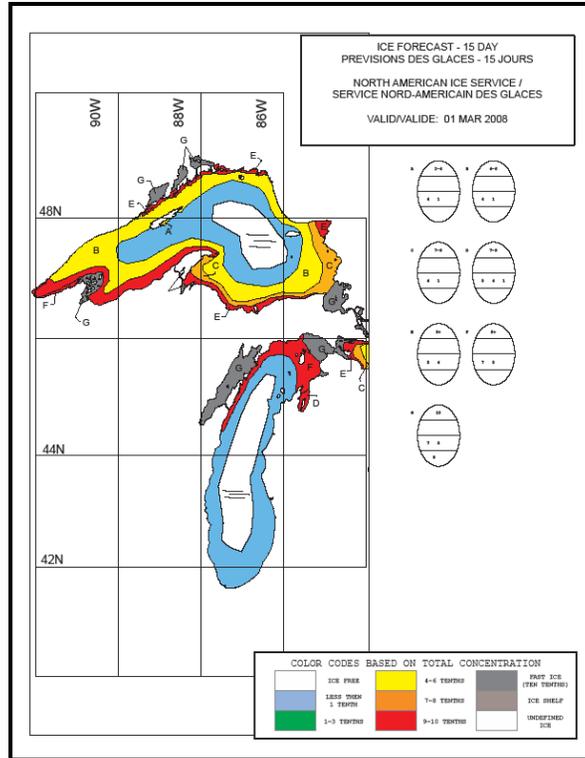


Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great lakes – 01 March – 2008

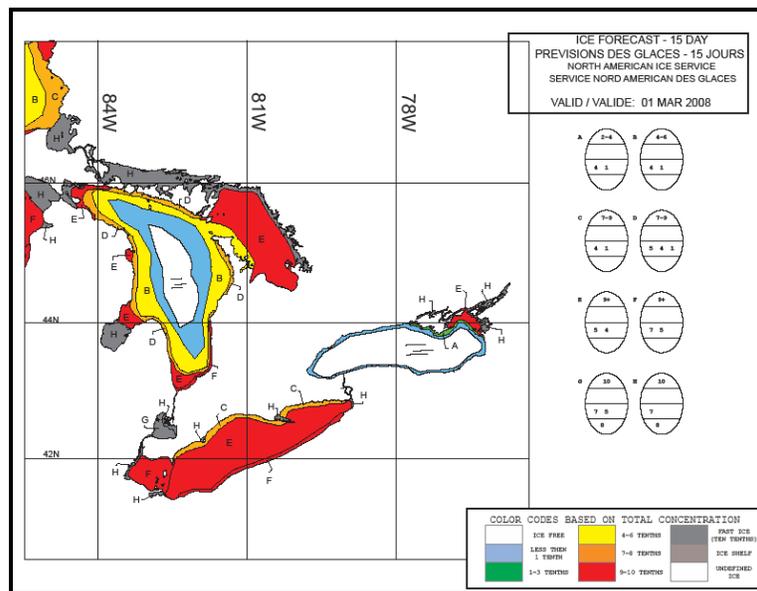


Figure 2: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes 01 March – 2008

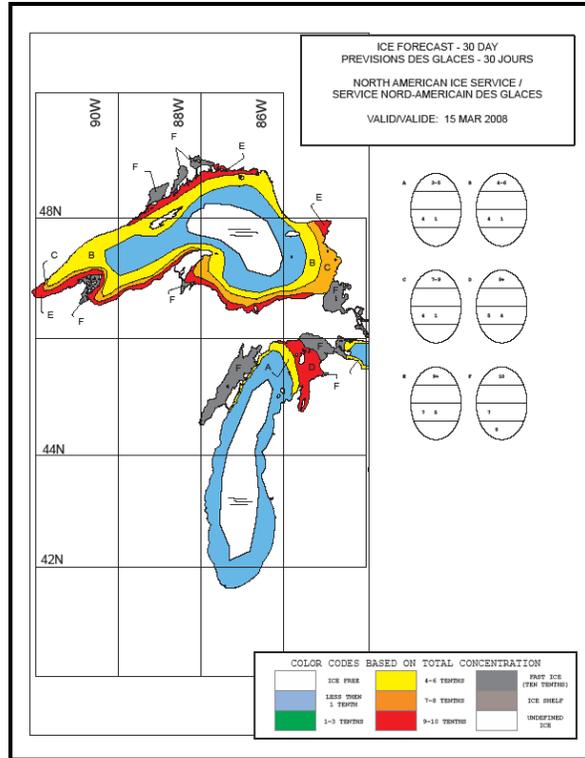


Figure 3: Ice forecast, Western Great lakes – 15 March 2008

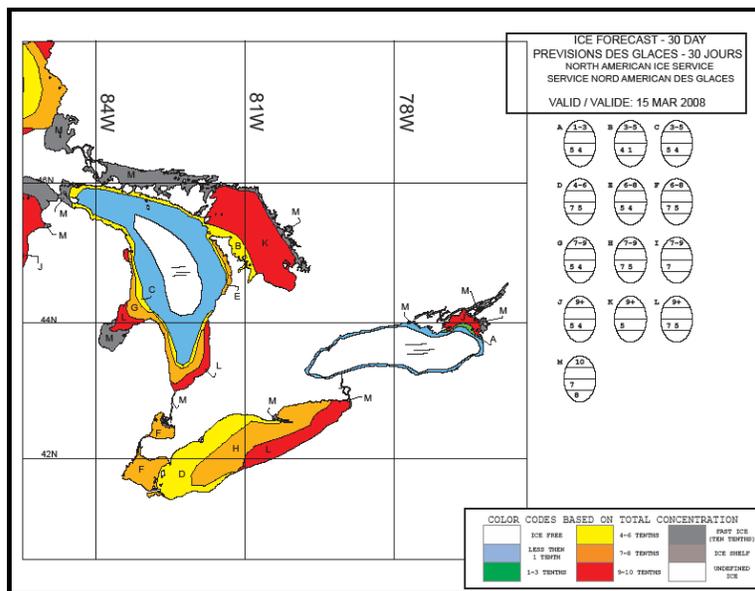


Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 March 2008