

FECN19 CWIS 051800

THIRTY DAY ICE FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR MARCH ISSUED BY  
ENVIRONMENT CANADA ON 05 MARCH 2008.  
THE NEXT SCHEDULED BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED ON 19 MARCH 2008.

### **Lake Superior**

Over the last 2 weeks of February below normal temperatures were generally reported. Ice conditions are a week to 10 days behind normal.

Forecast ice conditions from March 05<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>

Below normal temperatures will prevail over the forecast period.

1. Thunder Bay – Most of the bay will remain consolidated with thick lake ice. Thin with some medium lake ice will prevail in the entrance.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Thin and medium lake ice will prevail along the shore.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Thin and medium lake ice will prevail.
5. Southern Lake Superior west of Keweenaw Peninsula – An 8 to 20 mile wide band of medium and thick lake ice will be present. In addition there will be a narrow band of mostly thick lake ice right along the shore. The thick lake 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 medium with some thick lake ice will be present along the shore throughout the period.
7. Whitefish Bay – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
8. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay – A 15 to 25 mile wide band of medium and thick lake ice will be present.
9. From Michipicoten Bay to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – A 5 to 15 mile wide band of thin lake ice.
10. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free except for loose areas of thin lake ice in the western section.

Forecast ice conditions from March 16<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>

Forecast temperatures will be near normal over the area.

1. Thunder Bay – Will remain 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 – Most of the ice will melt during the last week of March.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Most of the ice will melt during the period.
5. Southern Lake Superior west of the Keweenaw Peninsula – A gradual decrease in ice concentration is expected. However loose areas of medium and thick lake ice will still persist at the end of the period. The ice around the Apostle Islands will start to fracture late in the forecast period.
6. Southern Lake Superior east of Keweenaw Peninsula – A narrow band of mostly thick lake ice will persist at the end of March.
7. Whitefish Bay – Consolidated with thick lake ice.

8. From Whitefish Bay to Michipicoten Bay – A gradual decrease in ice concentration is expected during the period.
9. From Michipicoten Bay to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Most of the ice will melt specially during the last week of March.
10. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – The loose ice areas in the western section will melt before the end of the period. Otherwise open water to ice free.

### **Lake Michigan**

Below normal temperatures were observed during the last 2 weeks of February.

Forecast ice conditions from March 05<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>

Below normal temperatures are expected during the first week of the period. Near normal temperatures are forecast for the second week of March.

1. Green Bay – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan – Little change during the first week of the period. During the second week most of the ice southwest of Beaver Island and in Grand Traverse Bay will melt. The northeast end of the lake will remain consolidated with thick lake ice.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – A gradual decrease in ice concentration along the eastern shore of the lake is expected and at the end of the period loose areas of medium lake ice will be present. Otherwise mostly ice free with open water near the shore and ice edge.

Forecast ice conditions from March 16<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>

Temperatures will be near normal over the area.

1. Green Bay – Most of the bay will remain consolidated. However signs of break-up will appear late in the period especially in the northern section.
2. Northern Lake Michigan – The consolidated ice in the northeast end of the lake will fracture during the last week of the forecast period. Significant ice melt is expected within the pack east of Beaver Island. Pieces of broken fast ice will occasionally drift out of Green Bay into the lake.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – The rest of the coastal ice will melt early in the forecast period. Then open water except ice free in the central section.

### **Lake Huron and Georgian Bay**

Reported temperatures were below normal over the forecast area. Ice conditions are now close to normal.

Forecast ice conditions from March 05<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>

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 be consolidated with thick lake ice. Otherwise thin and medium lake ice will prevail.
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 – Medium and thin lake ice will generally prevail along the shore. In addition areas of mainly thick lake ice will be found along the eastern shore from Sarnia northward to near Port Elgin. Ice will start to melt near the end of the period.
8. Georgian Bay – Thin and medium lake ice will predominate over the period.
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 16<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>

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 – The ice will melt during the last week in March.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – Most of the mobile ice will melt during the period. The consolidated thick lake ice will persist but signs of fracture will appear towards the end of the month.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – Most of the ice will melt during the period.
6. Saginaw Bay – The ice will fracture during the first week of the period. Then a slow decrease in ice concentration.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – A gradual decrease in ice concentration is expected. At the end of March patchy areas of thick lake ice will be found along the eastern shore.
8. Georgian Bay – A gradual decrease in ice concentration during the period. However at the end of the forecast period a significant amount of medium and thick lake ice will still persist.
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. Ice conditions are now close to normal in terms of extent and thickness.

Forecast ice conditions from March 05<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>

Temperatures will be slightly below normal during the first half of March.

1. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin – Signs of fracture in Lake St Clair will be evident early in the forecast period. The lake will completely fracture during the second week of the period. The Western Basin will remain covered with medium and thick lake ice during most of the period. However ice will start to melt late in the forecast period.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – Little change is expected during the first week of the period. Significant ice melt is expected towards mid-month especially in the western section of the lake. At mid-March the eastern section of the lake will be covered with medium with some thick lake ice. The coastal area near Buffalo will remain consolidated.

Forecast ice conditions from March 16<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>

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

1. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin – Rapid ice melt is expected and Lake St Clair and the Western Basin will become mainly open water within a week into the forecast period.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – Moderate to rapid ice melt is expected. Within a week into the forecast period the western half of the lake will be open water. In the eastern section ice will gradually melt but areas of medium and thick lake ice will persist east of Long Point Bay at the end of March. The consolidated ice near Buffalo will fracture during the last week of the month.

## **Lake Ontario**

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

Forecast ice conditions from March 05<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>

Below normal temperatures will continue over the forecast period.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – Little change is expected during the first half of March. 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 – Isolated 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 16<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>

Temperatures will be near normal for the last 2 weeks of March.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – The mobile ice will melt within a week into the forecast period. The consolidated thick lake ice along the northeast shore will fracture during the last week of March.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated with thick lake ice. The Ice will start to fracture late in March.
3. St Lawrence River – Ice will fracture towards the end of the month.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Ice free except open water along the ice edge.

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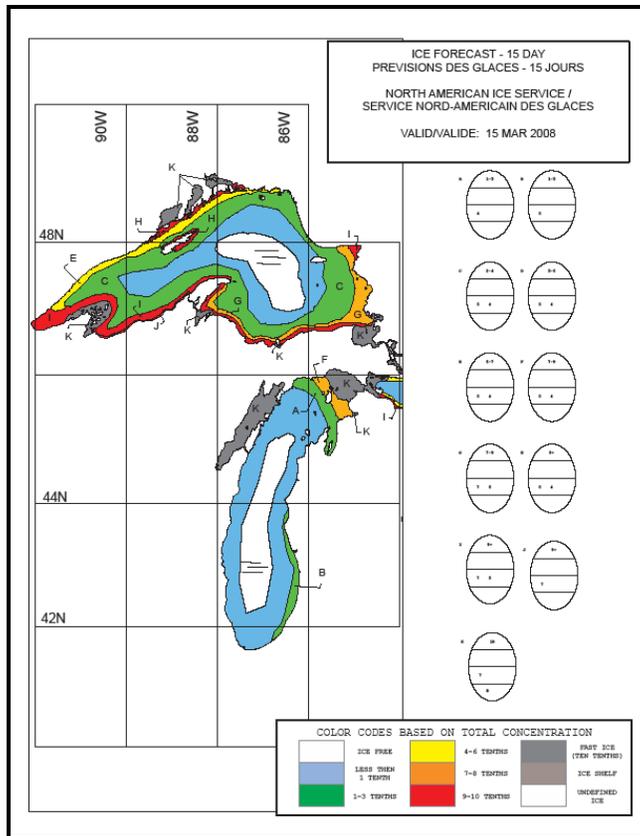


Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great lakes 15 March – 2008

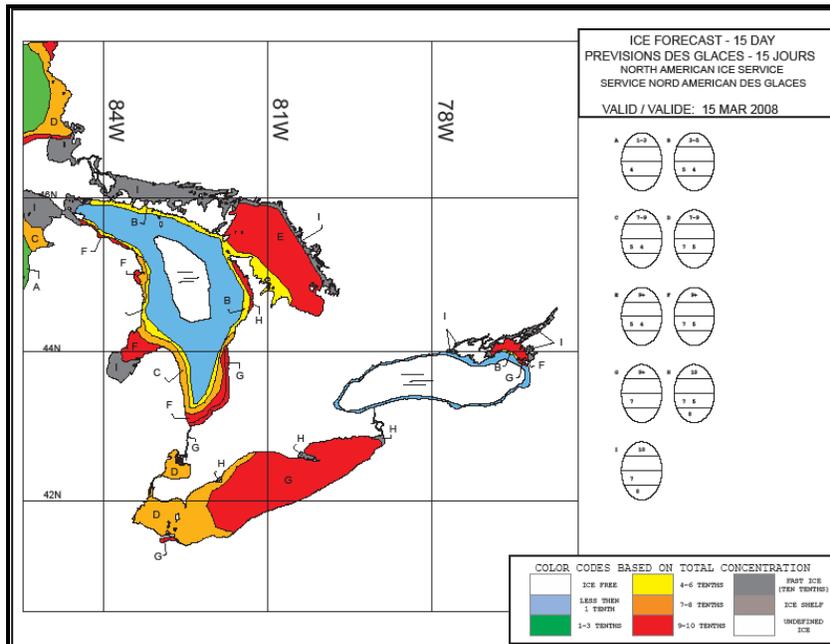


Figure 2: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes 15 March – 2008

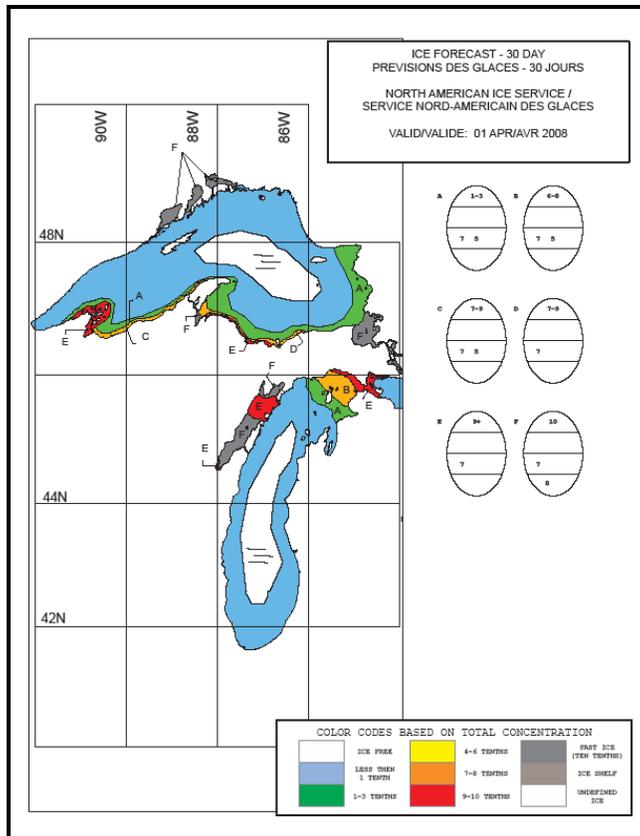


Figure 3: Ice forecast, Western Great lakes – 01 April 2008

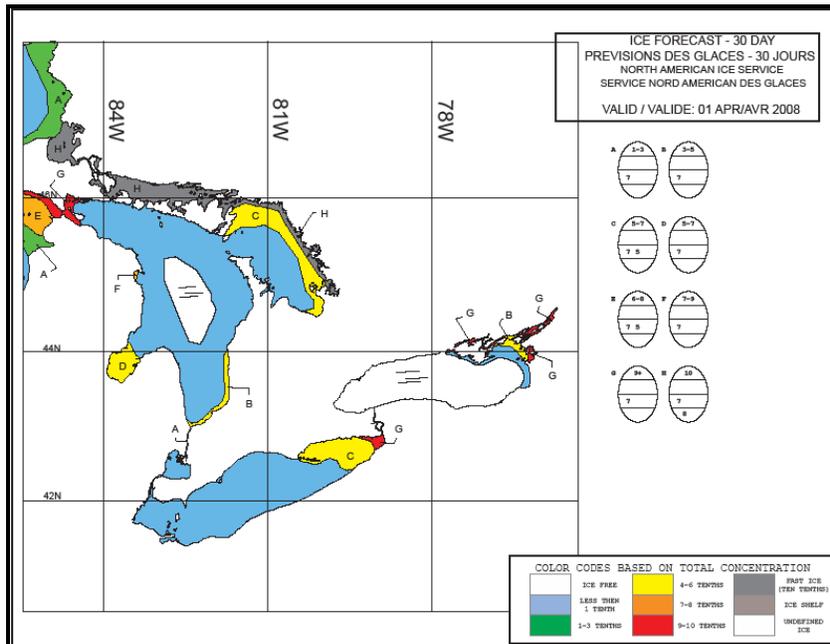


Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 01 April 2008