



NATIONAL ICE CENTER

Weekly Ice Forecast for the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays

Week of: 2/23/2015

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Weather Outlook:

The upper-air pattern continues to hold and after a brief reprieve yesterday, temperatures are forecast to once again dip to well below normal conditions. Beginning tonight, with temperatures dropping to single digits once again, conditions favorable for ice growth persist through this week, only rising above freezing during the day on Wednesday. Thur/Fri again drop to highs only in the 20s and lows in the lower teens before another slight warm-up is forecast this weekend.

Ice Conditions:

Ice is widespread throughout the region. Much of the Upper Chesapeake and Delaware Bays are nearly covered by over 90% ice coverage and the Lower Chesapeake contains significant ice as well, especially near and along the eastern shore. Most of the ice is new and thin in the Chesapeake, <4 inches, but ice thicknesses of up to and exceeding 1 foot have been reported near Tangier Island and in the Nanticoke and Wicomico Rivers. Ice in the Delaware River is generally being reported in the 6-8 inch range. Strong winds today will likely create ridging and rafting over the eastern half of the bays increasing the ice thicknesses there.

Ice Forecast:

Delaware Bay:

Remaining ice covered. Greater than 80% ice coverage all the way down to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Ice is forecast to gradually grow and thicken with continued cold this week.

Upper Chesapeake Bay:

Remaining ice covered. Greater than 80% ice coverage for majority of the bay. Open water may briefly open due to prevailing winds before beginning to freeze once again. Ice will continue to gradually grow and thicken with continued cold this week.

Lower Chesapeake Bay:

Remaining ice covered in the northern regions, along the shorelines, and along the eastern shores. Winds may occasionally push ice into the central portions of the lower bay. Ice will continue to gradually grow and thicken with continued cold this week.