

FECN11 CWIS 161800

THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR MID-APRIL TO MID-MAY  
ISSUED JOINTLY BY THE CANADIAN ICE SERVICE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA  
AND THE U.S. NATIONAL ICE CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES ON 16 APRIL  
2004.

## Lake Superior

Above normal temperatures prevailed over the western portion of the Lake Superior with near normal for the rest of the lake during the first half of April. The current ice situation is near normal in terms of break-up.

Forecast ice conditions from April 16th to April 30th.

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

1. Thunder Bay – The consolidated ice in the northeastern portion of the bay will continue to fracture and decrease during the period. By the fourth week of April, the bay will be mainly open water.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated ice fracture will occur near the entrance to the bays. By the end of the fourth week of March, all of the consolidated ice will be fractured. Concentrations will remain close to very close pack in the northern two thirds of Black Bay and the northern third of Nipigon Bay. Elsewhere open water.
3. Chequamegon Bay – Remaining consolidated ice will fracture during the third week of April. All the ice will be completely melted during the last week of the month.
4. Grand Island – Consolidated ice will fracture during the third week of April and become open water by the end of third week.
5. Whitefish Bay – Close to very close pack thick lake ice along the eastern and southern shore of the bay will continue to melt. By the fourth week of April, mainly open water conditions will prevail.
6. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

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

Temperatures will be above normal over the entire area.

1. Thunder Bay – open water to ice free.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – All the thick lake ice will melt in both bays during the first week of May. Ice free by the middle of May
3. Whitefish Bay - Ice free.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Superior –Ice free.

## Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Temperatures were near to below normal during the first half of April. Ice extent was near normal.

Forecast ice conditions from April 16th to April 30th.

Temperatures will be near to above normal for the last half of April over the area.

1. North Channel –The rest of the channel will fracture during the third week of April with some open water developing in the west central portion of the channel. By the end of the month mainly open water conditions will prevail except for some strips of rotten thick lake ice in the eastern and western section of the channel.
2. St Mary's River – Mainly open water conditions will develop during the third week of April.
3. Northwestern Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinac – A few strip of thick lake ice drifting from the Straits of Mackinac during the third week of April. Mainly open water will prevail during the last week of the month.
4. Georgian Bay –During the third week of April, the remaining consolidated ice along the northeastern shore will be fracture. Open water to ice free will develop over the entire bay by the last week of April.
5. Elsewhere in Lake Huron – Open water to ice free.

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

Temperatures will be above normal for the entire area.

1. Lake Huron and Georgian Bay – Open water to ice free.

### Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Below normal temperature were observed over the region during the first two weeks of April. Break up is two weeks later that normal in the eastern portion of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from April 16th to April 30th.

Temperatures will be above normal over the period.

1. Eastern Lake Erie – The ice edge will continue to progress eastward along the southern shore so that by the end of third week, all of the ice will be melted.
2. The rest of Lake Erie, Western Basin, Lake St. Clair – Ice free.

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

Temperatures will be above normal for the first two weeks of May.

1. Lake Erie and Lake St Clair – Open water to ice free.

### Lake Ontario

Temperatures were near to below normal over the lake during the past two weeks.

Forecast ice conditions from April 16th to April 30th.

Temperatures will be above normal during the period.

1. Bay of Quinte – Open water.
2. St Lawrence River – Ice free.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Ice free.

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

Temperatures will be above normal for the first half of May.

1. Lake Ontario – Ice free.

### Lake Michigan

Near to below normal temperatures were observed over the first portion of April. Ice extent over the lake was near to slightly later than normal.

Forecast ice conditions from April 16th to April 30th.

Temperatures will be slightly above to above normal during the first two weeks of April.

1. Green Bay – The consolidated ice in Little and Big Bay de Noc will fracture during the third week of April. During the last week of April of the ice will melt. The open to very open drift thick lake ice in the central portion of the bay will melt during the third week of April.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan – Areas of close to very close pack thick lake ice will decrease in extent. By the fourth week of April, mainly open water conditions will prevail.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan –Ice free.

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

Temperatures will be near normal over the area.

1. Green Bay and Lake Michigan – Open water to ice free.

Note: Changes have been implemented for the thirty day forecast to provide a product that will hopefully be easier to use. Please forward your comments to [cis-scg.clients@ec.gc.ca](mailto:cis-scg.clients@ec.gc.ca).

Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 1 May 2004

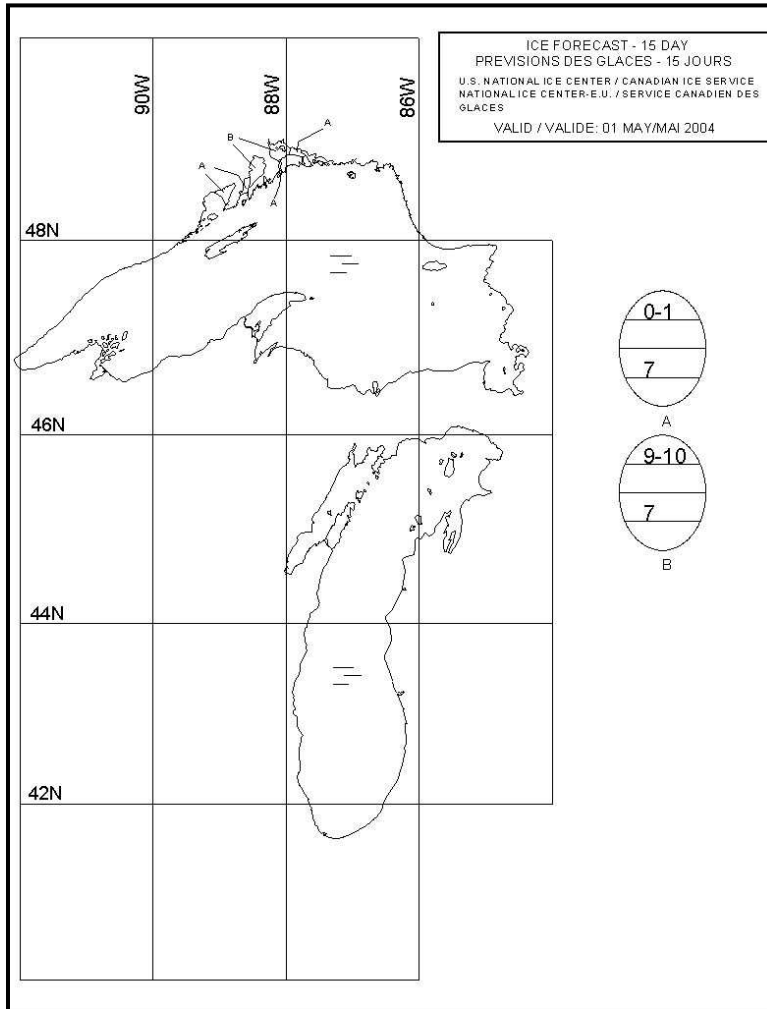


Figure 2: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 15 May 2004

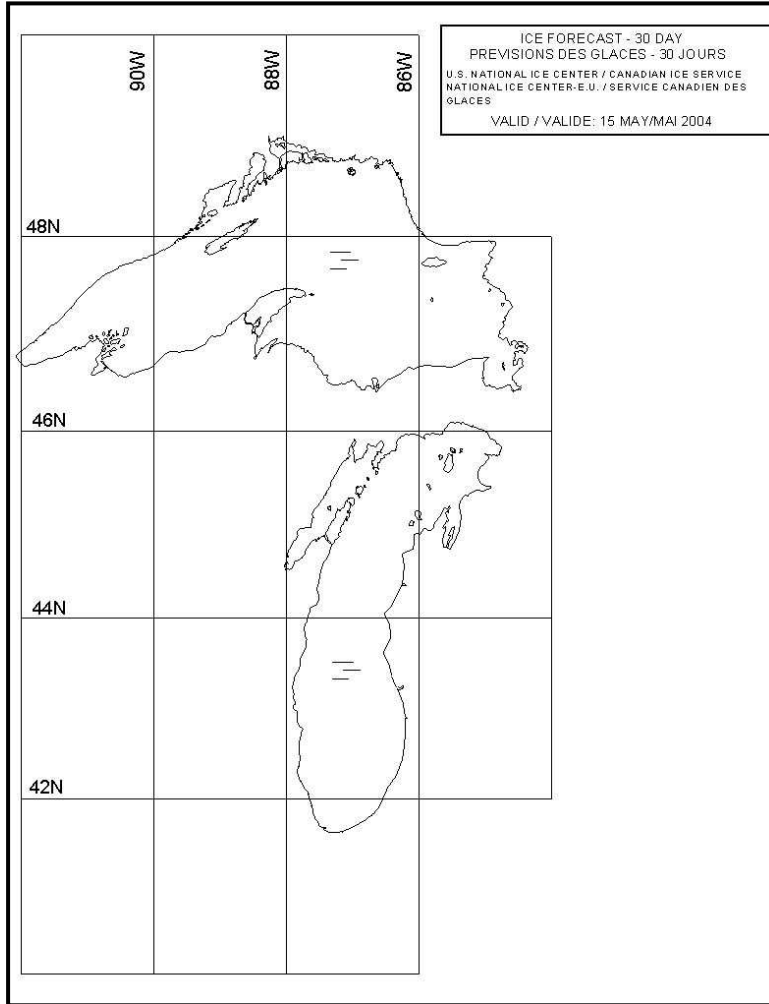


Figure 3: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 1 May 2004

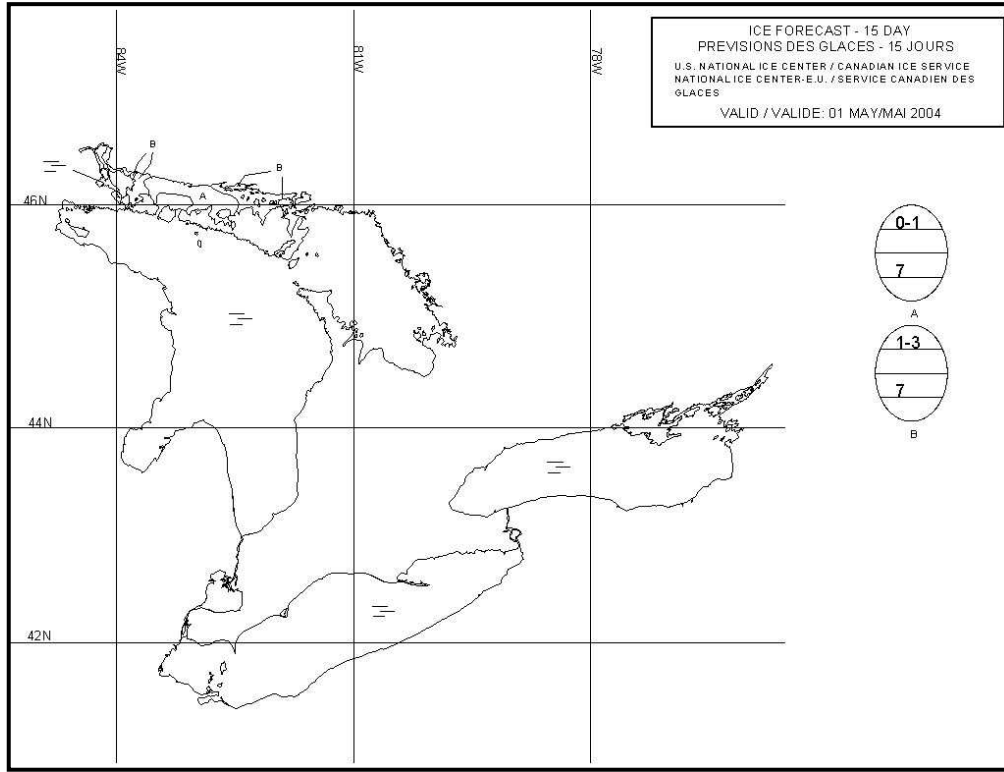
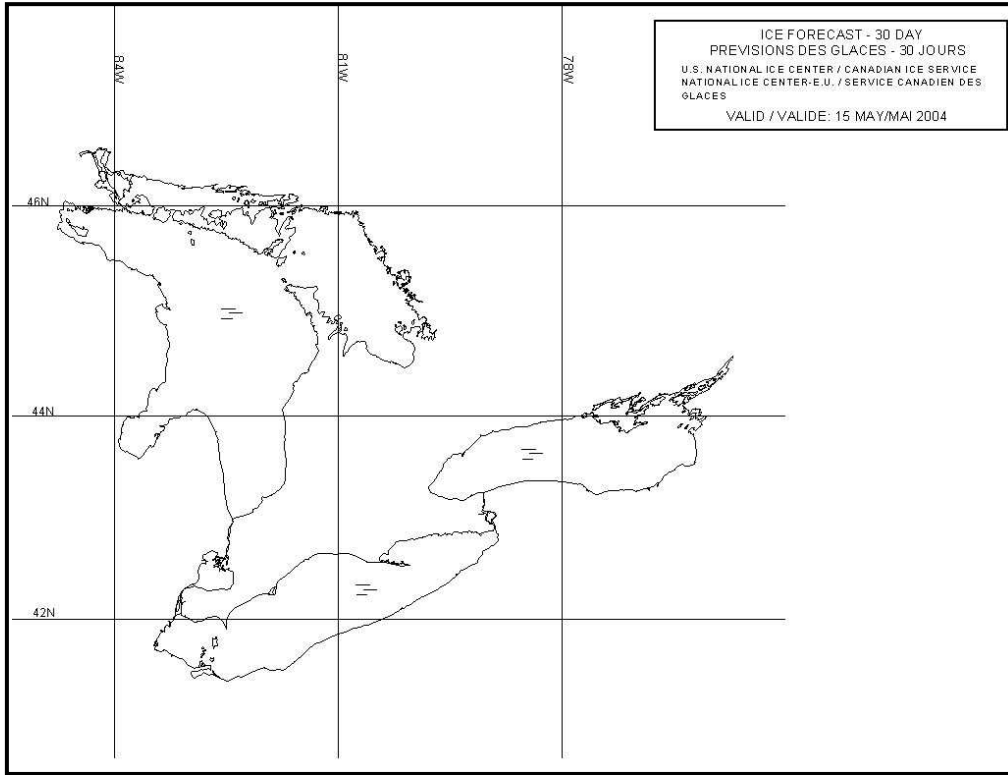


Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 May 2004



**THE NEXT 30 DAY FORECAST WILL BE ISSUED ON 03 MAY 2004.  
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