

FECN19 CWIS 181800

THIRTY DAY ICE FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR MID-DECEMBER TO MID-JANUARY ISSUED BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA ON 18 DECEMBER 2008. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED ON 31 DECEMBER 2008.

Lake Superior

Below normal temperatures were the norm over Lake Superior during the first half of December. As a result ice development is a week to 10 days ahead of normal at mid-December in some areas.

Forecast ice conditions from December 18th to December 31st

Below normal temperatures are expected over Lake Superior until about Christmas Day then temperatures will climb to above normal for the last week of the year.

1. Thunder Bay – New lake ice will spread over the rest of Thunder Bay during the next 5 days. At the end of the year thin with some medium lake ice will cover most of the bay. At that time a narrow band of consolidated medium lake ice will be found along the western shore of the bay and in the northeast end.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated medium lake ice in Black Bay and in western Nipigon Bay. New and thin lake ice in eastern Nipigon Bay.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – A narrow band of new lake ice will develop early in the period.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Mainly open water except for a narrow band of new and thin lake ice near Duluth.
5. Southern Lake Superior west of Keweenaw Peninsula – A narrow band of new and thin lake ice will be present throughout the period. New and thin lake ice will develop rapidly around the Apostle Islands. Otherwise open water.
6. Southern Lake Superior east of the Keweenaw Peninsula – A narrow band of new and thin lake ice will be present along the shore. Otherwise open water.
7. Whitefish Bay – Mainly open water except patchy areas of new lake ice right along the shore. Some consolidated thin lake ice will be present in the shallow bays along the eastern shore.
8. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay – Open water.
9. From Michipicoten Bay to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Open water except for patchy areas of new lake ice developing west of Marathon.
10. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Ice free except open water along the shore.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th

Temperatures will be near normal 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 medium with some thick lake ice. However the south central section of the bay will remain mobile.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays – Consolidated with medium and thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – A band of new and thin lake ice will be present along the shore and north of Isle Royale.

4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Generally open water will prevail with occasional strips of new lake ice forming near the shore. Very close pack medium lake ice will predominate near Duluth.
5. Southern Lake Superior west of the Keweenaw Peninsula – New and thin lake ice will continue to develop. At mid-January a 5 to 10 mile wide band of mostly thin lake ice will prevail along the shore. The ice around the Apostle Islands will consolidate during the first week of January.
6. Southern Lake Superior east of Keweenaw Peninsula – A 4 to 8 mile wide band of thin lake ice will be present along the shore.
7. Whitefish Bay – New and thin lake ice will spread over the rest of Whitefish Bay during the first week of January. By mid-month thin with some medium lake ice lake ice will predominate over the entire bay.
8. From Whitefish Bay to Michipicoten Bay – A narrow band of new and thin lake ice will form along the shore during the period.
9. From Michipicoten Bay to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – Mainly open water except for a narrow band of new and thin lake ice west of Marathon.
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 18th to December 31st

Below normal temperatures will continue to predominate in the first week of the forecast period. Slightly above normal temperatures are expected for the last week of December.

1. Green Bay – The section of the bay south of Sturgeon Bay will consolidate early in the period with medium lake ice. Little and Big Bay de Noc will remain consolidated. New and thin lake ice will gradually develop in the rest of the bay during the period.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan – New and thin lake ice will develop in the Straits of Mackinac and its approaches near Christmas Day.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Ice free with open water near the shore and ice edge.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th

Near normal temperatures are expected.

1. Green Bay – Ice in the northern section will thicken to thin and medium lake ice during the first week of the period. At mid-month most of the bay will be consolidated with medium and thick lake ice except for drifting ice persisting in the entrance. The consolidated ice in Little and Big Bay de Noc will thicken and reach the thick lake ice stage by mid-January.
2. Northern Lake Michigan – The ice in the northeastern portion of the lake will expand and at mid-January the area northeast of Beaver Island will be covered with medium lake ice. Areas of consolidated medium lake ice will form along the shore near the Straits of Mackinaw.

3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Patches of new lake ice will occasionally form along the western and southern shores during the second week of the period. Otherwise open water except ice free in the central section.

Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

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

Forecast ice conditions from December 18th to December 31st

Near to slightly below normal temperatures are expected for the second half of December.

1. North Channel – Ice will develop rapidly and by Christmas Day most of the Channel, except the central section, will be covered with new and thin lake ice. By the end of the year thin lake ice will cover the channel except for consolidated medium lake ice prevailing at both ends.
2. St Mary's River – Will become consolidated with thin lake ice early in the period.
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 forming late in December.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – Open water except new lake ice developing south and west of Bois Blanc Island during the last week of the period.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – Mainly open water with some loose areas of new lake ice forming along the shore late in December.
6. Saginaw Bay – Thin lake ice will be predominant in the bay throughout the period. Ice along the shore will consolidate during the last week of December.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – 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 4 to 8 miles band of new and thin lake ice will gradually develop along the north-eastern shore during the period. Ice in the shallow bays along the northeast shore will become consolidated.
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 normal for the entire area.

1. North Channel – At mid-January the North Channel will be consolidated with medium and thick lake ice.
2. St Mary's River – Consolidated with medium and thick lake ice.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron – A narrow band of new and thin lake ice will be present along the shore.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – Ice will further develop and at mid-January medium lake ice will predominate west of Bois Blanc Island into the Straits of Mackinac. New and thin lake ice will be found south and north of Bois Blanc Island.

5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – A 3 to 6 mile wide band of mostly thin lake ice will be present along the shore.
6. Saginaw Bay – Consolidated with medium lake ice.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – Ice will gradually develop and at mid-January thin with some medium lake ice will predominate within 3 to 6 miles from the shore.
8. Georgian Bay – The ice will continue to develop and at mid-January thin with some medium lake ice will cover the north-eastern half of the bay. At that time open water will prevail in the south-western half except for narrow bands of new lake ice along the shore.
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 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 18th to December 31st

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

1. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin – New and thin lake ice will further develop in Lake St Clair and the Western Basin. At the end of December both areas will be covered with thin lake ice.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – Ice in Sandusky bay will thicken to thin lake ice and consolidate early in the period. New and thin lake ice will predominate in Long Point Bay. Otherwise open water to ice free conditions will prevail.

Forecast ice conditions from January 1st to January 15th

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

1. Lake St Clair and the Western Basin – The ice in Lake St Clair and in the Western Basin will reach the medium lake ice stage during the second week of January. At that time Lake St Clair will become mostly consolidated except in the central section where the ice will remain mobile.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – Ice will continue to develop and at mid-January thin lake ice will prevail in the western section of the lake west of Cleveland and within 5 to 10 miles from the northern shore down to Buffalo. Medium lake ice will develop in Sandusky Bay. Long Point Bay will become consolidated early in the period. Otherwise open water except for a few patches of new lake ice along the southern shore.

Lake Ontario

Below normal temperatures were generally reported over Lake Ontario during the first half of December. Some ice has already formed in Bay of Quinte which is a week to 10 days earlier than normal.

Forecast ice conditions from December 18th to December 31st

Near normal temperatures will prevail during the second half of December.

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 – Will become Consolidated with thin lake ice during the last week of the year.
3. St Lawrence River – Patchy new lake ice will develop late in 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 normal for the first half of January.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – At mid-January a 3 to 6 mile wide band of thin lake ice will be present along the shore from Prince Edward Point to Stony Island.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated medium lake ice at mid-month.
3. St Lawrence River – New and thin lake ice will rapidly spread in the western section of the river during the period.
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 sections of the shore during the second week of the year.

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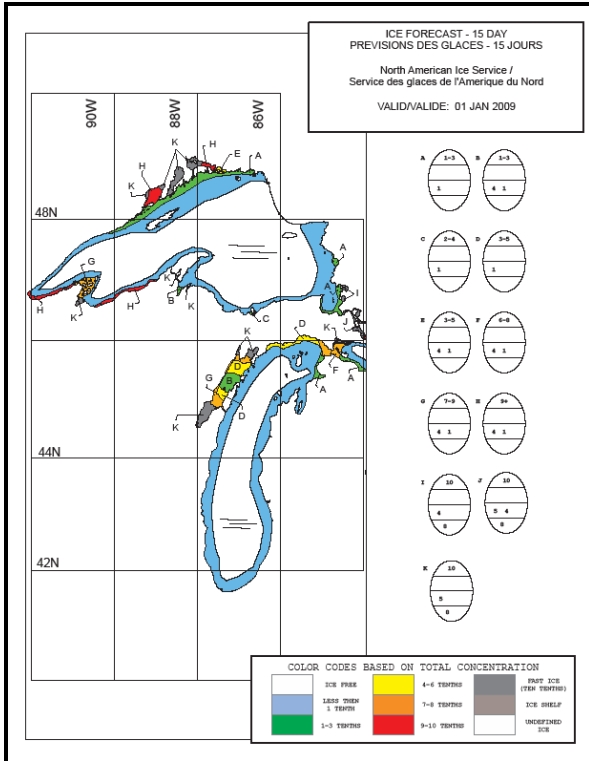


Figure 1: Ice forecast, western Great Lakes – 1 January 2009

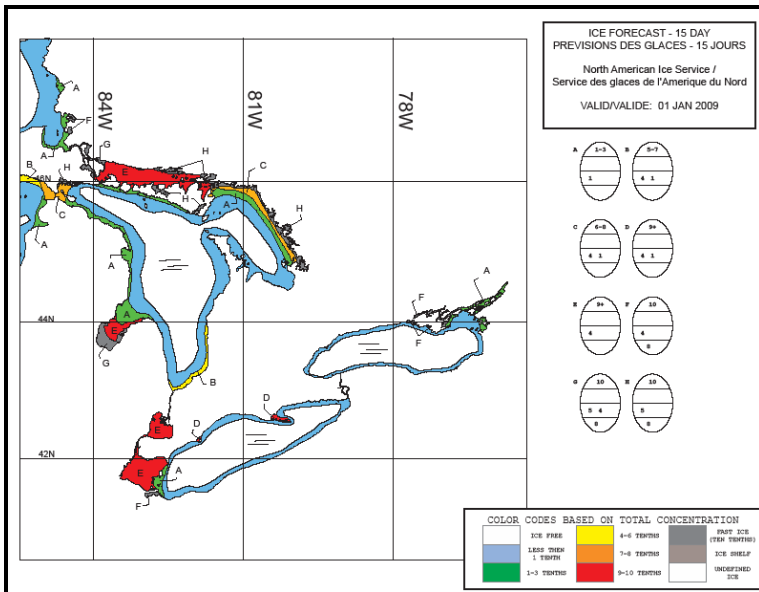


Figure 2: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 1 January 2009

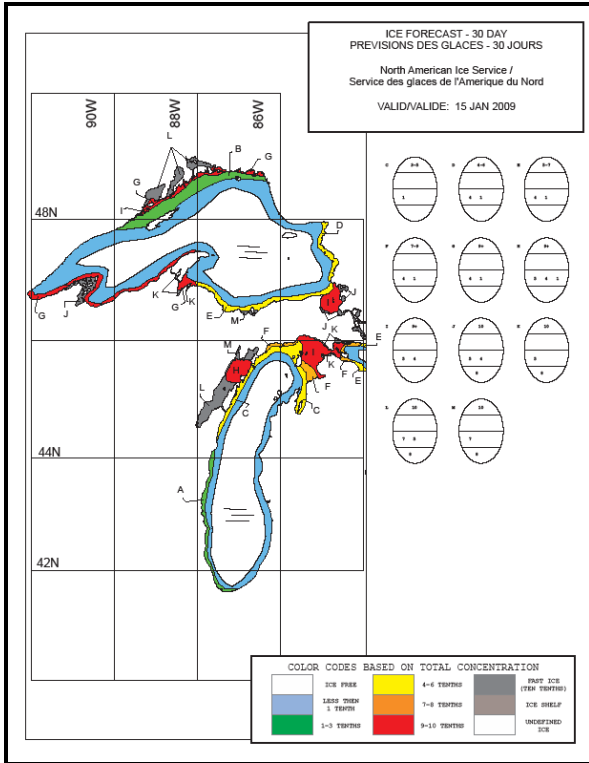


Figure 3: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 15 January 2009

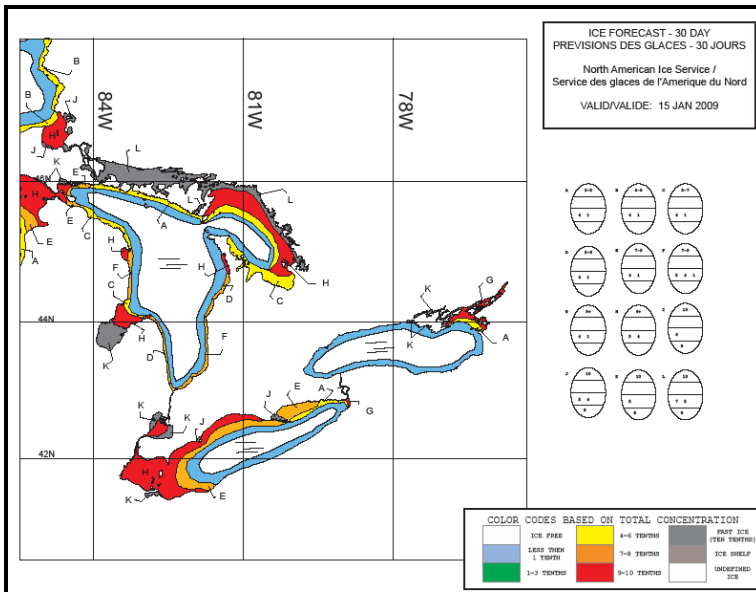


Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 January 2009