

FECN11 CWIS 021800

THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR FEBRUARY ISSUED BY  
THE NORTH AMERICAN ICE SERVICE ON 02 FEBRUARY 2006.  
THE NEXT SCHEDULED BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED ON 17 FEBRUARY 2006.

### **Lake Superior**

Temperatures were well above normal during the second half of January. The current ice situation is a month later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures will average above normal over the next several days and return to near normal later next week.

1. Thunder Bay –The ice will slowly spread and thicken during the period. By the middle of February, most of Thunder Bay will be covered with thin and medium lake ice. Some consolidated medium and thick lake ice will be present along the shore of the bay.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays –Consolidated medium and thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – By the middle of February, a narrow band of new and thin lake ice within about 10 miles of the coast. Otherwise open water.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Mainly open water with patches of new and thin lake ice near Duluth.
5. Southern Lake Superior including the Keweenaw Peninsula – New lake ice will begin to form near Duluth and around the Apostle Islands with areas of consolidated thin lake ice around the Apostle Islands. A band of new and thin lake ice will form elsewhere along the coast.
6. Southern Lake Superior east of the Keweenaw Peninsula – A band of new and thin lake ice will form along the coast.
7. Whitefish Bay – Consolidated new and thin lake ice will remain in the smaller bays. New lake ice will begin to form along the coastal area of the bay during the period. By the middle of February the bay will be covered with new and thin lake ice.
8. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay to Nipigon Bay – Patchy new and thin lake ice along the coast.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from February 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures will average near normal for the second half of February.

1. Thunder Bay – The ice will slowly spread and thicken during the period. By the end of February, Thunder Bay will be covered with medium lake ice. Some consolidated medium and thick lake ice will be present along the shore of the bay.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays –Consolidated thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – By the end of February, a band of thin lake ice within about 10 miles of the coast. Otherwise open water.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Mainly open water with patches of thin lake ice near Duluth.

5. Southern Lake Superior including the Keweenaw Peninsula –Consolidated lake ice around the Apostle Islands with patchy new and thin ice within about 10 miles of the coast.
6. Whitefish Bay – By the end of February, the bay will be mostly covered with medium lake ice. Some consolidated medium and thick lake ice will be present in the smaller bays.
7. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay to Nipigon Bay – Patchy new and thin lake ice along the coast.
8. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water.

## **Lake Michigan**

Temperatures were well above normal during the second half of January. The current ice situation is a month later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures will average above normal over the next several days and return to near normal later next week.

1. Green Bay – By the middle of February, the southern half of Green Bay and Big Bay de Noc will be consolidated with medium and thick lake ice. Northern half of Green Bay will be ice covered with mobile thin and medium lake ice.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan –New and thin lake ice will form and expand near the entrance to the Straits of Mackinaw during the period. By the middle of February, the patchy new ice in the northeastern portion of the lake will continue to expand southward and be located near Beaver Island. Areas of consolidated ice will form near the shore northwest of the Straits of Mackinaw.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – The coastal area of the lake will have some patches of new and thin lake ice within 1 to 3 miles of the shore mostly along the western, southern and northeastern shore. Beyond the ice edge and shore mostly open water will prevail with the central portion of the lake being ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from February 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures will average near normal for the second half of February.

1. Green Bay – By the end of February, the southern half of Green Bay and Big Bay de Noc will remain consolidated with medium and thick lake ice. Northern half of Green Bay will be ice covered with mobile mostly medium and some thick lake ice.
2. Northern Lake Michigan –By the end of February, There will be little change from mid month. Areas of consolidated ice will form near the shore northwest of the Straits of Mackinaw.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Mostly open water with the central portion of the lake being ice free.

## **Lake Huron and Georgian Bay**

Temperatures were well above normal during the second half of January. The current ice situation is a month later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures will average above normal over the next several days and return to near normal later next week.

1. North Channel – By the middle of February, the 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 - Mainly open water, however some new and thin lake ice will begin to form along the shore during the period.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw — The ice along the shore will continue to spread and reach Bois Blanc Island by the middle of February. At this time, some consolidated medium lake ice will be present along the shore near the Straits of Mackinaw.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – New and thin lake ice will begin to form along the shore and spread to extend about 5 miles from the shore by the middle of February.
6. Saginaw Bay – By the end of the period, consolidated thin and medium lake ice in the bay.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – Some narrow bands of new and thin lake ice will form along the southern and eastern shore.
8. Georgian Bay – The fast ice along the northeast shore will become slightly more widespread through the period. New and thin lake ice will continue to form along the northeastern shore of the bay. By the middle of February, the ice edge will extend about 20 miles from the northeast coast with some patches of new and thin lake ice in the southern portion of the bay.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron – Open water.

Forecast ice conditions from February 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures will average near normal for the second half of February.

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 10 to 20 mile band of new and lake ice will extend along the shore by the end of the period.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – The ice along the shore will continue to spread slowly eastward through period and thicken to thin and medium lake ice. At this time, some consolidated medium lake ice will be present along the shore near the Straits of Mackinaw.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – A 10 to 20 mile band of new and lake ice will extend along the shore by the end of the period.
6. Saginaw Bay – Consolidated with medium lake ice.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron –A 10 to 20 mile band of new and lake ice will extend along the shore by the end of the period.
8. Georgian Bay –The fast ice along the northeast shore will remain unchanged through the period. New and thin lake ice will continue to form along the north-

eastern shore of the bay and drift into the central part of the bay. There will be consolidated ice along the southern portions of the bay with patchy new and thin ice along the southern shore.

9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron– Open water.

### **Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair**

Temperatures were well above normal during the second half of January. The current ice situation is a month later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures will average above normal over the next several days and return to near normal later next week.

1. Lake St Clair and Western Basin – Slow ice growth and expansion later next week. By mid February the area will be mostly ice covered with new and thin lake ice.
2. The rest of Lake Erie – Open water with patchy new and thin lake ice forming along the shores later next week. By the middle of February, new lake ice will extend about 5 to 10 miles from the shore. Consolidated thin lake ice in Long Point Bay and Sandusky Bay during the period.

Forecast ice conditions from February 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures will average near normal for the second half of February.

1. Lake St Clair and Western Basin –No significant ice growth with ice melt the last week in February. Areas of open water will have formed by the end of the month.
2. The rest of Lake Erie –Mostly open water with very patchy new and thin lake ice along the shores.

### **Lake Ontario**

Temperatures were well above normal during the second half of January. The current ice situation is a month later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures will average above normal over the next several days and return to near normal later next week.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – Patchy new and thin ice forming over the extreme northeastern portion later next week with the cooler temperatures. By mid February, new and thin lake ice within 10 to 20 miles of the shore east of the Bay of Quinte.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated medium lake
3. St Lawrence River – Some new and thin lake ice will form during the period with consolidated medium lake ice around the islands in the river.

4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Some patches of new and thin lake ice will form within 1 to 4 miles of the shore during the period. Further off-shore, conditions will be mostly open water with ice free in the central portion of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from February 15th to 28<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures will average near normal for the second half of February.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – The ice will continue to grow slowly and spread during the period. By the end of February, new and thin lake ice within 20 miles of the shore over the northeastern portion east of the Bay of Quinte.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated medium to thick lake ice.
3. St Lawrence River – Thin and medium lake ice with consolidated medium lake ice around the islands in the river
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Some patches of new and thin lake ice will form within 5 miles of the shore during the period. Further off-shore, conditions will be mostly open water with ice free in the central portion of the lake.

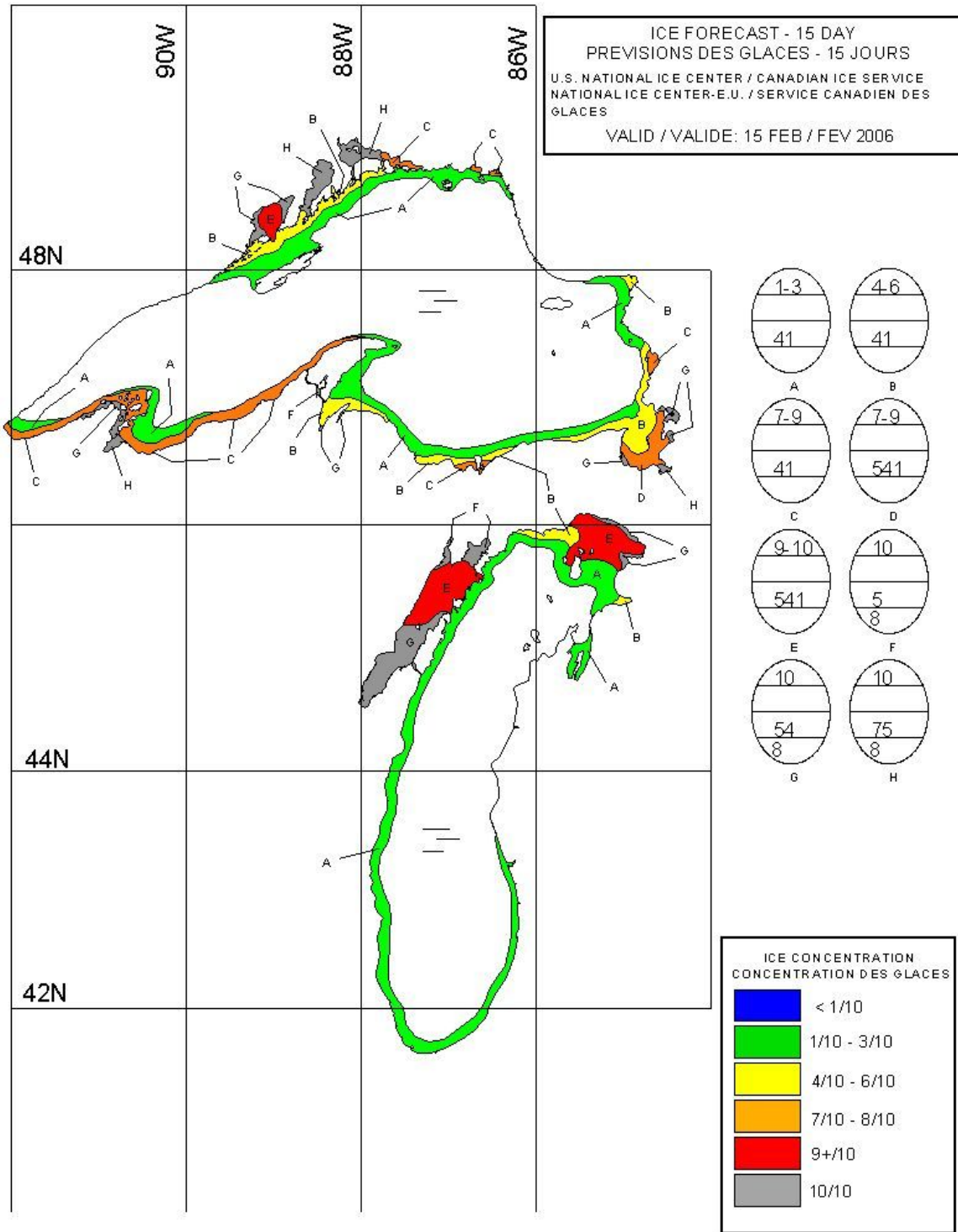


Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 15 February 2006

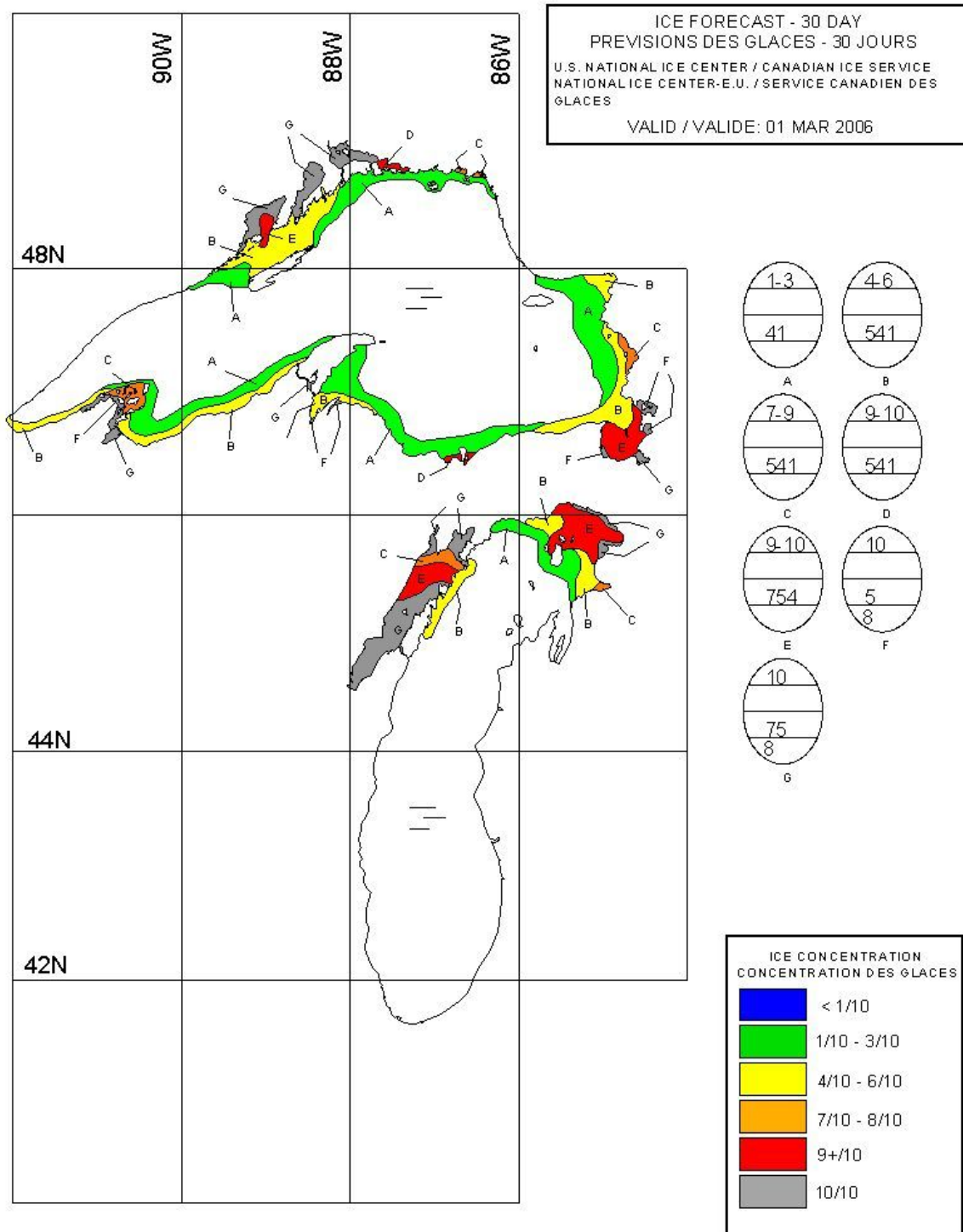


Figure 2: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 01 March 2006

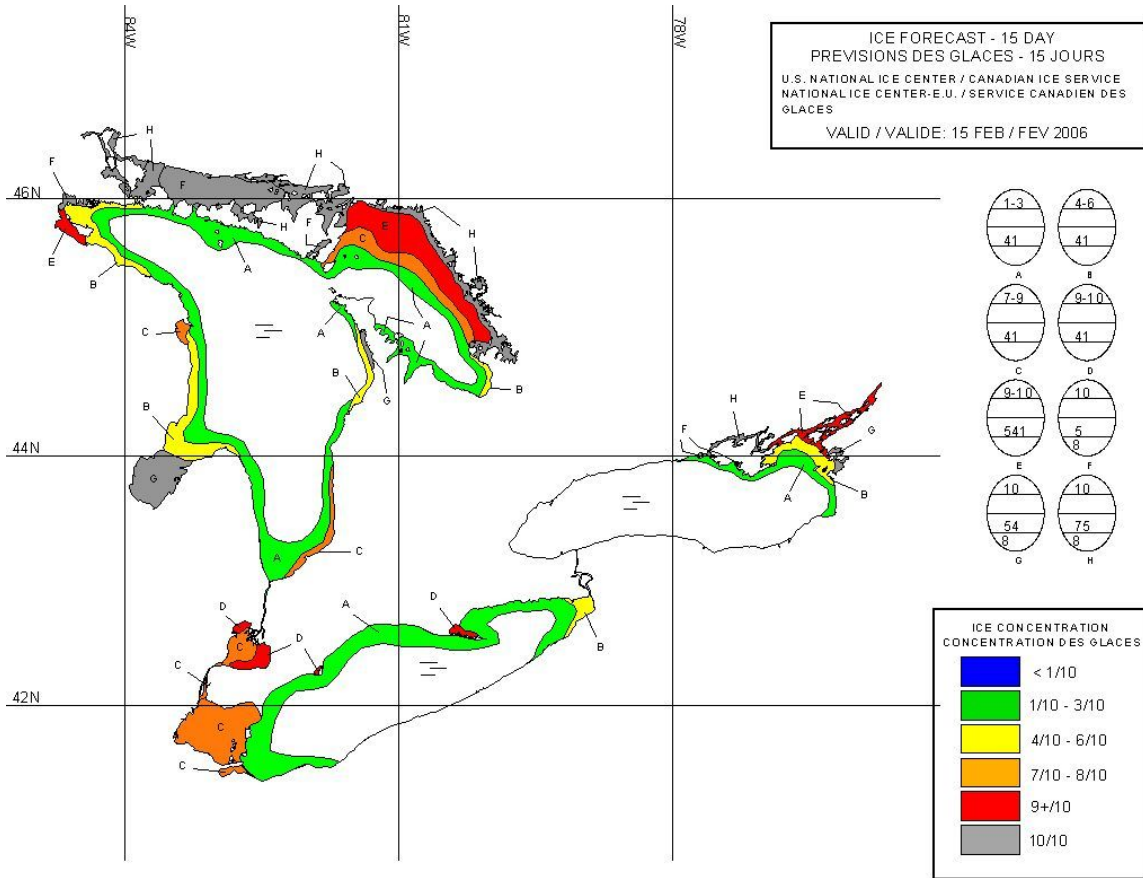


Figure 3: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 February 2006



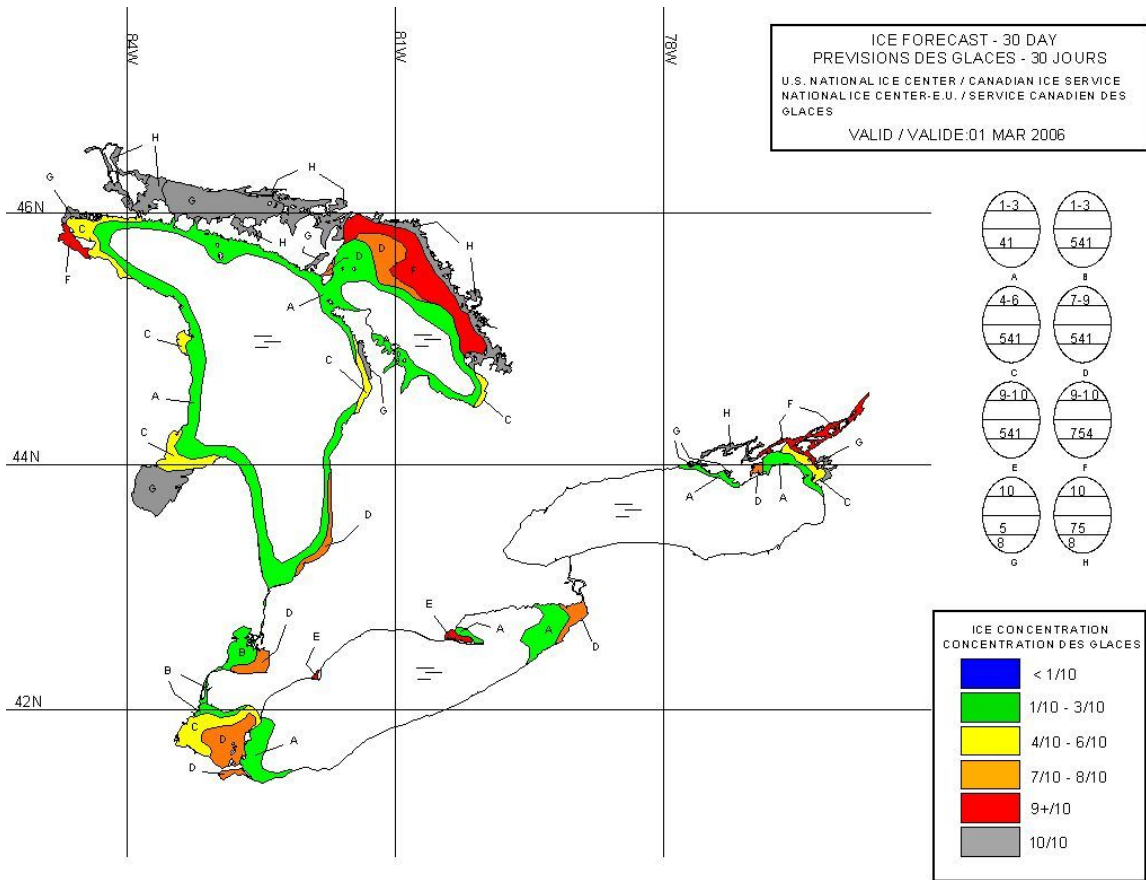


Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 01 March 2006

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