

FECN09 CWIS 181800

THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR WESTERN ARCTIC WATERS FROM MID-OCTOBER TO MID-NOVEMBER ISSUED BY THE NORTH AMERICAN ICE SERVICE ON 18 OCTOBER 2006. THIS IS THE LAST 30 DAY FORECAST OF THE SEASON.

Mean air temperatures were above normal over most locations except near normal over Coronation and eastern Amundsen Gulfs. Freeze-up is expected to be 1 to 2 weeks later than normal except near normal from western Queen Maud Gulf to eastern Amundsen Gulf.

Forecast ice conditions for October 17<sup>th</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>.

A series of low pressure systems will develop over the Bering Sea during the last two weeks of October. This will bring periods of moderate to strong southeasterly winds over the Beaufort Sea during the second half of October and spread to the rest of the Western Arctic during the last week of October. Mean air temperatures will be above normal during the period. Freeze-up which is already under way in the Beaufort Sea and along parts of the Northwest Passage will progress at a slow pace during the last two weeks of October. Meanwhile, the main pack of old ice in the Beaufort Sea will remain well offshore. With moderate to strong southeasterly winds developing over the Beaufort Sea, areas of open drift to close pack new with some grey ice will prevail across the area. The area of new and grey ice which formed in Dease Strait and western Queen Maud Gulf will spread to eastern Amundsen Gulf and the rest of Queen Maud Gulf during the third week of October. At that time, new with some grey ice will develop from Victoria Strait to southern Peel Sound. Patches of very open drift multi-year ice will be embedded in the ice pack over central Victoria Strait and the extreme western portion of Larsen Sound. The ice which is forming over the Western Arctic will thicken to the grey ice stage by the end of October. Open water conditions will persist over the rest of Amundsen Gulf except for areas of new with some grey ice forming in shallow bays and inlets.

Forecast ice conditions for November 1<sup>st</sup> to mid-November.

Mean air temperatures will remain above normal over the whole Western Arctic during the first half of November. New with some grey ice will form over most of the western Amundsen Gulf during the first week of November, while grey with some greywhite ice will dominate over the Beaufort Sea and over the rest of the Northwest Passage. The ice will continue to thicken for the rest of the period to become mostly greywhite with some thin first year ice over most areas except for an area of grey and greywhite ice over western Amundsen Gulf. Patches of very open drift multi-year ice will be embedded in the ice pack over central Victoria Strait and the extreme western portion of Larsen Sound.

Figure 1: Ice forecast – 15 November 2006

