

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: June 08, 2003***

GREAT LAKES ICE OUTLOOK

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Ice Outlook (CLEICELIO) is an alphanumeric product providing information on the location of major weather features, general wind flow along with Gale or Storm warnings, five day temperature outlook, ice growth potential, normal temperatures, total freezing degree days for the season, and United States Coast Guard ice observations. This product is prepared for the Great Lakes above Lake Ontario.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is issued on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from December through early April; or whenever the ice on the Great Lakes dissipates. The product provides users with forecast of expected ice growth and decay based on winds and temperatures. The Ice Outlook also alerts the user of ice already formed and its location on the Great Lakes. Normal temperatures, total freezing degree days, and ice thicknesses are provided as well.

3. Audience:

The target audience for the product includes: shipping industry and their operators that operate vessels on the Great Lakes, barge and tug boat operators, ferry operators, and the United States Coast Guard cutter vessels.

4. Presentation Format:

The product follows a fixed-format style with the text being written in sections to describe each parameter such as: synoptic features, winds, temperature outlook, ice growth potential, and United States Coast Guard cutter ice reports. Table formats are used to indicate normal temperatures, freezing degree days, and ice thicknesses. The product is briefly described in NWS policy documents made available on the Internet at:

http://www.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.

5. Feedback Method:

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page email link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services. Feedback on this product is obtained directly from the shipping industry and the United States Coast Guard via telephone since they are the primary users of the product.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the Ice Outlook may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Brian LaMarre W/OS21
Marine Program Manager

1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118
Silver Spring, MD 21910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Brian.LaMarre@noaa.gov.

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The Ice Outlook product is disseminated in an alphanumeric format and contains the forecast impacts of synoptic features, winds, temperatures, and ice growth over the Great Lakes above Lake Ontario. Ice growth is based on a specified temperature range for the development of ice at a slow, moderate, or rapid rate.

2. **Availability:**

The Ice Outlook is available beginning in December (typically when the first ice develops) through approximately April (or when ice completely dissipates to the point where the ice is no longer a threat to vessels). The Ice Outlook is available through the *Digital Marine Weather Dissemination System* and the marine fax back service.

The product is also available at the National Weather Service - Cleveland Homepage:
<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/cle/>.

Additional information on Marine and Coastal product dissemination is available at:
<http://weather.gov/om/marine/home.htm>.

3. **Additional Information:**

A description of Ice Services policy, area of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination for the Ice Outlook product is contained in NWS Instruction 10-331, which is made available on the Internet at:
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.