

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: June 02, 2003***

GREAT LAKES BREAK-UP OUTLOOK

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Break-up Outlook (CLEICEFBO) is an alphanumeric product providing information on the long range temperature and weather outlook for the Spring season. This product is prepared for the Great Lakes above Lake Ontario. The product will state a recap of the previous Winter ice conditions along with observed temperatures compared to normal. Ice thicknesses at the time of the product issuance and the state of the ice coverage across the Great Lakes above Lake Ontario.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is issued on the 5th of March and provides the user with some guidance to determine when any ice remaining on the Great Lakes will dissipate. General descriptions of the past weather and temperatures over the Winter season are also included in the product to indicate the reason for the current state of the ice. The long range temperature and precipitation forecast are also provided for assistance.

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 free-format style with the text being written to fit the climatological and ice situations. 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 Break-up 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 Break-up Outlook product is disseminated in an alphanumeric format and contains the climatological impacts in the Spring over the Great Lakes above Lake Ontario along with current ice thicknesses.

2. **Availability:**

The Break-up Outlook is available on March 5th and 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 Break-up 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.