

# Seasonal Outlook

North American Arctic Waters  
Summer 2012



By the North American Ice Service

## **Seasonal outlook for North American Arctic Waters issued by the North American Ice Service on 1 June 2012.**

### **Hudson Bay and approaches**

#### **Summer temperature and ice forecasts.**

Average air temperatures will be slightly above normal over most locations from June to August except for near normal over western Hudson Bay and in Davis Strait. In general, forecast ice events are expected to be earlier than normal for most locations this summer.

#### **Labrador Coast.**

Open drift to close pack first-year ice with belts of old ice north of Cartwright and bergy water south of Cartwright. Icebergs and ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for June...Becoming open drift or less ice near mid-month with ice melting completely south of Groswater Bay.

Outlook for July...Ice melting completely north of Groswater Bay during the second week.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

#### **Lake Melville.**

Very open drift first-year ice.

Outlook for June...Ice melting completely in early June.

Outlook for July...Open water.

#### **Davis Strait.**

Very close pack thick first-year ice with belts of old ice. Icebergs and ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for June...Becoming close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Becoming open drift or less ice after mid-month.

Outlook for August...Ice melting completely during the third week.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

#### **Frobisher Bay.**

Close to very close pack thin first-year ice.

Outlook for June...Remaining close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Becoming open drift or less ice near mid-month. Ice melting completely at the end of the month.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

### **Hudson Strait.**

Close pack first-year ice with areas of bergy water over the northern section. Belts of old ice over the eastern section. Icebergs and ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for June...Becoming open drift to close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Becoming open drift or less ice near mid-month. Ice melting completely during the last week.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

### **Ungava Bay.**

Close to very close pack first-year ice. Icebergs and ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for June... Remaining close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Becoming open drift or less ice during the second week with belts of old ice. Ice melting completely at the end of the third week.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

### **Foxe Basin.**

Close to very close pack first-year ice.

Outlook for June... Remaining close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Remaining close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Becoming open drift or less ice just before mid-month.

Outlook for September...Ice melting completely during the first week.

### **Hudson Bay.**

Close to very close pack first-year ice.

Outlook for June... Remaining close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Becoming open drift or less ice over the northern section during the second week and over the southern section during the last week. Ice melting completely at the end of the month.

Outlook for August...Open water.

### **James Bay.**

Close pack first-year ice with areas of open water over the eastern section.

Outlook for June...Becoming open drift to close pack ice except for ice melting completely over the southern section during the last week.

Outlook for July...Becoming open drift or less ice during the second week. Ice melting completely during the third week.

Outlook for August...Open water.

**Table 1: Hudson Bay - Forecast Dates**

Arctic Events	Earliest Date (1968-2011)	Latest Date (1968-2011)	Median (1981-2010)	Forecast
Labrador Coast to Cape Chidley Area - Bergy water	25 Jun	27 Aug	21 Jul	10-12 Jul
Davis Strait to Iqaluit Route - Open drift or less	23 Jun	19 Aug	19 Jul	14-16 Jul
Frobisher Bay Area - Bergy water	9 Jul	9 Sep	4 Aug	29-31 Jul
Davis Strait Area - Bergy water	21 Jul	14 Oct	2 Sep	19-21 Aug
Ungava Bay Area - Bergy water	2 Jul	1 Sep	31 Jul	22-24 Jul
Davis Strait to Nottingham Island Route - Bergy water	29 Jun	5 Sep	25 Jul	15-17 Jul
Hudson Strait Area - Bergy water	13 Jul	9 Sep	4 Aug	30 Jul-1 Aug
Davis Strait to Churchill Route - Bergy/open water	6 Jul	5 Sep	26 Jul	17-19 Jul
Nottingham Island to Churchill Route - Open water	5 Jul	21 Aug	17 Jul	17-19 Jul
Hudson Bay Area - Open water	24 Jul	10 Sep	19 Aug	31 Jul-2 Aug
Foxe Channel to Hall Beach Route - Open water	16 Aug	9 Oct	29 Aug	20-22 Aug
Foxe Basin Area - Open water	1 Sep	6 Oct	20 Sep	6-8 Sep
James Bay Area - Open water	29 Jun	7 Sep	27 Jul	17-19 Jul

**Date:** new record set last year

## **Eastern Arctic**

### **Summer temperature and ice forecasts.**

Average air temperatures will be slightly above normal over the entire area from June to August. In general, forecast ice events are expected to be near normal over most locations this summer.

### **Baffin Bay.**

Very close pack first-year ice. Belts of old ice over the western section. Icebergs and ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for July...Becoming close to very close pack ice during the first week. An area between 73°N and 75°N becoming open drift or less ice during the second week and bergy water during the third week.

Outlook for August...Becoming open drift or less ice with a trace of old ice during the first week. Ice melting completely during the fourth week.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

### **Pond Inlet.**

Consolidated first-year ice. Isolated icebergs throughout the summer.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the third week.

Outlook for August...Becoming open drift or less ice during the first week. Ice melting completely during the second week.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

### **Admiralty Inlet Northern.**

Consolidated first-year ice.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the third week. Ice melting completely at the end of the month.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

### **Lancaster Sound.**

Consolidated first-year ice. Belts of old ice over the eastern section. Icebergs and ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the first week then remaining close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Becoming open drift or less ice during the first week. Ice melting completely during the second week.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

### **Barrow Strait.**

Consolidated first-year ice. Icebergs and ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing over the eastern section during the first week and the western section during the third week.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice during the second week. Ice melting completely at the end of the month.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

### **Wellington Channel.**

Consolidated first-year ice. Belts of old ice over the northwestern section.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the third week.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice during the second week. Ice melting completely during the last week.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

### **McDougall Sound.**

Consolidated first-year ice with a trace of old ice.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing at the end of the month.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice during the third week.

Outlook for September...Very open drift old ice.

### **Kane Basin.**

Consolidated old ice. Icebergs and ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the last week.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice after mid-month.

Outlook for September...Open drift or less ice.

### **Jones Sound.**

Consolidated first-year ice with a trace of old ice. Icebergs and ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the last week.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice during the second week. Belts of old ice drifting into the eastern entrance during the third week.

Outlook for September...Open drift or less old ice.

### **Norwegian Bay.**

Consolidated first-year ice. Belts of old ice over the western section.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing over the southern section at the end of the month.

Outlook for August...Ice fracturing over the northern section during the first week then becoming open drift or less ice near mid-month. Ice melting completely over the eastern section during the third week.

Outlook for September...Bergy water over the eastern section. Open drift or less old ice over the western section.

## **Eureka Sound.**

Consolidated first-year ice with a trace of old ice. Icebergs and ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing at the end of the month.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice near mid-month. Ice melting completely at the end of the second week.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

**Table 2: Eastern Arctic - Forecast Dates**

Arctic Events	Earliest Date (1968-2011)	Latest Date (1968-2011)	Median (1981-2010)	Forecast
Baffin Bay Northern Route - Open drift or less - Bergy water	10 Jun 13 Jun	18 Aug 15 Sep	13 Jul 27 Jul	9-11 Jul 20-22 Jul
Baffin Bay Area - Bergy water	10 Aug	7 Oct	6 Sep	25-27 Aug
Frobisher Bay to Home Bay Route - Open drift or less	22 Jul	19 Sep	5 Aug	26-28 Jul
Frobisher Bay to Cape Dyer Route - Open drift or less	24 Jun	15 Sep	25 Jul	23-25 Jul
Pond Inlet Area - Fracture - Bergy water	10 Jul 25 Jul	19 Aug 12 Sep	23 Jul 8 Aug	20-22 Jul 8-10 Aug
Admiralty Inlet Northern Area - Fracture - Bergy water	29 Jun 17 Jul	7 Aug 12 Sep	21 Jul 6 Aug	18-20 Jul 30 Jul-1 Aug
Lancaster Sound Area - Fracture	12 Jun	3 Aug	6 Jul	6-8 Jul
Barrow Strait Eastern Area - Fracture	20 Jun	4 Aug	8 Jul	7-9 Jul
Barrow Strait Western Area - Fracture	5 Jul	19 Aug	24 Jul	20-22 Jul
Wellington Channel Area - Fracture	3 Jul	24 Aug	26 Jul	21-23 Jul
McDougall Sound Area - Fracture	14 Jul	16 Sep	31 Jul	27-29 Jul
Kane Basin Area - Fracture	6 Jun	16 Aug	20 Jul	23-25 Jul
Jones Sound Area - Fracture	6 Jul	16 Aug	29 Jul	25-27 Jul
Norwegian Bay Southern Area - Fracture	12 Jul	30 Aug	29 Jul	31 Jul-2 Aug
Norwegian Bay Northern Area - Fracture	14 Jul	31 Aug	4 Aug	7-9 Aug
Eureka Sound Area - Fracture - Bergy water	9 Jul 7 Aug	31 Aug 29 Aug	1 Aug 18 Aug	30 Jul-1 Aug 16-18 Aug
Davis Strait to Thule Route - Open drift or less - Bergy water	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	13 Jul 27 Jul	11-13 Jul 22-24 Jul

Date: new record set last year



## **Western Arctic**

### **Summer temperature and ice forecasts.**

Average air temperatures will be slightly above normal over the entire area from June to August. In general, forecast ice events are expected to be near normal over most locations this summer except earlier than normal over the southern Beaufort Sea.

### **Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula.**

Consolidated first-year ice.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the first week then becoming open drift or less ice during the third week. Ice melting completely during the last week.

Outlook for August...Open water.

### **Mackenzie Bay to Cape Bathurst.**

Very close pack first-year ice.

Outlook for June...Becoming close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Area of open drift or less ice developing during the second week becoming open water during the third week.

Outlook for August...Open water.

### **Beaufort Sea south of 75°N.**

Very close pack first-year ice with a trace of old ice south of 72°N with an 80 mile wide area of open water over the southeastern section. Very close pack old ice north of 72°N. Ice islands throughout the summer.

Outlook for June...Very close pack ice with a large area of open water north of the consolidated ice along Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and west of Banks Island. Very close pack old ice north of 72°N.

Outlook for July...Very close pack ice with a large area of open water north of Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. Very close pack ice conditions north of 72°N.

Outlook for August...Open water within 90 miles north of the coast east of Barter Island. Ice becoming open drift or less ice within 60 miles of the Alaskan Coast west of Barter Island before mid-month. Open drift to close pack old ice north of 72°30'N.

Outlook for September...Open water within 120 miles north of the mainland coast. Open drift to close pack old ice further north.

### **Arctic Ocean north of 75°N.**

Very close pack old and first-year ice.

Outlook for July...Remaining very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for September...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice west of 135W during the first week.

### **Cape Lisburne to Point Barrow.**

Very close pack first-year ice. Belts of old ice west of Point Barrow.

Outlook for July...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice during the third week.

Outlook for August...Ice melting completely during the second week.

Outlook for September...Open water.

### **Amundsen Gulf.**

Consolidated first-year ice except for an area of very close pack first-year ice west of Cape Parry.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the second week then becoming open drift or less ice during the last week.

Outlook for August...Ice melting completely during the first week.

Outlook for September...Open water.

### **Coronation Gulf.**

Consolidated first-year ice.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing near mid-month then becoming open drift or less ice during the third week. Ice melting completely during the last week.

Outlook for August...Open water.

### **Queen Maud Gulf.**

Consolidated first-year ice with a trace of old ice.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the third week.

Outlook for August...Becoming open drift or less ice during the first week. Ice melting completely during the third week.

Outlook for September...Open water.

### **Larsen Sound.**

Consolidated first-year ice with a trace of old ice.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the last week.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice near mid-month.

Outlook for September...Ice melting completely during the first week.

### **Peel Sound.**

Consolidated first-year ice.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the last week.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice during the second week.

Outlook for September...Ice melting completely during the first week.

### **Viscount Melville Sound.**

Consolidated first-year ice with belts of old ice.

Outlook for July...Remaining consolidated ice.

Outlook for August...Ice fracturing during the first week then close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for September...Becoming open drift or less ice during the first week.

### **M'Clure Strait.**

Consolidated first-year ice with belts of old ice.

Outlook for July...Ice fracturing during the last week.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift or less ice during the second week.

Outlook for September...Remaining open drift or less old ice.

**Table 3: Western Arctic - Forecast Dates**

Arctic Events	Earliest Date (1968-2011)	Latest Date (1968-2011)	Median (1981-2010)	Forecast
Mackenzie Bay Area - Open water	1 Jun	18 Jul	20 Jun	19-21 Jun
Kugmallit Bay Area - Open water	17 Jun	25 Jul	24 Jun	23-25 Jun
Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula Area - Fracture	18 Jun	17 Jul	1 Jul	3-5 Jul
Mackenzie Bay to Cape Bathurst Route - Open water	18 Jun	27 Sep	26 Jul	18-20 Jul
Mackenzie Bay to Prudhoe Bay Route - Open drift or less	4 Jul	20 Sep	13 Aug	15-17 Jul
Prudhoe Bay to Point Barrow Route - Open drift or less - Close pack (refreeze)	11 Jul N/A	8 Sep N/A	13 Aug 8 Oct	27-29 Jul 11-13 Oct
Cape Lisburne to Point Barrow Route - Open drift or less - Open water	10 Jun 2 Jul	8 Sep 19 Sep	6 Aug 14 Aug	20-22 Jul 9-11 Aug
Cape Lisburne to Wainwright Route - Open drift or less	N/A	N/A	29 Jun	1-3 Jul
Barter Island to Prudhoe Bay Route - Open drift or less	N/A	N/A	13 Aug	16-18 Jul
Cape Parry to Taloyoak Route - Open water	1 Aug	20 Sep	12 Aug	9-11 Aug
Amundsen Gulf Area - Fracture - Open water	12 Jun 17 Jul	28 Jul 23 Sep	5 Jul 15 Aug	8-10 Jul 2-4 Aug
Coronation Gulf Area - Fracture - Open water	2 Jul 17 Jul	11 Aug 2 Sep	15 Jul 30 Jul	15-17 Jul 25-27 Jul
Queen Maud Gulf Area - Fracture	5 Jul	18 Aug	20 Jul	18-20 Jul
Larsen Sound Area - Fracture	16 Jul	7 Sep	28 Jul	22-24 Jul
Peel Sound Area - Fracture	11 Jul	2 Sep	29 Jul	26-28 Jul
Viscount Melville Sound Area - Fracture	10 Jul	26 Aug	3 Aug	3-5 Aug
M'Clure Strait Area - Fracture	28 Jun	26 Aug	2 Aug	25-27 Jul

**Date:** new record set last year

**Note:** The Seasonal Summary for the end of winter and spring ice conditions can be found on the CIS web site under Seasonal Summaries. This text will not be part of the Seasonal Outlook starting this summer.