

STANDARD ICE REPORTING TERMINOLOGY

ICE TYPES:

FAST – Sections of unbroken ice that are fast (attached) to shore.

DRIFT – All ice that is not fast to shore. Also called floating ice.

ICE FORMS:

FRAZIL ICE – Fine spicules or plates of ice suspended in water. Typically gives water an oily or opaque appearance. The first stage of freezing, frazil is also known as “grease ice”.

SLUDGE – A later stage of freezing than frazil ice. In sludge, spicules have combined to form a thick, soupy layer on the water’s surface.

PANCAKE ICE – Circular pieces of ice, ten feet and wider in diameter. Edges are usually raised from collisions with other objects.

BRASH ICE – Masses of drift ice made from the fragments of other ice formations. Usually less than two yards across.

REFROZEN ICE – Ice formations that have broken apart and frozen together again.

CAKE ICE – Any relatively flat piece of ice less than 11 yards across.

FLOE – Any relatively flat piece of ice over 11 yards in diameter. A floe may consist of a single unbroken mass of ice or the consolidation of many fragments.

ICE SURFACE FEATURES:

HUMMOCKED ICE – Pressure-formed piles of ice. Usually jagged and mound-like in appearance.

RAFTED ICE – Deformed or pressure ice formed by one piece overriding another. The first stage of hummocked ice.

ICE JAM – Any mass of broken-up ice, driven by wind or current that creates an obstruction against the shore or in channels.

RIDGED ICE – Any pressure-formed ridge or wall of ice.

PERCENT COVERAGE: Amount of water surface covered with ice.

ICE THICKNESS: Should be measured as accurately as possible, and in as many places as the varying thickness of ice warrants. The figure to be reported is the average thickness in inches.