# Great Lakes Ice Charts, Version 1

# USER GUIDE

**How to Cite These Data**

As a condition of using these data, you must include a citation:

National Snow & Ice Data Center,2004. *Great Lakes Ice Charts*, Version 1. [Indicate subset used]. Boulder, Colorado USA. NSIDC: National Snow and Ice Data Center. https://doi.org/10.7265/N5H41PBV. [Date Accessed].

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE DATA, CONTACT NSIDC@NSIDC.ORG

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION, VISIT https://nsidc.org/data/G00486

National Snow and Ice Data Center

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# 1 DETAILED DATA DESCRIPTION

This data collection is being provided as is. The images in this data set were digitized from an analog collection of paper charts. NOAA@NSIDC believes these data to be of value but is unable to provide more complete documentation.

The analog material upon which this digital data set is based moved to the University of Colorado (CU) Libraries Archives in August 2018, where it is part of the Roger G. Barry glaciology collection.

If you are interested in the analog collection, you can search for "Great Lakes Ice Charts" from the CU search interface, but be aware that it may not yet be catalogued, or it may be catalogued under a different name.  If you have questions, contact sca@colorado.edu.

## 1.1 Format

On the HTTPS site: https://noaadata.apps.nsidc.org/NOAA/G00486/, the GIF files for each melt season are tarred together into one file of the form yy1_yy2.tar where yy1 is the 2-digit year of the beginning year of the melt season and yy2 is the 2-digit year of the end of the melt season.

For the 01-02 melt season, ASCII text files of descriptions of the ice are provided as well as GIS files.

## 1.2 File Naming Convention

The data files within the tar files are named according to the following convention. Note: Starting in 2000, some images are supplied as .jpg instead of .gif.

xx[x]yymmdd.gif

Table 1. File Naming Conventions

| Variable | Description |
|---|---|
| xx[x] | 2-3 digit location code:<br><br>cis: All great lakes<br>el: Eastern Great Lakes including Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Georgian Bay, and North Channel<br>gbl: Green Bay<br>gl: All great lakes<br>ml: Whitefish Bay south to Detour, including Sault Ste. Marie and St. Mary's River south to Detour, Michigan<br>scr: St. Clair River<br>wl: Western Great Lakes including Lake Michigan and Superior<br><br>Note: Prior to the 1986-87 ice season, charts were organized by region. Beginning with the 1986-87 ice season and beyond, all regions were combined into a single chart for each date. Each chart then has a "gl" prefix in the file name to indicate "all" Great Lakes. |
| yy | 2-digit year |
| mm | 2-digit month |
| dd | 2-digit day of month |

# 2 REFERENCES

Fetterer, F. (2022). The Global Digital Sea Ice Data Bank at NSIDC, 1986-2005. NSIDC Special Report 24. Boulder CO, USA: National Snow and Ice Data Center. https://nsidc.org/sites/default/files/nsidc-special-report-24.pdf.

# 3 DOCUMENT INFORMATION

## 3.1 Author

NSIDC Technical Writer

## 3.2 Publication Date

1995

## 3.3 Date Last Updated

25 September 2023