

## **Recapping the 2014-2015 Ice Season on the Great Lakes**

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On the heels of the record-breaking 2013-2014 ice-season, which saw the most severe ice conditions on the lakes in decades, the 2014-2015 season brought cold and ice once again to the region. With the anomalously cold pattern returning for the winter, the lakes got off to a fast start in making ice, starting nearly two weeks ahead of normal. As the winter wore on, the expanding ice choked the lakes, reaching the 5th highest ice extent on record and coming close to a new record extent for Lake Ontario. The conditions resulted in wide ranging impacts on commerce and coastal communities as ice cover choked shipping routes, made harbors inaccessible, formed ice jams on many rivers, and damaged marine infrastructure. Bulk cargos dropped, shipments were cancelled, and ships became stuck in the shifting ice, all for a second straight year. This review recap the season's progression, the impacts it had on life and commerce on the lakes, and highlight how NOAA, Environment Canada, and the US and Canadian Coast Guards all worked together to protect the movement of commerce, life, and property during the extreme ice season.