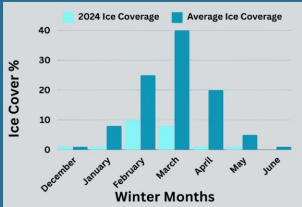


ICE FISHING:

YOUR SAFETY IS ON THE LINE!

TIPS TO AVOID SLIPS

Keep track of ice conditions and never fish alone!

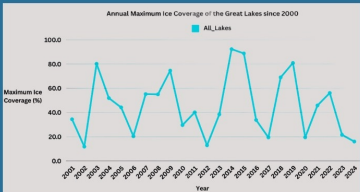


Total ice coverage on the Great Lakes from 2024 is significantly less than the average ice coverage from the past 50 years.

Knowing this can help you make good decisions about if and when to fish!

In 2023, maximum ice coverage in the Great Lakes peaked at approximately 20% on February 24th.

Ice thickness can vary significantly across a single lake.



Be careful! In recent years, all the Great Lakes have been on a steady decline of maximum ice coverage.

Ice forming later and melting sooner results in lower levels of ice coverage.

ICEBREAKERS



How thick should ice be for safe ice fishing?

- Ice should be at least 4 inches thick, if not more!



When does ice cover peak for the Great Lakes?

- Max ice cover for lower lakes = mid-late February.
- Max ice cover for upper lakes = late February into March.



Where can I find information about Great Lakes ice thickness?

- NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory has great resources.
- Click HERE to visit the website!



How common are accidental drownings related to falling through ice?

- About 250 deaths a year from falling through ice in the US.
- Two accidental drownings this year alone relate to ice fishing.