



U.S. National Ice Center



Weekly Ice Forecast for Chesapeake and Delaware Bays

Week of: 02/09/2026
nic_analyst@noaa.gov

Current Ice Conditions:

There is currently 8-10 tenths of ice cover in most of the upper Chesapeake Bay, in most of the Delaware Bay & River, in the Potomac River upriver of the 301 bridge, and against the eastern shores of the Lower Chesapeake Bay. Lower concentrations of ice are found along most of the region's shores along with isolated pockets of higher concentration ice cover in sheltered, shallow waters.

Ice Forecast:

Some melting occurred during the day today. However, weak winds combined with below freezing temperatures overnight tonight will lead to refreeze in most areas that saw melt today. A more significant melt out will occur starting tomorrow as temperatures will rise above freezing across most of the region. Wednesday night through Saturday will see a more diurnal pattern with expansion of ice coverage overnight followed by daytime melting. The remainder of the long weekend is expected to be consistently conducive to melt.

Delaware Bay:

8-10 tenths ice coverage through early tomorrow followed by a reduction in ice coverage through the forecast period. While some overnight ice formation is expected most nights this week, an overall trend of decreasing ice coverage is expected resulting in 1-3 tenths coverage by the weekend.

Upper Chesapeake Bay:

8-10 tenths of ice coverage north of the Bay Bridge with extensive shore-fastened ice in more sheltered bays/inlets through early tomorrow followed by a reduction in ice coverage through the forecast period. While some overnight ice formation is expected most nights this week, an overall trend of decreasing ice coverage is expected resulting in 4-6 tenths coverage by the weekend.

Lower Chesapeake Bay:

8-10 tenths ice coverage primarily along the eastern shores with lower concentrations along the remainder of the region's shoreline through early tomorrow followed by a reduction in ice coverage through the forecast period. While some overnight ice formation is expected most nights this week, an overall trend of decreasing ice coverage is expected resulting in primarily open water with 1-3 tenths coverage along parts of the shore by the weekend.