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OUTLOOK FOR THE FORMATION OF ICE IN THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY & LAKE ERIE ISSUED BY THE CANADIAN ICE SERVICE

Prepared for

The Saint-Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

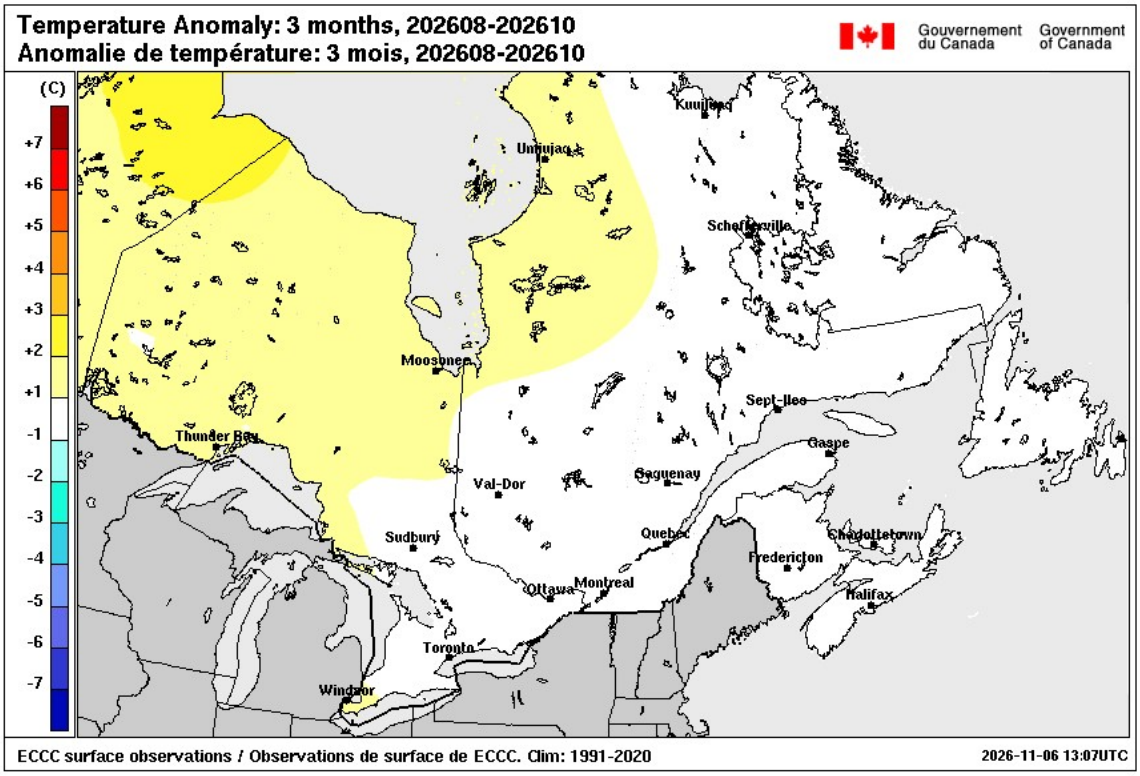
16th of November 2026



Canada

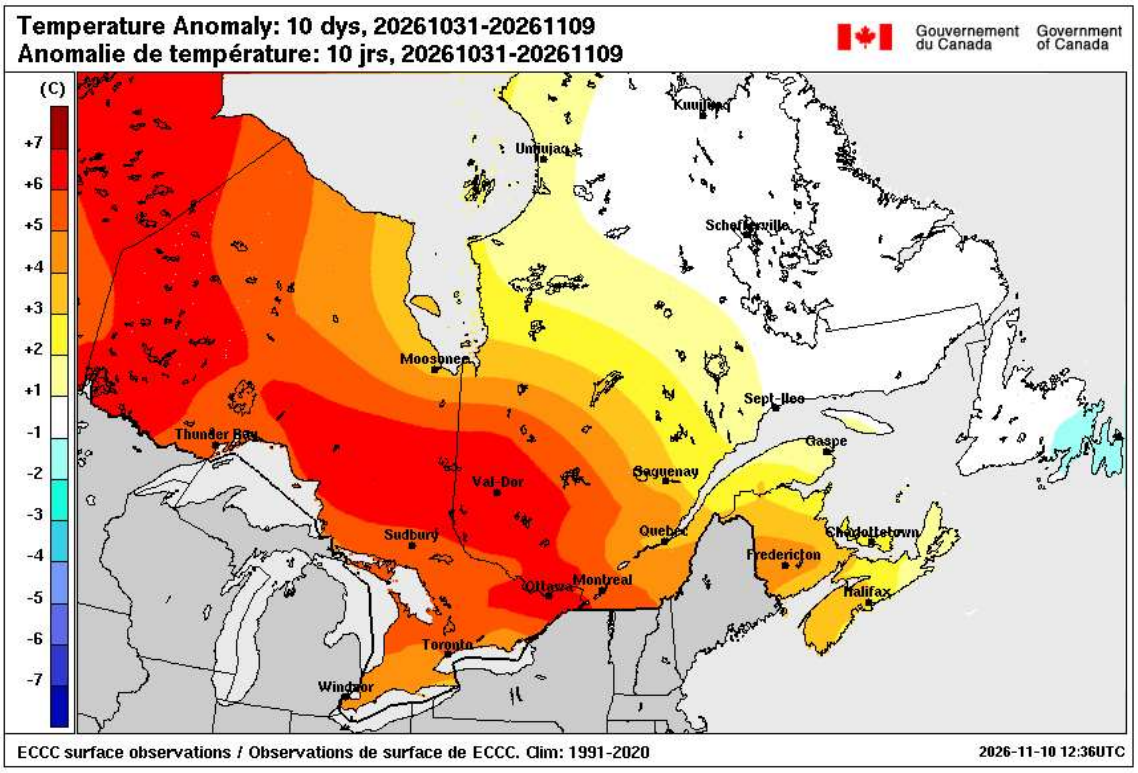
Temperatures this summer and fall

August, September, October Temperature Anomaly



Air temperatures during the late summer and early fall from August to October have been near normal over the Seaway.

Temperature anomaly over last 10 days



Air temperatures from October 31 to November 9 have been 4 – 6 ºC above normal for most of the Seaway and 3 – 4 ºC above normal for Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

Current water temperatures at stations:

Surface water temperatures along the Seaway are above normal.

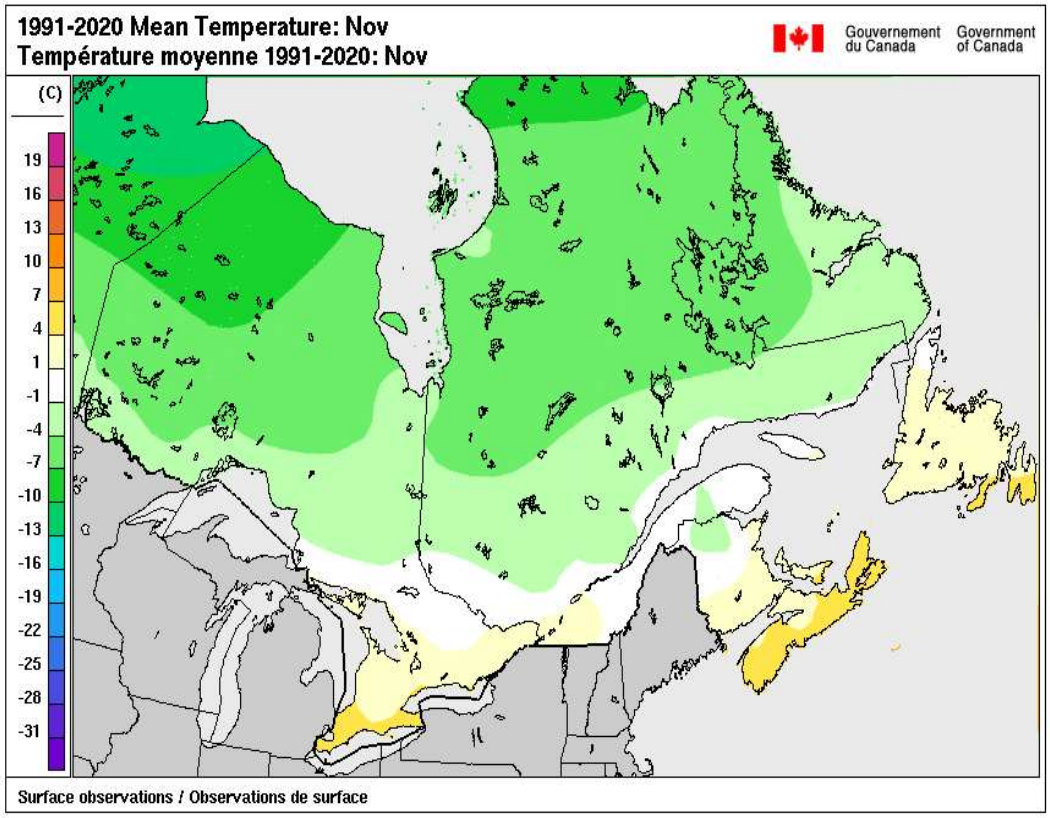
Station	Date	Temperature	10-year Normal	Anomaly
St. Lambert Lock	10 Nov	10.8 ºC	8.5 ºC	+2.3 ºC
St. Louis Bridge	10 Nov	10.4ºC	9.6 ºC	+0.8 ºC
Cornwall	10 Nov	11.5ºC	10.8 ºC	+0.7 ºC
Iroquois Lock	10 Nov	12.3 ºC	11.9 ºC	+0.4 ºC
Kingston	10 Nov	12.2 ºC	11.1 ºC	+1.1 ºC
Port Colborne	10 Nov	12.8 ºC	10.9 ºC	+1.9 ºC
Port Weller	10 Nov	14.1ºC	11.5 ºC	+2.6 ºC

On November 9th, 2026, the eastern lakes were 2 - 3 ºC warmer than the long-term average.

	Huron	Erie	Ontario	St Claire
Average	9.6 ºC	11.9 ºC	10.2 ºC	9.4 ºC
This year	11.9 ºC	15.1 ºC	13.5 ºC	12.2 ºC
Anomaly	2.3 ºC	3.2 ºC	3.3 ºC	2.8 ºC

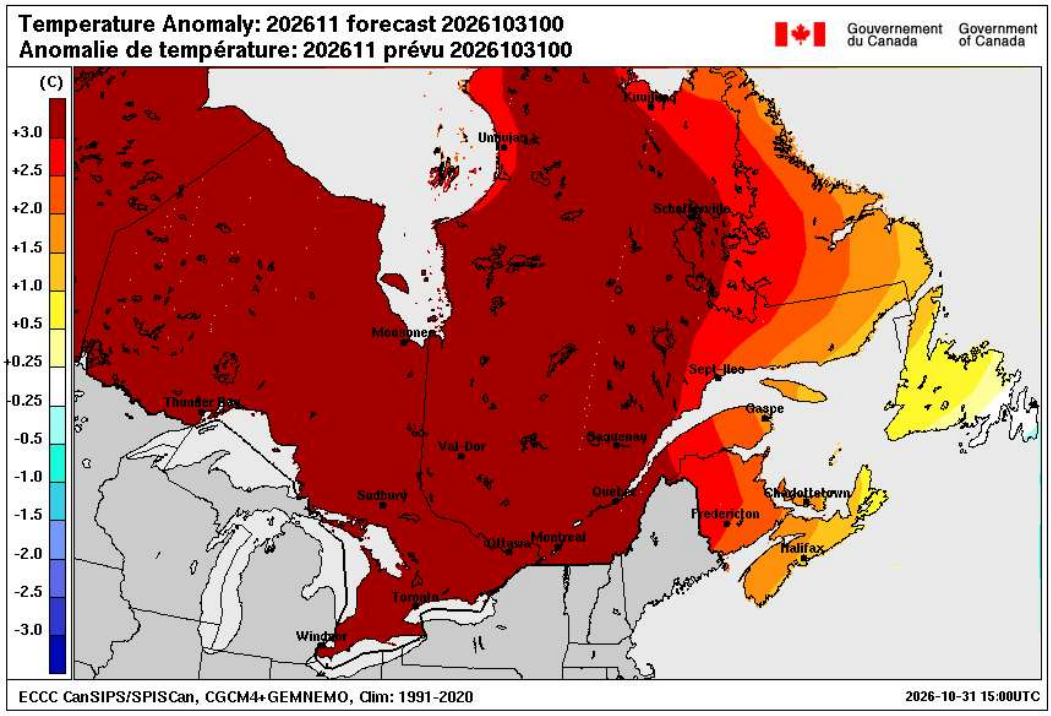
Temperature anomaly forecasts this winter

Monthly average November temperature 1991 - 2020



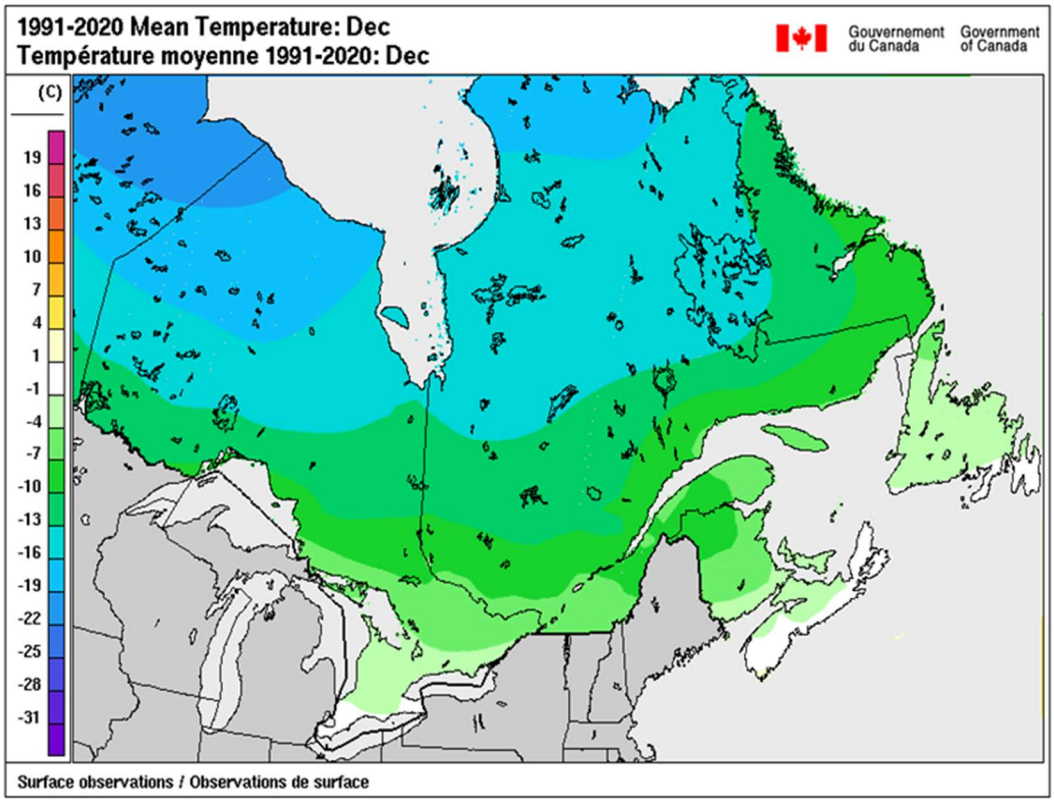
The normal temperature over the Seaway in November usually ranges from 4 ºC near western Lake Erie to near 0 ºC near Montreal.

Temperature anomaly Forecast for November 2026



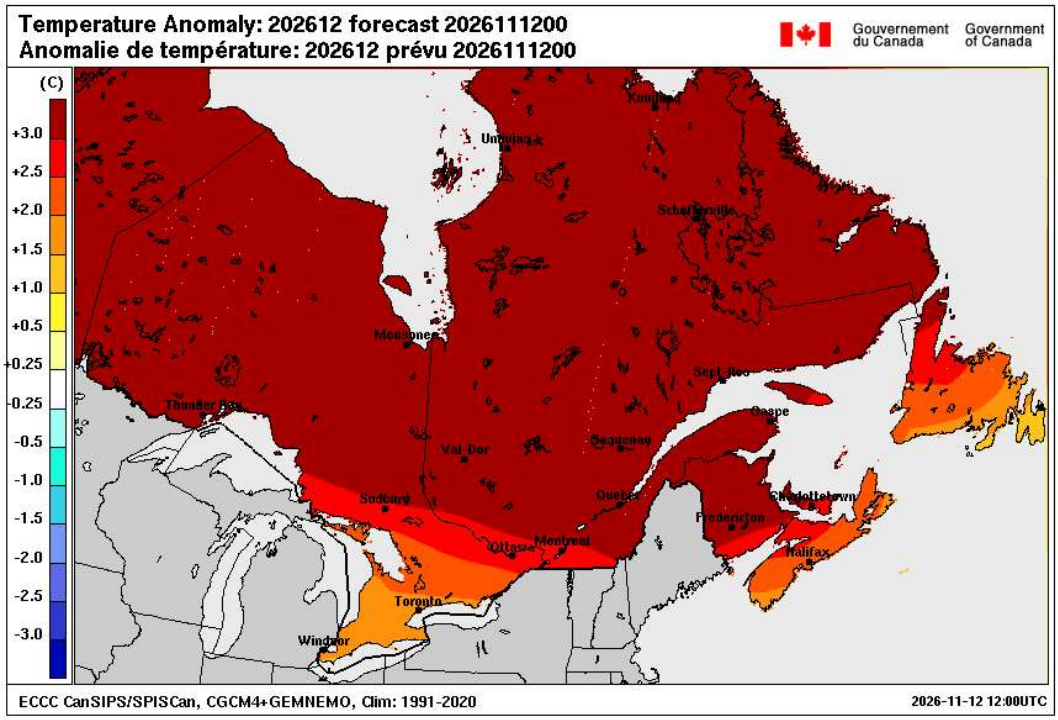
Temperatures in November are forecast to be at least +3 ºC above normal for the Seaway.

Monthly average December temperature 1991 - 2020



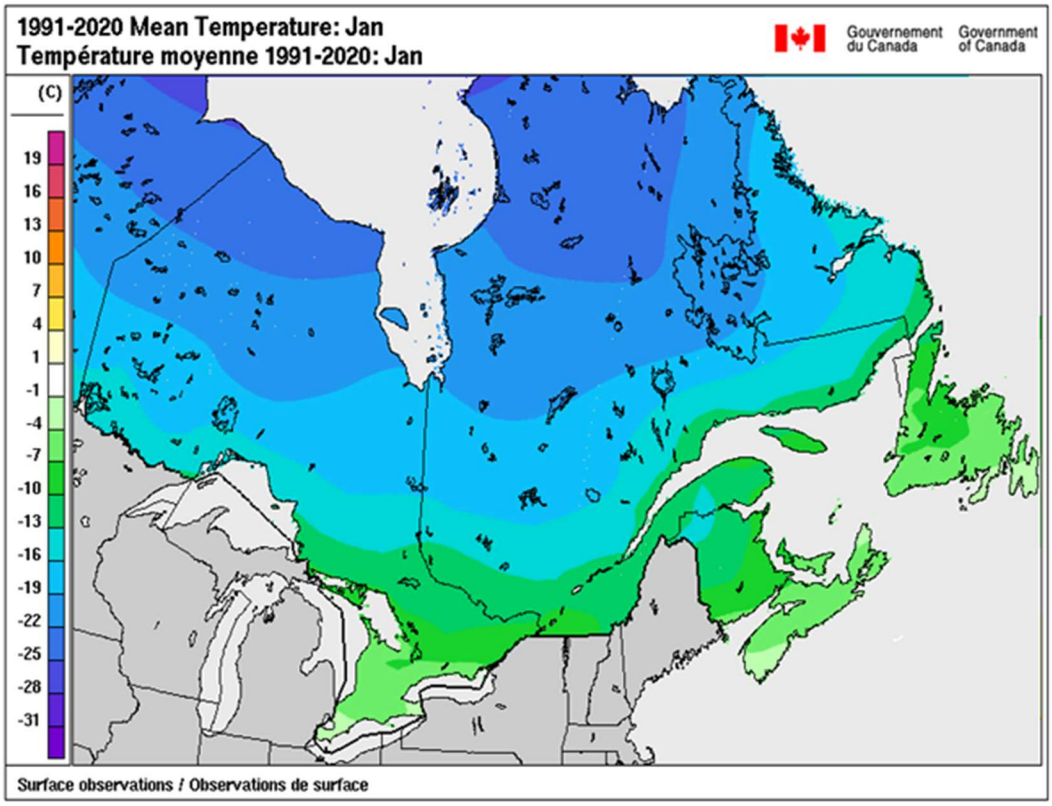
Normal temperatures over the Seaway in December usually range from 0 ºC near western Lake Erie to near -7 ºC near Montreal.

Temperature anomaly Forecast for December 2026



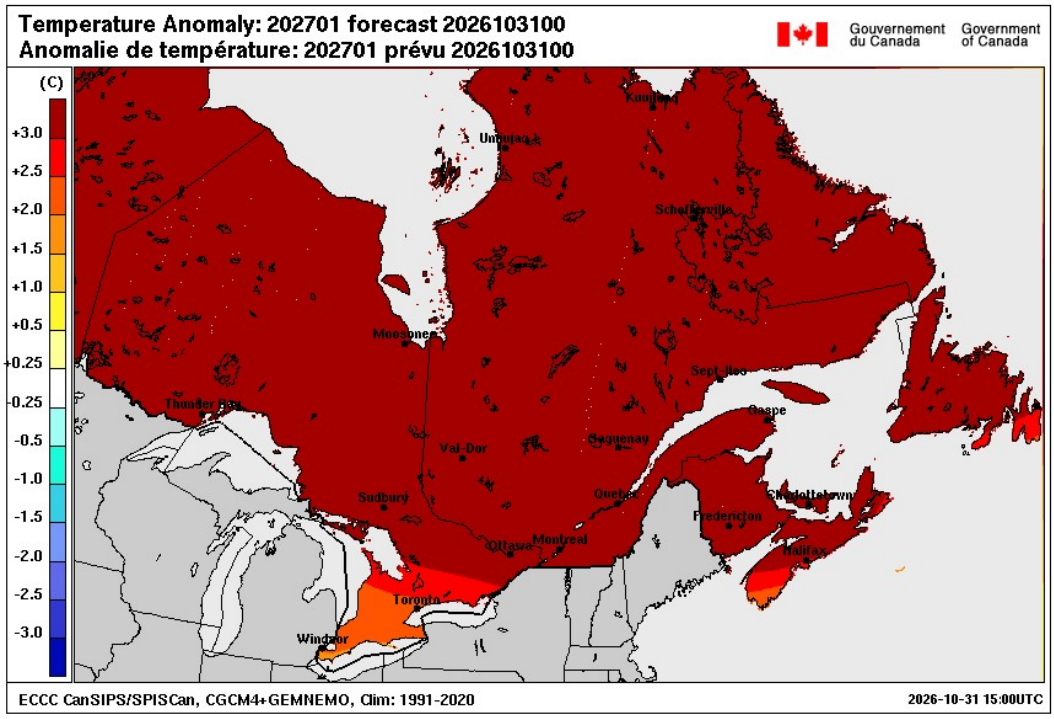
Well above seasonal temperatures are expected to continue with +1 ºC above normal for western Lake Erie and +3 ºC above normal near Montreal.

Monthly average January temperature 1991 - 2020



Normal temperature over the Seaway for January usually ranges from -4 ºC near western Lake Erie to near -12 ºC near Montreal.

Temperature anomaly Forecast for January 2027



Well above seasonal temperatures are forecast to continue for January where temperatures are expected be above +1 ºC above normal for western Lake Erie becoming +3 ºC above normal for Montreal.

The following table lists the first permanent ice, the complete freeze-over and the forecast trend for 2026/27.

Station	First permanent ice	Complete Freeze Over	Forecast
St. Lambert Lock	7 Jan	12 Jan	8-12 days later
Upper Beauharnois	5 Jan	9 Jan	8-12 days later
Cornwall (St Louis Bridge)	9 Jan	14 Jan	10-14 days later
Iroquois Lock	10 Jan	17 Jan	7-10 days later
Port Weller	12 Jan	After 17 Jan	5-7 days later

In Summary:

- **Water temperatures in the Great Lakes are warm this year.**
- **The southern Great Lakes remain 2-3 ºC warmer than normal.**
- **Water temperatures at locks are above normal.**
- **Air Temperatures are expected to remain above normal.**

Thus, with above normal temperatures and above normal water temperatures we expect

7-10 days delayed freeze-up this year.

The St. Lawrence River and Kingston are expected to experience persistent open water conditions with occasional new ice along the coasts through much of December and early January.

Not much ice growth beyond the shores is expected until after mid-January.

The ice in western Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair is expected to increase in concentration covering large parts of the Western Basin during the third week of January.

The St. Lawrence River near Kingston is expected to be mainly 4-6 tenths of ice after the third week of January.

Below normal lake ice conditions expected for the Seaway this winter.

THE NEXT ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AND LAKE ERIE FORECAST WILL BE ISSUED ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 1st, 2026.

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