

Iceberg Outlook | For the Labrador Coast and East Newfoundland Waters

Issued by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) International Ice Patrol (IIP)

Valid 27 January 2023 00 UTC

This is the first Iceberg Outlook of the 2023 Ice Season. The next will be issued 3 February 2023.

THIS PRODUCT IS NOT FOR NAVIGATION. ALL ICEBERG CONDITIONS GIVEN ARE IIP ESTIMATIONS.

Labrador Coast (north of 52°N):

As of 26 January, new to thin first-year sea ice is developing along the Labrador Coast under seasonal continued below-freezing surface air temperatures. The concentration of this sea ice ranges from 10 to 100 percent with the majority between 70 and 100 percent areal coverageⁱ. IIP estimates that there are fifty-nine icebergs between 52°N and 61°N latitude, all of which are within the sea ice edge along the Labrador Coastⁱⁱ. IIP expects continued seasonal sea ice growth and drift along the Labrador Coast to carry icebergs south into open water, corresponding to a continued seasonal expansion of the iceberg limit.

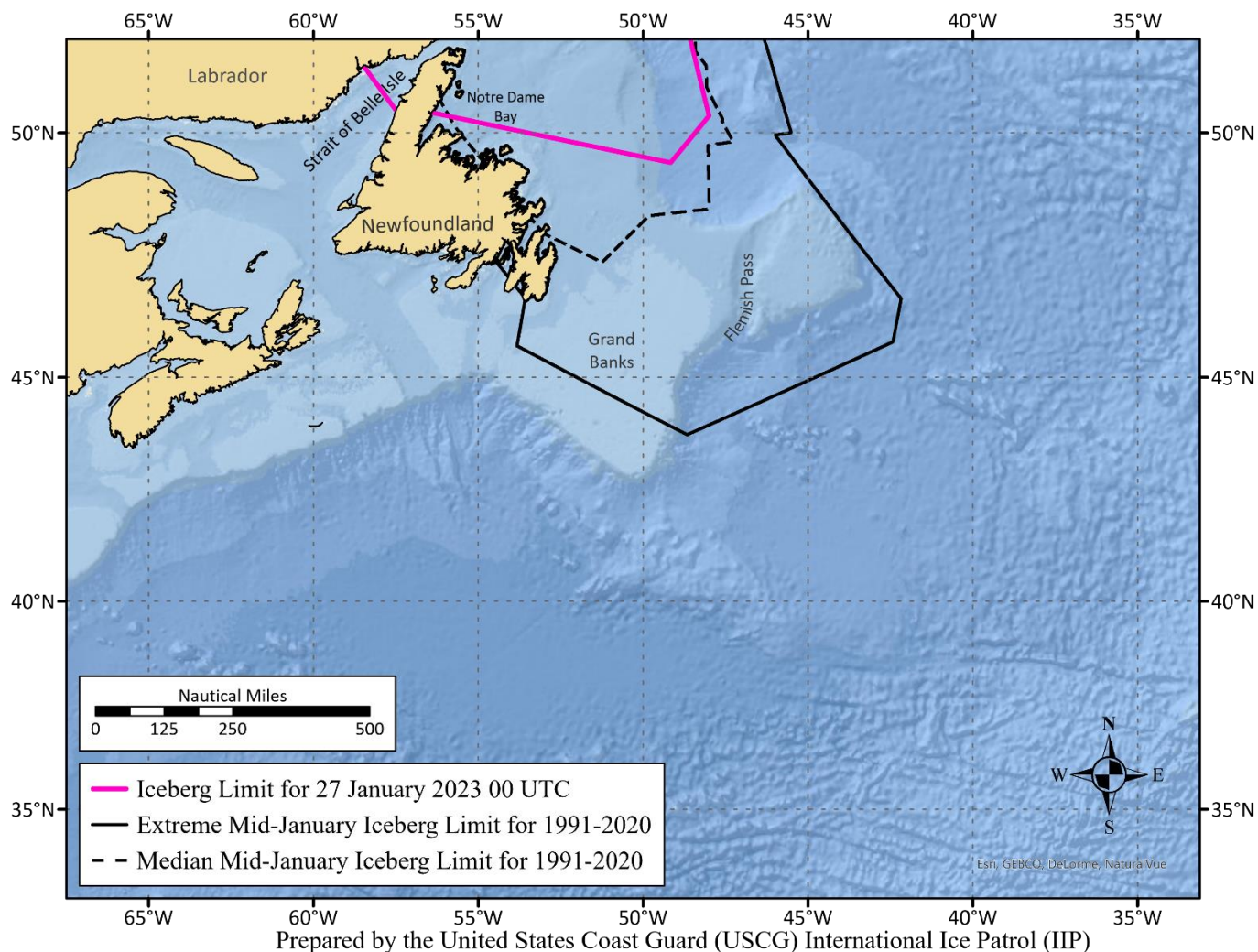
Newfoundland, Strait of Belle Isle, and Gulf of Saint Lawrence (south of 52°N):

IIP estimates that there are three icebergs south of 52°N latitude: one within the Strait of Belle Isle and two in open water off the northeast coast of Newfoundland. The iceberg limit continued to expand southward over the course of the last week since IIP resumed production on 19 January of the North American Ice Service (NAIS) Iceberg Products from the Canadian Ice Service (CIS) for the 2023 Ice Season. For its first week of production, IIP has largely relied on ship reporting and satellite reconnaissance of iceberg locations. IIP expects continued seasonal expansion of the iceberg limit through this region.

In the Context of 1991 to 2020 Regional Ice Climatology:

As of 23 January, sea ice concentration and regional percentage ice coverage along the Labrador Coast and east Newfoundland are largely below normal for 1991 to 2020. As of the issuing of this product, no icebergs have yet drifted south of 48°N latitude in the 2023 Ice Seasonⁱⁱⁱ. On average between 1983 and 2022^{iv}, one iceberg drifts south of this latitude by the end of December and four icebergs drift south of it by the end of January. IIP expects a seasonal start to icebergs drifting south of 48°N as the Ice Season progresses through winter; however, IIP expects this number to remain below the 1983 to 2022 mean through January. As of 27 January, the iceberg limit remains within the 1991 to 2020 mid-January extreme and median (see figure). Through the end of January, IIP expects the southern iceberg limit to remain within the median and the eastern limit to follow the median.

Current overall estimated iceberg count and extent are below normal in the region.



ⁱ All sea ice conditions reported are from Environmental Climate Change Canada's Canadian Ice Service East Coast Latest Ice Conditions Ice Products, <https://iceweb1.cis.ec.gc.ca/Prod/page2.xhtml?CanID=11091&lang=en>.

ⁱⁱ All iceberg conditions reported are from the latest North American Ice Service (NAIS) Iceberg Products, <https://navcen.uscg.gov/north-american-ice-service-products>.

ⁱⁱⁱ IIP considers 48°N to be the latitude south of which icebergs pose a threat to major transatlantic shipping lanes (Report of the International Ice Patrol in the North Atlantic, IIP, 2018, <https://navcen.uscg.gov/international-ice-patrol-annual-reports>).

^{iv} IIP considers 1983 to present to be its modern reconnaissance era in which IIP has used modern tools of iceberg reconnaissance and tracking (Report of the International Ice Patrol in the North Atlantic, IIP, 2018, <https://navcen.uscg.gov/international-ice-patrol-annual-reports>).