Arctic and Great Lakes Ice Trends

Source: DTE

A recent study forecasts the Arctic**'s initial ice-free conditions by August or September of 2030**, regardless of emission scenarios, with the possibility of recurring occurrences by mid-century (2035–2067).

- In recent years, the Arctic Ocean had around **3.3 million km2 of sea ice** at its minimum in September 2023.
    - Arctic sea ice reaches its minimum extent in September every year.

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- Concurrently, the **Great Lakes**, comprising **Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario** have witnessed notably reduced ice cover for 2 consecutive years.
    - They are renowned as Earth's **'freshwater tower,'** and are now witnessing unprecedented declines in ice cover, attributed to **global warming and the** El Nino phenomenon.
        - The year 2023 was designated as the hottest on record, largely influenced by **El Nino.**

Read more: Arctic Region and Melting Aspirations, Great Lakes