



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.



- 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](#).

THE GREAT LAKES



Read more: [Arctic Region and Melting Aspirations](#), [Great Lakes](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/arctic-and-great-lakes-ice-trends>