

German Ice Report - No. 21

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At the North Sea coast the ice is decreasing rapidly. In the coastal waters of the Baltic Sea, the ice is slowly rotting.

North Sea coast

In the Northfrisian Wadden Sea there is mostly open water, in the port of Tönning compact, partly rotten, 10-15 cm thick ice occurs. On the Elbe, there is very close to close up to 30 cm thick ice from the port of Hamburg to Glückstadt, farther out there is ice-free. On the Weser some thin ice floes are drifting at Bremerhaven. The river Ems is ice-free.

Western Baltic Sea

In the inner fjord of Flensburg there is very close 5-10 cm thick ice, farther out very open 10-15 cm thick ice to Neukirchen. On the inner Schlei there is 10-15 cm thick ice, in places, farther out to Schleimünde open water. In Heiligenhafen port and on the Trave open water. In the harbour of Wismar open 10-15 cm thick ice, farther out first to Walfisch 10-15 cm thick fast ice, then close 10-15 cm thick ice to Timmendorf; the ice is rotting. In Rostock, the Unterwarnow is covered with up to 20 cm thick rotten ice, in the overseas ports there is 10-20 cm thick ice, in places. The Bodden waters south of Darß and Zingst are covered with 10-20 cm thick rotting ice with areas of open thin ice.

Southern Baltic Sea

The Bodden waters between Rügen and Hiddensee and the northern approach to Stralsund are covered with 10-20 cm thick ice with areas of open ice. In the harbour of Stralsund and on the eastern approach to Stralsund there is close to compact, partly ridged, 10-20 cm thick ice to Ruden. At the coasts of the Greifswalder Bodden there is 10-20 cm thick fast ice, else close to compact 10-15 cm thick ice with smaller areas of open water. On the northern Peenestrom, there is open water between Wolgast and Peenemünde as well as compact, partly ridged, 10-20 cm thick ice farther out to Ruden. Southern Peenestrom and Kleines Haff are covered with 10-20 cm thick fast ice. Off the outer coast of Usedom open thin ice may drift.

Outlook

The ice decrease will slowly continue. With freshening westerly, northwesterly and southwesterly winds the ice will drift in the easterly directions.

Restrictions

The northern approach to Stralsund and Bodden waters south of Darß and Zingst are closed for navigation.

Only daytime navigation is allowed in the eastern approach to Stralsund and in approaches to Wolgast as well as to the harbours in Greifswalder Bodden and Kleines Haff.

To Stralsund port, to Wolgast port and to ports in Greifswalder Bodden use of pilot are mandatory.

Only ships with minimum ice class 1C and engine power not less than 1000 kW are assisted to Stralsund, Wolgast and the harbours in the southern Greifswalder Bodden (Lubmin, Vierow, Ladebow).

Icebreakers

There is 24h ice breaking assistance in the port of Hamburg.
ARKONA and some icebreaking vessels are working in the eastern waters.

BSH - Ice Service