

Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook Partners Workshop Appendix

Current sea-ice terminology and guidelines used by the National Weather Service for the Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook. Contributed by M. Schreck.

When describing sea ice concentration:

Use World Meteorological Organization nomenclature as listed below:

Compact Pack Ice	10/10 concentration, no water visible
Consolidated Ice	10/10 concentration & floes are frozen together
Very Close Pack Ice	Concentration \geq 9/10
Close Pack Ice	7/10 to 8/10 concentration
Open Pack Ice	4/10 to 6/10 concentration
Very Open Pack Ice	1/10 to 3/10 concentration
Open Water	< 1/10 concentration

When describing sea ice floes:

Use World Meteorological Organization nomenclature as listed below:

Giant floes	over 10 km across
Vast floes	2 to 10 km across
Big floes	500 to 2000 m across
Medium floes	100 to 500 m across
Small floes	20 to 100 m across
Ice cake	< 20 m across
Small ice cake	< 2 m across
Brash ice	fragments of sea ice < 2 m across

When describing weather:

- Use miles for distance (not nm), as well as km.
- Wind speeds should be given in mph and kt.
- Make sure you describe the day with the date (i.e., Saturday June 1st) in the outlook.
- Use area descriptions for where the low or high is located and will move over the next time frame
- Describe the temperatures as well with an above normal or below normal phrase as well (and how much) if warranted.
- Use a range for wind speed in mph (example: 10 to 20 mph). Write out the wind direction as a word, no abbreviations (example: Southwest not SW).
- Do not go through each day; only when there are changes in wind direction or significant temperature or wind speed changes.