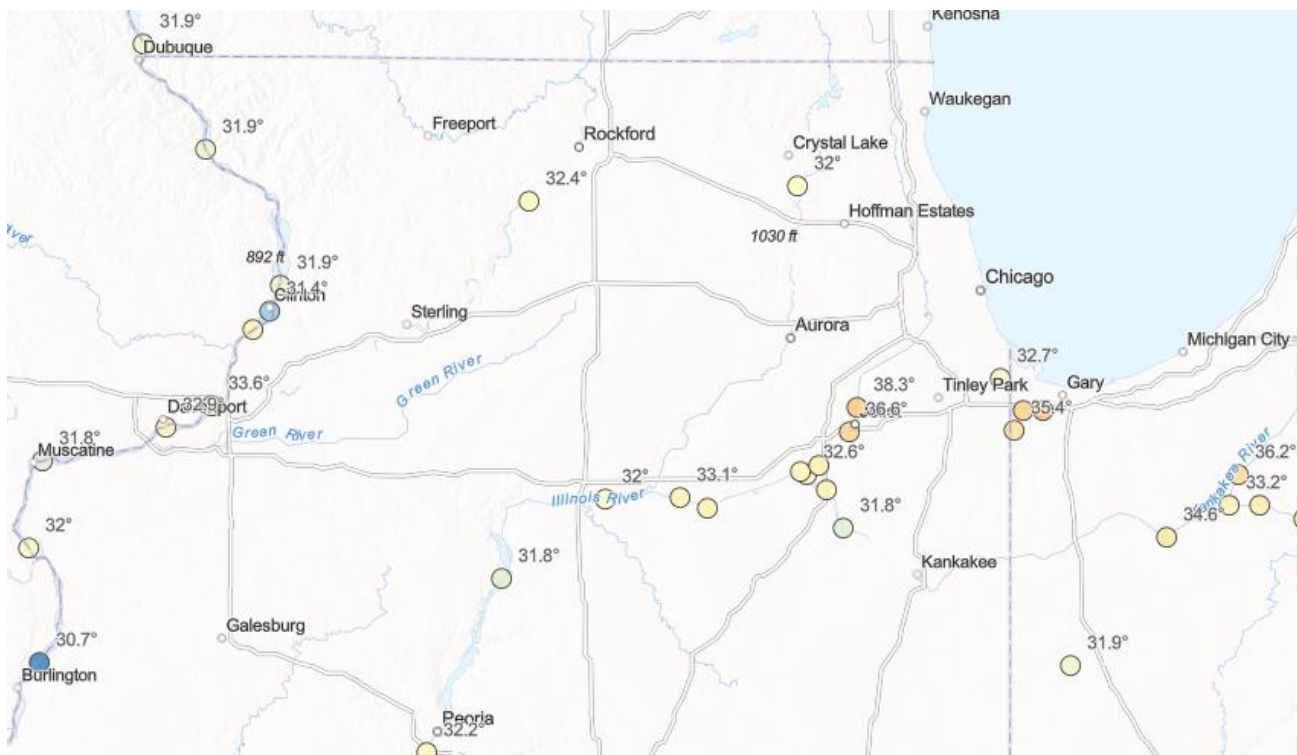




River Ice Cover Likely to Increase Later This Week

Although recent milder temperatures have slightly reduced river ice cover and minor ice jamming that has been observed over the last 2 weeks, colder temperatures are again in the forecast which will create conditions favorable for an increase in river ice coverage. River water temperatures remain near freezing which may mean that ice will form quickly after temperatures fall. additional freeze-up ice jams will be possible.

Although not widespread or flood-producing in most cases, a few freeze-up ice jams have occurred since the beginning of January. Areas that experienced at least minor ice jamming include the Kankakee River downstream of Wilmington, the Kankakee River near Momence, the Fox River between Oswego and Yorkville, the Fox River near Dayton, the Rock River near Rockton, the Des Plaines River near Lyons and Lemont, and the Vermilion River near Leonore. Heavy river ice cover has also caused impacts for shipping along the Illinois River.

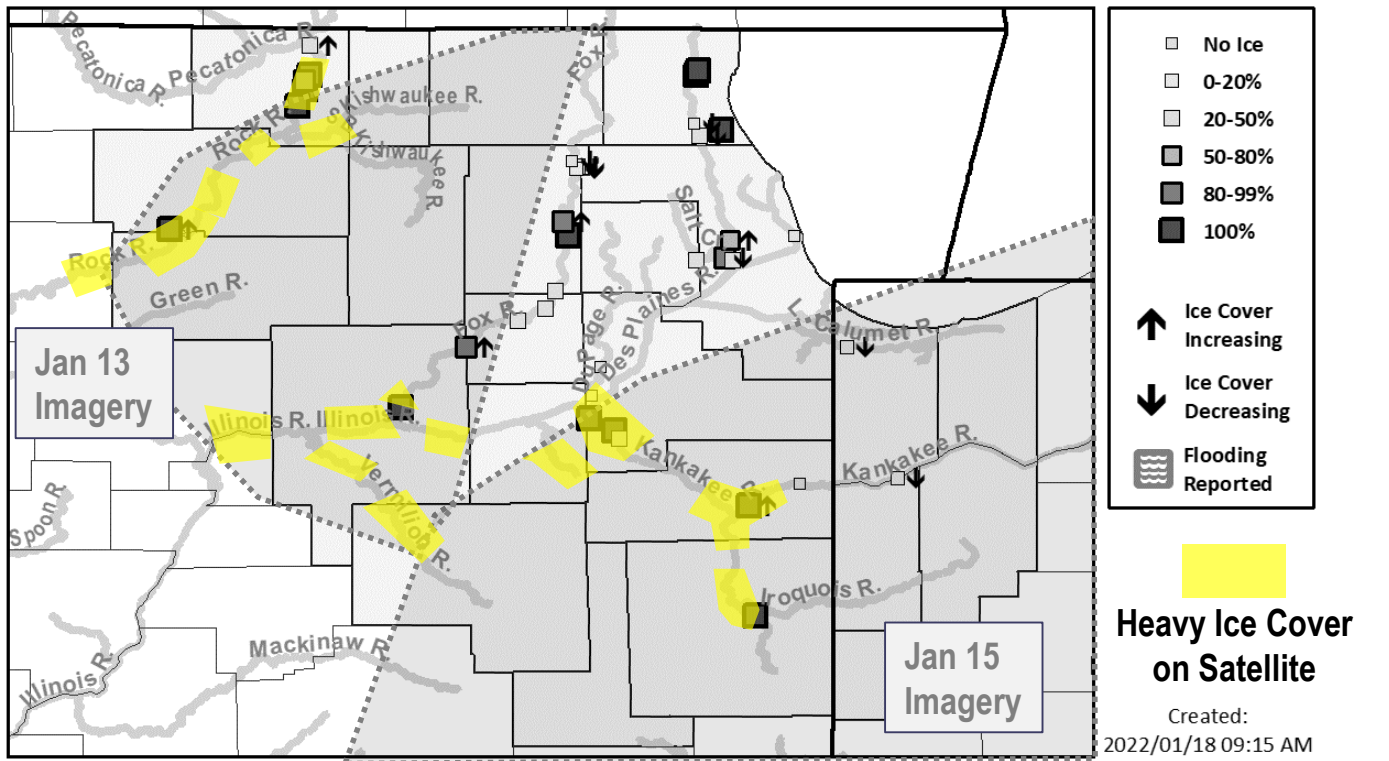
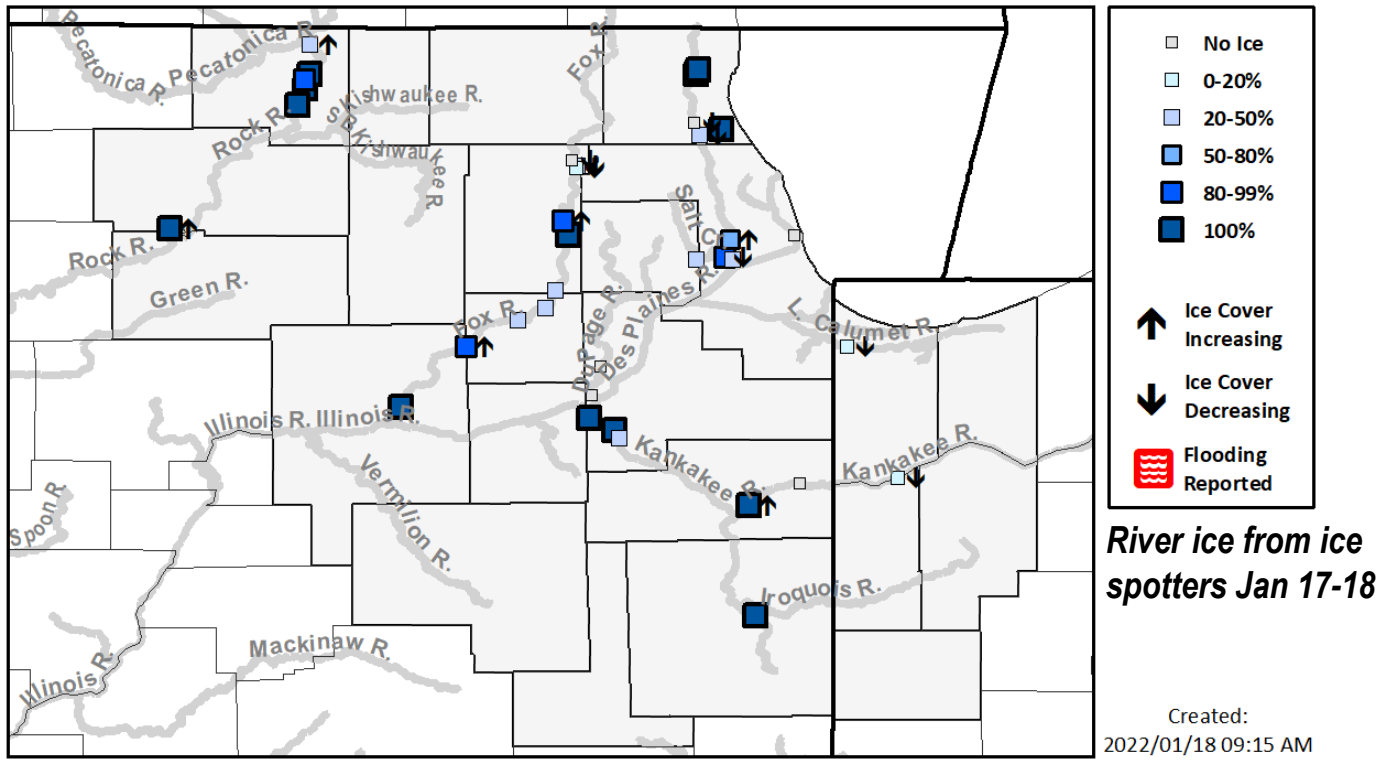


River water temperatures. Source: USGS, USACE, and NCRFC.



Recent River Ice Spotter Reports

River ice spotter reports this week indicate numerous locations that continue to have high ice concentration, despite recent warmer temperatures. Combining river ice spotter information with satellite imagery and shipping reports suggests many stretches of area rivers with heavy ice.

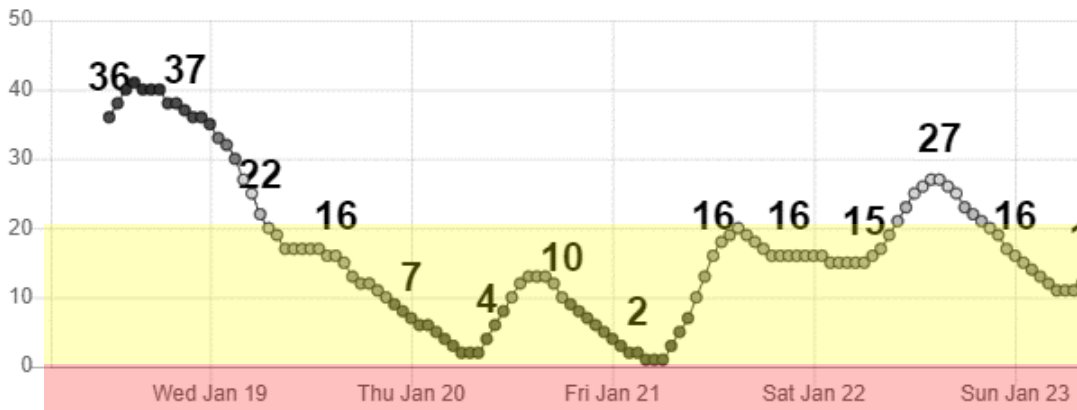


Temperature Forecast

The forecast valid at Aurora, IL, shows that temperatures are forecast to generally fall throughout the day on Wednesday and become favorable for rapid river ice growth on area rivers at least until the weekend. Raw computer model forecasts suggest the possibility of favorable river ice conditions continuing off and on into next week.

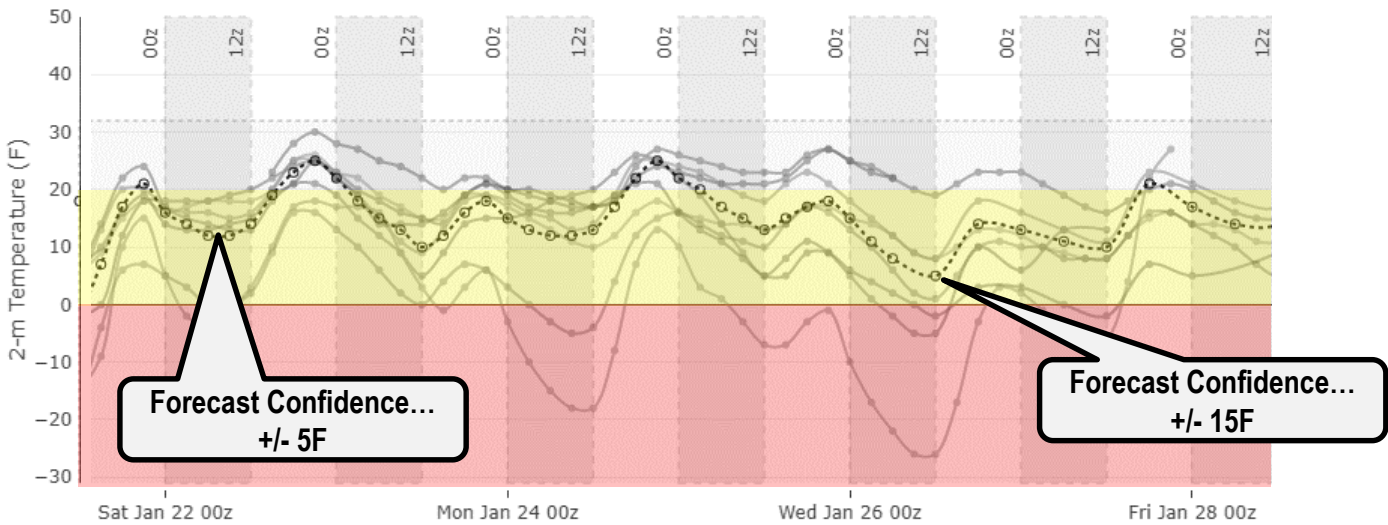
Official Forecast... Near Term

Human reviewed and adjusted. Updated Tuesday (01/18) morning.



Raw Model Ensemble (National Blend of Models)... Longer Term

Numerous model simulations with slightly different input conditions used to help create a forecast and estimate forecast confidence. No human review or bias correction. Updated Tuesday (01/18) morning.



Rapid River Ice Formation on.....

Some Area Rivers	Almost All Area Rivers
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Possible Impacts

The rapid formation of additional river ice on top of existing ice cover may cause ice jams to reoccur in places where they have occurred earlier this winter, or may cause ice problems in new areas. Ice formation on the Illinois River and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal may cause shipping impacts. If significant ice jams occur, flooding would also be possible.



*Nearly solid river ice cover upstream of Palmer Dam in Yorkville, IL
Joe Buan, Kendall County EMA*

NWS Chicago Volunteer River Ice Spotter Network

The NWS Chicago office will be monitoring reports from our Volunteer River Ice Spotter Network and data from area river gauges throughout the upcoming period of cold weather. Gauge observations are not always reliable when heavy river ice is present, and ice jams can occur between river gauges. Manual observations also are not dependent on clear skies, such as with satellite imagery.

More Information: https://www.weather.gov/lot/River_Ice_Spotter_Network

Contact our office: nws.chicago@noaa.gov