

Iceberg Outlook | For the Labrador Coast and East Newfoundland Waters

Issued by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) International Ice Patrol (IIP)

Valid 1 September 2023 00 UTC

This will be the final Iceberg Outlook issued this season.

THIS PRODUCT IS NOT FOR NAVIGATION. ALL ICEBERG CONDITIONS GIVEN ARE IIP ESTIMATIONS.

Labrador Coast (north of 52°N):

IIP estimates that there are three hundred and four icebergs between 52°N and 62°N latitudeⁱ. In general, IIP expects continued transport of icebergs, unencumbered by sea ice, through this region over the coming week.

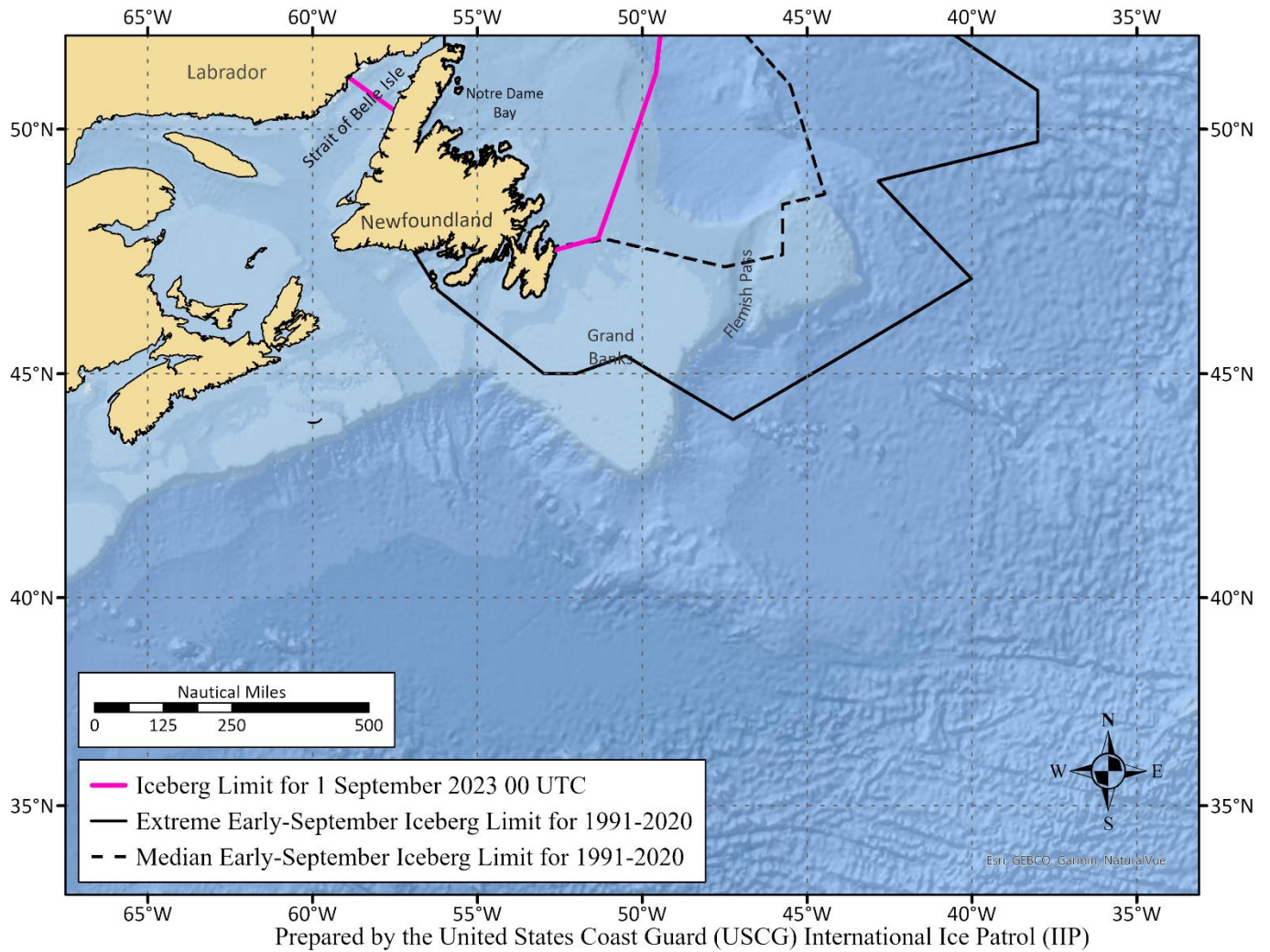
Newfoundland, Strait of Belle Isle, and Gulf of Saint Lawrence (south of 52°N):

IIP estimates that there are sixteen icebergs south of 52°N latitude. IIP has focused on satellite reconnaissance to monitor the iceberg population since May. Since the last Iceberg Outlook, the southern iceberg limit has expanded slightly south of 48°Nⁱⁱ with the estimated drift of a few icebergs along the eastern coast of Newfoundland. The western and southeastern limits have contracted. In open water, icebergs deteriorate faster but also threaten shipping lanes and unsuspecting mariners. At this point in the season, IIP expects the iceberg limit to continue to contract.

In the Context of 1991 to 2020 Regional Ice Climatology:

Sea ice has fully deteriorated in this region, which is normal at this time for 1991 to 2020. Total accumulated ice coverage for the 2023 Ice Season was below normal. In the 2023 Ice Season, IIP estimates that three hundred and eighty-five icebergs have drifted south of 48°N latitude. On average between 1983 and 2022ⁱⁱⁱ, IIP estimates that seven hundred and thirty-nine icebergs drift south of this latitude by the end of August and seven hundred and forty-one drift south of it by the end of September. As of 1 September, the iceberg limit remains within the 1991 to 2020 mid-August extreme and median (see figure), with the southern limit resting on the southern median.

In summary, the estimated iceberg extent is near to below normal in the region. The estimated iceberg count south of 48°N is near to below normal. The 2023 iceberg season will likely be classified as having “moderate” severity.



ⁱ All iceberg conditions reported are from the latest North American Ice Service (NAIS) Iceberg Products, <https://navcen.uscg.gov/north-american-ice-service-products>.

ⁱⁱ IIP considers 48°N to be the latitude south of which icebergs pose a threat to major transatlantic shipping lanes (Report of the International Ice Patrol in the North Atlantic, IIP, 2018, <https://navcen.uscg.gov/international-ice-patrol-annual-reports>).

ⁱⁱⁱ IIP considers 1983 to present to be its modern reconnaissance era in which IIP has used modern tools of iceberg reconnaissance and tracking (Report of the International Ice Patrol in the North Atlantic, IIP, 2018, <https://navcen.uscg.gov/international-ice-patrol-annual-reports>).