

Know Your Ice

Land Ice

Water Vapor



Snow

A precipitation of ice crystals, most of which are branched



Firn

Old snow which has been transformed into a dense material. It is not snow; it's particles are joined. It is not ice; it has communicating air interstices.



Ice Sheet

A mass of ice and snow of considerable thickness and large area on rock or floating on water. An ice sheet of greater than 50,000 square Km is called an ice cap.



Glacier

A mass of snow and ice continuously moving from higher to lower ground, or if afloat, constantly spreading.



Ice Berg

A large mass of floating ice, more than 5 meters above sea level that has broken away from a glacier.



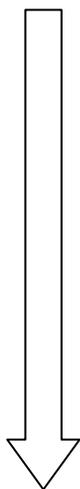
Bergy Bits

A piece of floating ice less than 5 meters above sea level and not more than about 10 meters across.



Growler

A piece of floating ice, smaller than a bergy bit, almost awash.



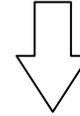
Brash

Accumulation of floating ice made up of fragments not more than 2 meters across. The wreckage of other forms of ice.

Sea Water

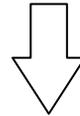
Sea Ice

Sea Water



Frazil Ice

Fine spicules or plates of ice in suspension in water.



Grease Ice

A later stage of freezing than frazile ice; coagulated spicules and plates.



Shuga

An accumulation of spongy white lumps, a few centimeters across formed from slush or grease ice.



Ice Rind

A brittle, shiny crust formed on a quiet surface by direct freezing or from grease ice less than 5 centimeters thick.

Slush

Snow, saturated with water floating after a heavy snowfall



Nilas

A thin elastic crust of floating ice bending on waves up to 10 centimeters thick.



Pancake Ice

A piece of new ice approximately circular, 30 centimeters to 3 meters across, with raised rims. Formed from freezing together of grease ice, slush or shuga or the break up of ice rind or nilas.



Fast Ice

Sea ice which remains fast along the coast where it is attached to the shore; an ice front, ice wall or over shoals or between grounded ice bergs.



Pack Ice

Any area of sea ice other than fast ice no matter the form or disposition.



Floe

A piece of floating ice other than fast ice or glacier ice. There are five sizes:

- Ice Cake - less than 10 meters across
- Small - 10 to 100 meters across
- Medium - 100 to 1000 meters across
- Big - 1 to 10 kilometers across
- Vast - Over 10 kilometers across

