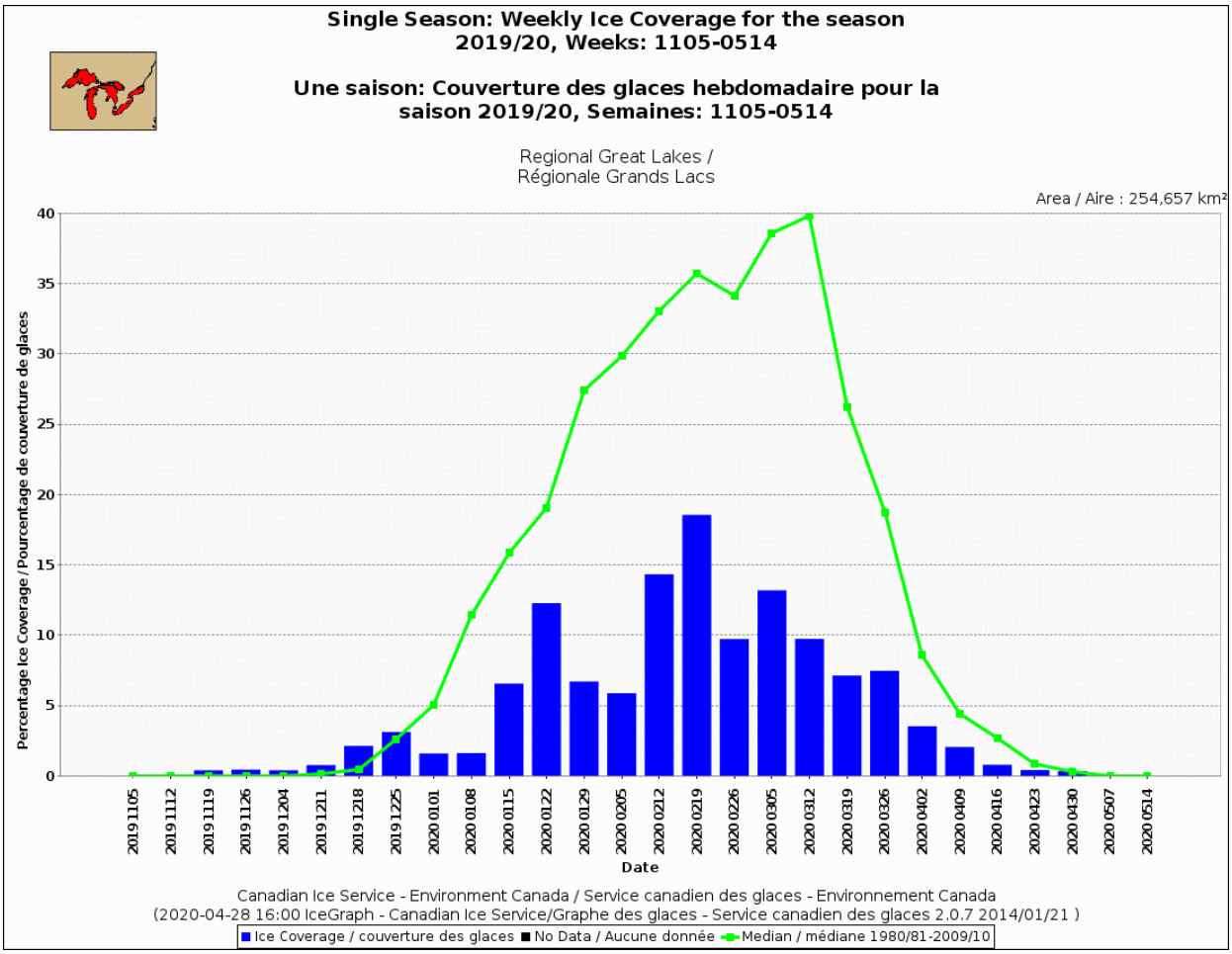
Weather Analysis and Ice Thickness Measurements:

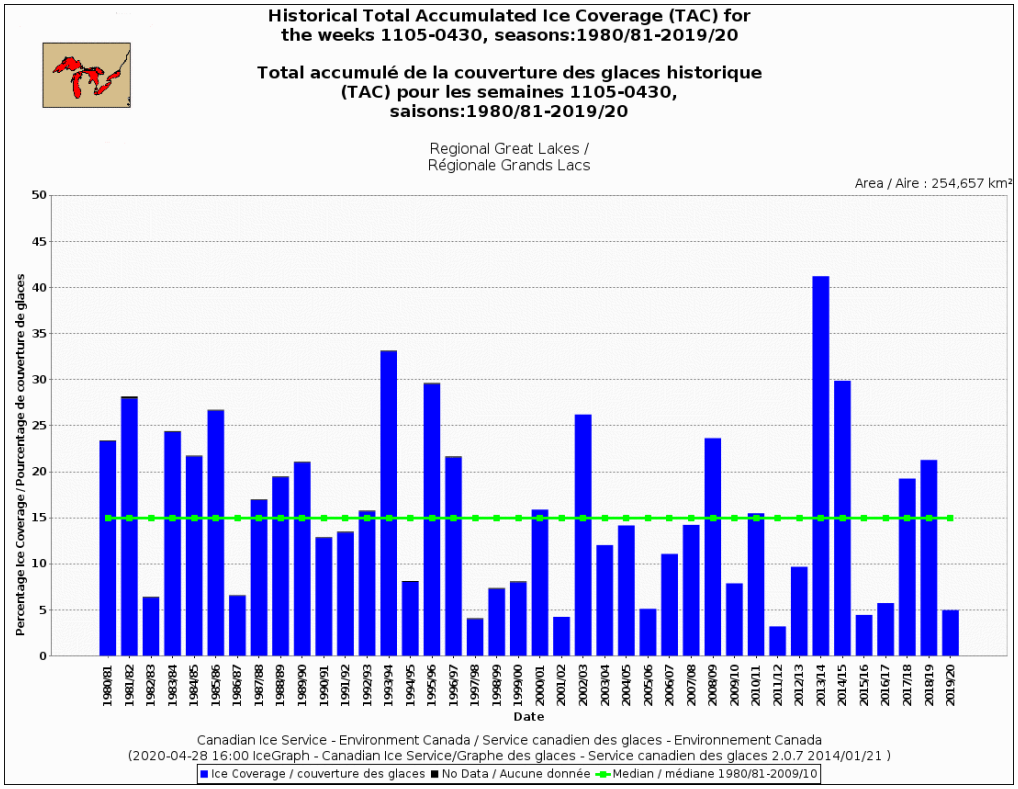
The National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), with input provided by the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL), classified the 2020 ice season as "below average". Great Lakes percentage of ice cover peaked at 19.5% on February 21, 2020.

The following table summarizes the maximum ice conditions observed in key locations of the Operation Taconite area of responsibility.

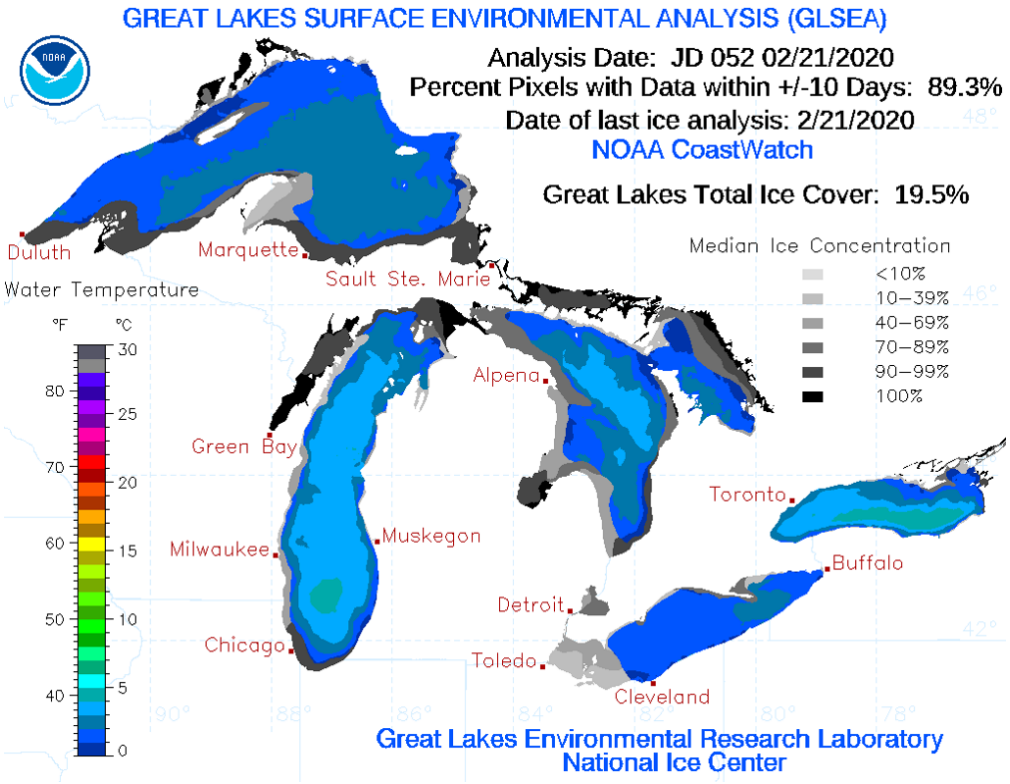
a. Thunder Bay: 18-24" plate ice with 6" snow cover.
b. Duluth-Superior: 12-18" plate ice.
c. Whitefish Bay: 12-18" plate ice with 6" snow cover.
d. St. Marys River: 12-18" plate ice with 6" snow cover.
e. Straits of Mackinac: 12-18" plate ice with 1-3' windrows.
f. Green Bay (North): 18-24" plate ice with 6" snow cover.
g. Green Bay (South): 12-18" plate ice with 6" snow cover.



Single Season: Weekly Ice Coverage
Compared to the Median (1981-2010)
Chart produced by the Canadian Ice Service



Great Lakes Total Accumulated Ice Coverage 1980-2020
Compared to the Median (1981-2010)
Chart produced by the Canadian Ice Service



2020 Great Lakes Total Ice Cover
Chart produced by NOAA/GLERL