

Summary of Lower Platte River Ice Report January 19, 2009 through January 23, 2009

Confluence of the Elkhorn/Platte River

Above confluence of Elkhorn and Platte Rivers. No significant changes noted from last week's report. Ice appears to be decaying and the channel is becoming wider on the west side of the river at this location.

At Capehart Rd., 4 miles north of Highway 6 the character of intact ice cover shows a surface roughness of less than .5 feet. Snow covered with evidence of decay in the form of melting ice. There are parallel and perpendicular cracks of 10 ft. No evidence of fracturing. In the Elkhorn there is an open channel by the west bank upstream as far as observer could see. In the Platte there is an open channel by the east bank downstream as far as observer could see. There is also an open channel by the west bank across the river at Capehart Rd.

Elkhorn River

At Highway 30 Bridge the character of ice shows a intact ice cover surface roughness of less than .5 feet. Snow covered with no evidence of decay.

Highway 64 at Highway 64 Bridge the character of intact ice cover shows a surface roughness of less than .5 ft. There is evidence of decay in the way of melting ice. There are parallel cracks with a distance of 50 ft. No evidence of fracturing. It was also noted that there is an open channel in the middle of the river and by the west bank as far as the observer could see.

At Highway 92 by Highway 92 Bridge, the character of intact ice cover showed a surface roughness of less than .5 ft with no evidence of decay, cracks or fracturing. There is no open water, total ice cover.

At Highway 36 by Highway 36 Bridge the character of intact ice cover showed a roughness of less than .5 ft. snow covered with no evidence of decay, cracking or fracturing. The channel is completely frozen with no open water.

Platte River

3.1 miles north of Hwy 64 Bridge the Ice cover shows a surface roughness of less than .5ft. There is evidence of decay in the form of melting ice. No evidence of fracturing. There are several small cracks perpendicular to shore. Upstream there is a small open channel on the east side of the river. A little water is standing on top of the ice. On January 21, 2009 seven holes were bored in the ice across the river. Ice thickness is reported to be 11.5" to 18".

¼ mile north of Fairview Rd, 3 ½ miles upstream of NE Hwy 6 Bridge the character of intact Ice cover shows a roughness of less than .5 feet. There are perpendicular cracks in the ice with evidence of decay in the form of melting ice.

At the Biel Dike road location the ice is decaying along the shore with water flowing under and pooled on the top of the ice in locations (observer referenced locations noted in submitted photos). There is approximately 20 ft of ice from the shore at the photo location but the ice has receded significantly farther up the river. Open channel is flowing rapidly.

At Hwy 77, at the Platte River Bridge the channel still remains about 95% ice covered. The warmer temperatures have allowed some ice melting; there are still just a few sporadic open spots at the location. There is no moving ice and it remains smooth in appearance. ½ mile upstream, the intact ice covers approximately 98% of the river. The ice is smooth in appearance and there are some perpendicular cracks in the ice, but no displacement. The water levels seem to be remaining fairly constant over the past few weeks.

Hwy 6 Bridge and the Platte River Bridge, there is significantly more open water at this location than previously seen this season. There are cracks visible both perpendicular and parallel to the shore. There is some open water and open areas have increased. There is both pooled and flowing water on the top of the areas of ice coverage.

At the Highway 50 Platte River Bridge location, the channel has gotten wider and the river is flowing freely. There is evidence of decay along the edges of the channel and in other areas of the River where the water flows around sandbars (especially along the Northern shore.)

At Highway 50 Louisville Bridge there is approximately 60 ft wide channel mid river at the bridge. The channel appears to move along both shores with the main channel along the right bank and meeting mid river at the bridge and below. Fractured ice on the sandbars is approximately 6 inches thick and the ice is very dirty in appearance. The character of intact ice cover is smooth with evidence of decay in the form of melting show.

At Cedar Creek Dike the main channel goes from the left side at the upstream end of the levee to the right side along most of the levee with smaller branch channels in the middle and left banks of the river. The ice is dirty and there are several open leads and small channels with water flowing on top of the ice in some places.

At Hwy 31 Schramm Road Location near the Metro Connection Bridge the ice is decaying. The channel is flowing freely and there is water flowing over the top of the border ice at this observation. There is some breakup ice which has accumulated at the edge of the channel on sandbars but it appears to be outside the normal flow of the main channel of the Platte.

At Highway 75 Bridge at Plattsmouth there is approximately 120 to 150 ft wide channel. Channel is obvious from the extent of the vision above and below the bridge. There is a small channel along the left side with the main channel extending from the middle of the river to the right bank. There is very little moving ice with the water flowing freely. There is some fractured sheet ice on the sandbars that appears to be from 6 to 8 inches thick.

Highway 92 Bridge received 1 inch of snow with temperatures of 0 degrees and high winds this week. The west channel has a small stream of water on the west bank. The rest of the channel is ice covered. The east channel was two channels of water. One by each bank. The remainder is ice covered. Surface roughness appears to be smooth with no evidence of decay.