



Manning Island and Foxe Basin Canada

Although it may look like a microscope's view of a thin slice of mineral-speckled rock, this image was actually acquired in space by the Earth Observing-1 satellite in July 2012. It shows a small set of islands and a rich mixture of ice in Foxe Basin, the shallow northern reaches of Hudson Bay.

The small and diverse sizes of the ice floes indicate that they were melting. The darkest colors in the image are open water. Snow-free ice appears gray, while snow-covered ice appears white. The small, dark features on many of the floes are likely melt ponds.

Foxe Basin sea ice is known for having an unusual brown color due to staining from sediment from rivers. Also, the basin is shallow enough that it is often rich with marine sediments kicked up from the bay floor. The Manning Islands stand to the lower left, beneath the bright white wedge.