



The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System
Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent

SEAWAY NOTICE NO. 1 - 2012

Opening of the 2012 Navigation Season and Maximum Allowable Drafts

The opening of the 2012 navigation season is scheduled to take place on the following dates and times:

- Montreal / Lake Ontario March 22, 2012 - 0800 hours (D.S.T.)
- Welland Canal March 22, 2012 - 0800 hours (D.S.T.)

Vessel transits will be subject to weather and ice conditions. Restrictions may apply in some areas until lighted navigation aids have been installed.

Sault Ste. Marie Locks and Canals

United States Soo Locks will open March 25.

Allowable Draft

In the **Montreal / Lake Ontario Section**, the draft will be **80.0 dm** (26' 3") until the South Shore Canal is ice-free or April 15th, whichever occurs first, at which time, if water levels are favorable, the draft will be increased to **80.8 dm** (26' 6") for **all** vessels. In addition, there will be **zero tolerance** for ship's draft in excess of 80.8 dm (26' 6").

Mariners are reminded that for ships loaded to a draft greater than 80.0 dm (26' 3"), speeds will be monitored carefully between St. Lambert Lock and St. Nicolas Island.

In the **Welland Canal**, a maximum allowable draft of **80.8 dm** (26' 6") will be in effect from the start of the navigation season for **all** vessels. In addition, there will be **zero tolerance** for vessel drafts in excess of 80.8 dm (26' 6").

Please note that, for vessels loaded to a draft greater than 80.0 dm (26' 3"), speeds will be monitored carefully between the upper entrance to Lock 7 and former Bridge 12 in order to reduce bank erosion in this area.

February 15, 2012