



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

SEAWAY NOTICE NO. 12 - 2015

Closing of the 2015 Navigation Season

Mariners are reminded that there is always a possibility that severe climatic conditions may occur during the closing period. Should this happen, there is a chance that the dates outlined below, for the Montreal-Lake Ontario Section or the Welland Canal, may change.

Closing Dates

Montreal-Lake Ontario Section

- The Corporations have decided to **waive** the operational surcharges on December 21, 22, 23 and 24.
- Any transit of the Montreal-Lake Ontario section of the Seaway after 23:59 hours, December 24, if permitted, will be subject to prior written agreement. Arrangements are to be made at our St. Lambert office.
- **Vessels will be allowed to transit the Montreal-Lake Ontario section of the Seaway up to 23:59 hours on December 30th, operating conditions permitting.**

Welland Canal

- The Welland Canal will remain open until 23:59 hours on December 26th.
- Any transits of the Welland Canal after 23:59 hours, December 26th, if permitted, will be subject to prior written agreement. Arrangements are to be made at our St. Catharines office.
- **Vessels will be allowed to transit the Welland Canal up to 23:59 hours on December 30th, operating conditions permitting.**

Sault Ste. Marie Locks and Canal (United States)

Closing of the Sault Ste. Marie Locks (U.S.A.) is currently scheduled for January 15, 2016. Please note the Notice to Navigation Interests released by the US Army Corps of Engineers for further information.

Ports East of Montreal

Vessel owners and operators are advised that there are a number of ports east of the



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Seaway (St. Lambert Lock) on the St. Lawrence River that remain open to navigation during the winter months.

Note that the Seaway Practices and Procedure (Seaway Handbook), Part X, Section 96 and 97 outline the Navigation Closing Procedures.

Detailed Closing Procedures

For the 2015 navigation season, the Seaway entities have agreed to apply the closing procedures outlined below. In these procedures, the following definitions are used:

- a) The clearance date, as defined in Seaway Practices and Procedures, will be December 20th, 2015 at 23:59 hours;
- b) The closing period: the period beginning December 1 and continuing until the last ship has completed its transit.

During the closing period, the following procedures will be in effect:

1. Reporting

- a. Commencing at 0001 hours, December 1 and for the duration of the closing period, each **upbound** ship entering the Seaway at CIP 2 or departing upbound from a port, dock, wharf or anchorage in the Montreal/Lake Ontario Section must declare the furthestmost destination of its voyage.
- b. Commencing at 0001 hours, December 17 and for the duration of the closing period, each **downbound** ship entering traffic control Sector 4 at mid-Lake Ontario must declare the furthestmost St. Lawrence River destination of its voyage, along with all intermediate destinations.

Regarding a) and b) above, each ship must advise the nearest traffic control centre of any changes in these destinations.

2. Upbound Ships With Destinations Above Port Colborne

- a. A ship which enters the Seaway System upbound at CIP 2 after 23:59 hours on December 9 and transits above Port Colborne shall be designated a '**wintering ship**'.
- b. A 'wintering ship' wishing to return downbound through the



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Montreal/Lake Ontario Section will be granted downbound transit privileges only if, in the opinion of the Manager and the Corporation, such transit can be accomplished safely and without interfering with the orderly and timely transit of any ship not designated as a '**wintering ship**' or without otherwise disrupting the system.

- c. A '**wintering ship**' wishing to return downbound through the Montreal/Lake Ontario Section must give notification of such intent to the Manager or Corporation at least 48 hours prior to arriving at CIP 16 (Port Colborne).
- d. If a '**wintering ship**' is granted downbound transit privileges through the Montreal/Lake Ontario Section, it will be subject to the following:
 - i. A '**wintering ship**' will yield, whenever required to do so by the Manager or the Corporation, its downbound order of turn at Port Colborne (CIP 16) and in the area from Cape Vincent to Prescott anchorage in favour of ships which are not designated as 'wintering ship'.
 - ii. The application of sub-paragraph (i) above shall not excuse a '**wintering ship**' from liability for the post-clearance-date operational surcharges as specified in the St. Lawrence Seaway Tariff of Tolls.
- e. A 'wintering ship' will be required to accept and acknowledge that a downbound transit is not assured, and that the Manager and the Corporation make no representation whatsoever as to their ability to successfully transit the ship downbound through the Montreal/Lake Ontario Section.

3. Acceptance For Transit Through The Montreal/Lake Ontario Section Without Special Agreements

- a. Upbound ships not otherwise restricted will be accepted for transit through the Montreal/Lake Ontario Section at Cap St. Michel up to 23:59 hours, December 24th.
- b. Downbound ships not otherwise restricted will be accepted for transit through the Montreal/Lake Ontario Section at calling-in point Cape Vincent up to 23:59 hours, December 24th.
- c. Ships, which have complied with these clearance dates call-in procedures, will be cleared through the Montreal /Lake Ontario section of



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the Seaway, operating conditions permitting. 'Operating conditions' means all conditions that affect or may affect the operation and maintenance of the Montreal/Lake Ontario Section of the Seaway as determined by the Seaway entities.

4. Acceptance For Transit Through The Montreal-Lake Ontario Section Under Special Agreements

Transits under special agreement will be allowed only if, in the judgment of both Seaway entities, operating conditions permit. This applies to:

- a. Any and all ships which report at the designated call-in points at Cap St. Michel and Cape Vincent after 23:59 hours, December 24th, and,
- b. Any and all ships that are at a port, dock or wharf in the Cap St. Michel to Cape Vincent section of the Seaway reporting for transit after 23:59 hours, December 24th.

5. Transit Restrictions (Draft and Power to Length Ratio)

Unique ice conditions can be encountered in the St. Lambert-Iroquois segment. To reduce the problem of lengthy delays caused by ships operating in ice, the following restrictions may apply during the closing period.

Mariners will be advised via radio message should the transit restriction be in effect.

- a. After 0001 hours on December 7, ships in the following categories may not be accepted for transit between St. Lambert and Iroquois Locks:

Upbound

- i. Ships with a power to length ratio of less than 20:1 (kW/metre);
- ii. Ships with a forward draft of less than 40 dm.

Downbound

- i. Ships with a power to length ratio of less than 15:1 (kW/metre);
- ii. Ships with a forward draft of less than 20 dm.

- b. After 0001 hours on December 12, ships in the following categories may not be accepted for transit between St. Lambert and Iroquois Locks:

Upbound

- i. Ships with a power to length ratio of less than 24:1 (kW/metre);
- ii. Ships with a forward draft of less than 50 dm.



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Downbound

- i. Ships with a power to length ratio of less than 15:1 (kW/metre);
 - ii. Ships with a forward draft of less than 25 dm.
- c. In all cases, the draft is to be sufficient to have the propeller fully submerged.
- d. The draft limitations referred to in a) and b) do not apply to tugs.
- e. Subject to approval, ship operators may utilise a tug of a minimum of 3000 HP to augment the power of a ship not meeting the requirements as specified above. In calculating the ship's power to length ratio, 50% of the tug's horsepower can be added to the ship's power.
- f. For determining the power to length ratio, the information contained in the Lloyd's Register will be used.
- g. Ship operators should note that compliance with the above restrictions does not assure transit and that the Seaway entities may increase or decrease the restrictions as ice or other conditions dictates. These changes will be announced as early as practical, but in no case later than 24 hours before they go into effect.

November 16, 2015

Vice-President, External Relations

Director, Operations and Marine Services