



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

2007 - NOTICE TO SHIPPING #4

NIAGARA REGION
WELLAND CANAL

TESTING OF "HANDS FREE MOORING EQUIPMENT" IN LOCK 8

Mariners are advised that as part of our continuing efforts to innovate and improve our services offered, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation will be evaluating a new prototype piece of technology, "**the MoorMaster 200LS hands-free vacuum pad mooring system**", that was installed approximately 40 metres north of the centre line on the west side of Lock 8 during this past non navigation season.

The "MoorMaster 200LS mooring system" is designed to, once the vessel has reached its final mooring position and is along side of the lock wall, attach to the side of a vessel by means of a vacuum pad and hold it securely in position, without the need for mooring wires, during the dump or fill of the lock. The effectiveness of this new technology will be assessed commencing with the opening of the 2007 navigation season and throughout the year. If successful this equipment will allow us to provide a safer more efficient mooring process for most vessels, (i.e. some hull configurations and smaller vessels may not be suitable). Your assistance will allow us to accurately evaluate and optimize the effectiveness of this new technology.

We will be requesting your assistance in testing a number of different scenarios utilizing this new equipment. You will receive further information with respect to the tests from the Operations Control Centre and Lock 8 at the time of the test. It is important for the accuracy of the testing that vessels do not use their engines at any time during the test, i.e. when the mooring system is attached, unless requested.

During the testing we will be continually analyzing results. **Your feedback will be critical in helping us to assess the performance of this new technology and in making any necessary future modifications.** You are welcome to make comments/suggestions at any time, and these can be passed on to our personnel at Lock 8 who will include them on the "Mooring Test Form" that is to be completed for each lockage. We are in the process of assessing other methods of obtaining your much valued feedback and will keep you informed.

The SLSMC would like to thank you in advance for your greatly appreciated cooperation with the testing of this new technology.

St. Catharines, Ontario
March 20, 2007

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation
Corporation de Gestion de la Voie Maritime du Saint-Laurent

Région Maisonneuve
151, rue de l'Écluse
St-Lambert, Québec
J4R 2V6

Tel : (450) 672-4115 Fax : (450) 672-8493

Niagara Region
508 Glendale Avenue
P.O. Box 370
St. Catharines, Ontario
L2R 6V8

Tel : (905) 641-1932 Fax : (905) 641-5721