



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

2008 - NOTICE TO SHIPPING #5

NIAGARA REGION
WELLAND CANAL

**COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN BRIDGE OPERATOR AND VESSEL PRIOR
TO BRIDGE LOWERING - REVISED**

Mariners are advised that in an ongoing effort to provide safe and efficient transits for vessels and their crews when in transit through the Welland Canal the following revised **PROCEDURE FOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN BRIDGE OPERATOR AND VESSEL MASTERS / PILOTS PRIOR TO LOWERING BRIDGE 4, 5, 11 or 21 IS NOW IN EFFECT:**

Communications Protocol:

Once the Bridge Operator has observed that the vessel is clear of the draw of the bridge the bridge lowering is not to commence until the Bridge Operator has confirmed with the Master / Pilot that it is safe to do so. The following communication with the Master / Pilot is to take place prior to lowering the bridge:

'Vessel Name', Bridge 11, over;

Bridge 11, 'Vessel Name', go ahead;

'Vessel Name', Bridge 11, do you have any concern with Bridge 11 being lowered at this time, over;

A) If vessel answer is YES

'Vessel Name', Bridge 11, please advise when it is safe to lower Bridge 11, over;

B) If vessel answer is NO

'Vessel Name', Bridge 11 lowering

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