



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

2013 – Notice to Shipping N° 5

MAISONNEUVE REGION

MONTREAL / LAKE ONTARIO SECTION

Vessel Self Spotting System at the Canadian Deep Locks from Montreal to Lake Ontario

Mariners are reminded that the vessel self-spotting system (VSS) will be utilized for qualified vessels in the Canadian deep locks from Montreal to Lake Ontario.

The vessel self-spotting display panels will continue to display to a qualified vessel its distance from the final mooring position.

The lock leader will inform the vessel if it is qualified and if the VSS system is operational during the initial communication, once the ship is at the limit of approach. The spotting instructions from the lock personnel are to be respected.

At Cote Ste-Catherine lock, the VSS radio system is now functional. In addition to the VSS display panels, the VSS radio system will transmit two messages over channel 13 (156.650 MHz) to vessels qualified to use the VSS system:

1. The first message when the vessel is at 25 m from its final mooring position: "25 meters to go" (25 mètres restant).
2. The second message when the vessel is at its final mooring position: "In position" (en position).

Vessels must verbally acknowledge the positioning instructions, even those provided by the VSS radio.

Mariners/pilots are asked to provide any comments/concerns with respect to the VSS radio system directly to the lock crew who will record them appropriately.

It is expected that the Vessel Self-Spotting radio system will also be deployed at St. Lambert lock and the upper and lower Beauharnois locks this navigation season.

Maisonneuve Region
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