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# OUTLOOK FOR THE FORMATION OF ICE IN THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY & LAKE ERIE ISSUED BY CANADIAN ICE SERVICE

prepared for

The Saint-Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

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Canada 

For the month of November, the mean surface air temperature for sites along the St. Lawrence Seaway have all been well above normal. The temperature anomalies have ranged from +2.6°C at Windsor to +3.0°C at Montreal, Kingston, Trenton, Gore Bay and Thunder Bay. All mean air temperatures have all also been above 0°C. The mean air temperatures for the month of November have been Kingston at 6.0°C, Windsor at 7.2°C, Thunder Bay at 0.1°C, Trenton at 5.5°C, Montreal at 4.6°C and Gore Bay at 4.6°C. The first half of November was notably warmer with temperature anomalies between 0.5°C and 1.0°C warmer than the overall November anomalies.

Surface water temperatures along the Seaway are all above normal due to the above normal temperature that have been experienced over the region for much of November. Currently, all of the stations are reporting temperatures more than 0.5°C above normal, 1.5°C above at St. Lambert Lock, 1.5°C above at St. Louis Bridge, 3.6°C above at Iroquois Lock, 1.4°C above at Cornwall, 1.2°C above at Kingston, 1.5°C above at Port Colborne and 1.1°C above at Port Weller.

Station	Date	Temperature	Normal
St. Lambert Lock	30 Nov	4.9°C	3.4°C
St. Louis Bridge	30 Nov	6.9°C	5.4°C
Cornwall	29 Nov	7.6°C	6.2°C
Iroquois Lock	30 Nov	9.8°C	6.2°C
Kingston	30 Nov	8.2°C	7.0°C
Port Colborne	30 Nov	7.6°C	6.1°C
Port Weller	30 Nov	7.9°C	6.8°C

Above normal air temperatures continue to be forecast for the St. Lawrence Seaway and over Lake Ontario and Erie for the December 2020 to February 2021 timeframe.

The following table lists the average dates of occurrence of the first permanent ice and complete freeze-over (if available) with the forecast trend for 2020/21.

Station	First permanent ice	Complete Freeze Over	Forecast
St. Lambert Lock	07 Dec	18 Dec	7-10 days later
Upper Beauharnois	14 Dec	24 Dec	7-10 days later
Cornwall	29 Dec	N/A	7-10 days later
Iroquois Lock	26 Dec	02 Jan	7-10 days later

Welland Canal			7-14 days later
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The forecast for the Seaway calls for the first permanent ice to form near Montreal around late December and gradually spread westward to reach Cornwall in early January. The Western Basin of Lake Erie will experience widespread ice growth near the end of December 2020 and beginning of January 2021 and spread over the entire western basin by mid-January 2021.

**THIS IS THE LAST ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AND LAKE ERIE FORECAST.**

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