



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

SEAWAY NOTICE NO. 1 - 2020

Opening of the 2020 Navigation Season and Maximum Allowable Drafts

[Note: The Seaway Corporations have been working with the International Joint Commission (IJC) and the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board (ILOSLRB) to monitor Lake Ontario water levels and forecasts for flooding around Lake Ontario this year. Based on the current conditions and forecasts provided by the ILOSLRB, the majority of benefits of lowering Lake Ontario levels by maintaining outflows above those safe for navigation in the Montreal / Lake Ontario Section of the Seaway occur before April 1, 2020. After that date, the benefits for lowering Lake Ontario by maintaining outflows above those safe for navigation are significantly reduced. Due to the dry conditions experienced in February thus far and the record outflows that the ILOSLRB has been able to maintain this winter, the probability of Lake Ontario being above flood levels has decreased and is now only approximately 35 percent. Beginning April 1, the Seaway Corporations will continue to work with Mariners to ensure the safety of navigation under outflows prescribed by the IJC and ILOSLRB.]

The opening of the 2020 navigation season is scheduled to take place on the following dates and times:

- Welland Canal: March 24, 2020 - 0800 hours (D.S.T.)
- Montreal / Lake Ontario Section: April 1, 2020 - 0800 hours (D.S.T.)

Vessel transits will be subject to weather and ice conditions. Restrictions may apply in some areas until lighted navigation aids have been installed.

Sault Ste. Marie Locks and Canals

Opening of the Sault Ste. Marie Locks (U.S.A.) is currently scheduled for March 25, 2020. Please note the Notice to Navigation Interests released by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for further information.

Allowable Draft

In the **Montreal / Lake Ontario Section**, the maximum allowable draft will be **80.0 dm** (26' 3"). The maximum draft will be increased to **80.8 dm** (26' 6") for **all** vessels when the South Shore Canal is ice-free and when water levels throughout the Montreal/Lake Ontario section are favorable.

In the **Welland Canal**, a maximum allowable draft of **80.8 dm** (26' 6") will be in effect from the start of the navigation season for **all** vessels.



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Vessels equipped with an approved and operational draft information system will be permitted to transit at a draft of up to 7cm above the maximum allowable draft.

Mariners are reminded that for ships loaded to a draft greater than 80.0 dm (26' 3"), speeds will be monitored carefully between St. Lambert Lock and St. Nicolas Island.

Please note that, for vessels loaded to a draft greater than 80.0 dm (26' 3"), speeds will be monitored carefully between the upper entrance to Lock 7 and former Bridge 12 in order to reduce bank erosion in this area.

There will be zero tolerance for vessels to transit at drafts in excess of those specified in this Notice.

February 25, 2020