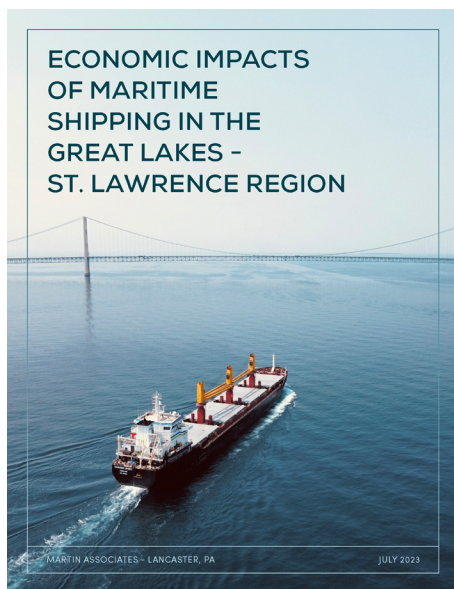


## Great Lakes Seaway System Maritime Activity Generates Significant Economic Benefits to North Americans



On July 21, 2023, a new study was released detailing the U.S. and Canadian economic impacts of maritime activity in 2022 on the binational Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System. This study was an update to previous Great Lakes/Seaway economic impact analyses completed in 2011 and 2018.

Titled “*Economic Impacts of Maritime Shipping in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region*,” the study highlights the maritime industry’s economic impacts from multiple perspectives and showed that even in a year in which the world was gripped with pandemic challenges and supply chain concerns, marine shipping drove the North American economy forward. Key statistics captured in the study include jobs and wages, economic activity, tonnages volumes, and taxation generated.

What were the study’s key findings?

- Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway shipping is a key driver of the economy, supporting US\$36 billion in economic activity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### ADMINISTRATOR’S COLUMN

#### Nurturing a Strong Community Bond: The GLS and Its Enduring Commitment to the North Country



Adam Tindall-Schlicht  
Administrator.

In an era marked by change and transformation, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) stands firm in its unwavering commitment to the North Country and the community of Massena, New York.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### GUEST COLUMN

#### Eric Wenberg, Executive Director, Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance Agriculture opportunities on the Seaway



The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System represents an enormous opportunity to grow in its historical role to benefit the U.S. farmer. Established in 2019, the Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance (SSGA) is the national trade association of the farmers and

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Greentech 2023

Green Shipping Corridor Network Working Groups Foster Collaboration and Set Industry-Led Goals

Pacesetter Awards Presented to U.S. Ports

American Great Lakes Ports Association Hosts Record Breaking Annual Conference

Illinois and Indiana: Guardians on the Water

Introducing New International Trade Specialist

2023 CANUSLACK Exercise

Personnel News

Hwy H2O Signs Agreement with Seaports of Niedersachsen

Save the Date

## GREAT LAKES SEAWAY SYSTEM MARITIME ACTIVITY GENERATES SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO NORTH AMERICANS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- In terms of jobs and wages, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway shipping supported more than 240,000 jobs that generated almost US\$18 billion in wages.
- In 2022, 135.7 million metric tons of raw materials and finished goods were delivered by commercial vessels serving critical industries such as agriculture, construction, energy, and steelmaking.
- Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway shipping generated US\$6.3 billion in taxes in 2022.

“The results of this study clearly demonstrate the importance of Great Lakes Seaway System shipping on the North American economy,” said Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht. “Marine shipping delivers jobs, a growing economy, a stronger supply chain, globally competitive industries, and tax revenues that provide a higher quality of life for people across North America. It does this even under the unique and intense impacts experienced in 2022, including the pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and the War in Ukraine.”

The GLS was part of a binational consortium of public and private sector stakeholders that retained Martin Associates of Lancaster, Pa., to complete the analysis. Martin Associates an internationally recognized economic and transportation consulting firm that has conducted similar studies for major ports throughout the world and completed the earlier Great Lakes Seaway System economic impact studies.

A copy of the economic impact study can be downloaded at [https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/eco\\_impact\\_full\\_2023\\_en.pdf](https://greatlakes-seaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/eco_impact_full_2023_en.pdf). ■ ■ ■



## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



*New Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock, September 2023.*

Since Eisenhower and Snell Locks were first built in the 1950s, the GLS has been anchored in its mission to foster sustainable growth of the waterway and the Great Lakes maritime economy overall. The GLS has completed this work through partnership and resilience, ever moving towards shared prosperity for the North Country and its residents. In this vein, new initiatives are being realized now, delivering new opportunities for generations ahead.

### GLS as a Regional Hallmark: New Facilities and Services Online Now

Construction and development of the new Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock continues and, by all accounts, is on time and on budget for delivery in spring 2024. This modern facility not only showcases the Seaway's rich history, but is a major North Country destination, drawing 100,000+ thousand visitors from every state and numerous countries annually. As the new Center opens its doors, the GLS will invite all to explore the past, present, and future of this vital waterway through this spectacular new amenity.

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Amy Stark, Community Relations Specialist, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation

The GLS commitment to Massena goes beyond the water's edge. In recently welcoming a new Community Relations Specialist to the team, the GLS seeks to further strengthen its ties with the local community. Ms. Amy Stark is committed to ensuring that GLS outreach and engagement efforts remain closely attuned to the needs and aspirations of Massena's residents. Ms. Stark is available via email at [glsl@dot.gov](mailto:glsl@dot.gov) or by phone at 315-764-3200 to advance this work with gusto.

At the heart of the GLS community pledge is a belief in nurturing local talent and building a strong workforce pipeline in Massena. The GLS seeks to increase partnerships with local high schools, technical colleges, and universities, forging a path for those who wish to stay, work, and live in the North Country. The GLS will continue to be a leader in creating opportunities for North Country youth that can share in the future of their community.



#### **Renewing Vital Partnerships for Community Benefit: North Country Partnerships Strong**

As an operating administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), ongoing cooperation with other federal entities is pivotal to lock operations at the GLS. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are integral partners, contributing to the safety and efficiency of vessel activity on the St. Lawrence River. Federal partnership and dedication ensure the smooth flow of goods and passengers through the Seaway while upholding security and environmental compliance standards.

The GLS continues to honor and recognize the profound importance of inclusivity and respect for all native voices.

The GLS continue seeks to engage in thoughtful decision-making with active input from First Nations peoples, particularly the Mohawk and Akwesasne communities in the United States and Canada. The wisdom and perspective of First Nations communities will help inform GLS actions, now and in the future, strengthening the bonds of trust and mutual respect. Another important GLS partnership is with the non-profit organization, Save the River. Together, both the GLS and Save the River share a commitment to safeguard the St. Lawrence River's pristine beauty and ecological diversity.

By collaborating with these important partner organizations, the GLS will ensure that future generations can cherish the river's splendor in balance with growing vessel activity just as we do today.

#### **Catalyzing the North American Economy: Seaway Operations Remains Critical**

The economic significance of vessel activity through the Seaway Locks cannot be overstated. According to a recently released, comprehensive 2023 Economic Impact Study, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth throughout the region. This study revealed that the Seaway supports over 241,000 jobs and generates \$36 billion in economic activity annually.

In New York alone, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System sustains nearly 7,900 jobs and drives approximately \$1.1 billion in economic activity annually. This economic impact extends across various sectors, including manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, and more. The efficient movement of goods via the Seaway Locks enhances the competitiveness of businesses based in New York, reduces shipping costs, and contributes significantly to the state's economic growth and resilience. Further, Seaway commerce sustains jobs, fosters prosperity, and fortifies the economic resilience of the North Country and beyond.

[More details about the 2023 Economic Impact Study are highlighted within this edition of the Seaway Compass.](#)

#### **Local Collaboration: A Hallmark of the GLS Approach Now and in the Future**

This work would not be possible without the invaluable role of local elected leadership in shaping the destiny of Massena, of the North Country, and of the Seaway overall. The GLS is proud to partner with countless, dedicated individuals, including Mayor Gregory Paquin, Town Supervisor Susan Bellor, County Legislator Nicole Terminelli, D-NY, U.S. Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, R-NY, a merged and regionalized Chamber of Commerce, and many others. The GLS and community leaders work tirelessly to ensure that the North Country remains a vibrant and thriving place to call home.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



Mayor Gregory Paquin, Village of Massena



Town Supervisor Susan Bellor, Massena



County Legislator Nicole Terminelli, St. Lawrence County



U.S. Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, R-NY, New York's 21st congressional district

The GLS is committed to fostering growth and prosperity, not only for the maritime industry but for families that call Massena home, providing family-supporting jobs in the community. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System is not just a conduit for commerce; it is a lifeline that binds the GLS to the North Country, to Massena, and to the St. Lawrence River.

The success and well-being of the North Country community is etched into the very fabric of the GLS. As the GLS continues to navigate the waters of change, the organization is resolute in its mission to preserve the natural beauty of the river, to drive economic prosperity, to build a brighter future, to empower the next generation, and to shape the destiny of the North Country, a place where future generations will stay, work, and live with pride and purpose. ■■■

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GUEST COLUMN  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

businesses that produce and ship U.S. high quality field crops. We have been thrilled with the work of the U.S. St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and their efforts in developing partnerships and opportunities for the states near the Great Lakes; its outreach to farmer groups and agribusinesses has brought concrete opportunities and responsibilities. Field crops' use of the Seaway is up because of that – and will continue to grow. The SLS system takes its heritage from its members from the states accessing the system for transportation. Farmers need this mode of transportation to ship goods and also to import them. Our farmers need fertilizers, fuels and equipment to grow a sustainable, profitable crop. Made in the USA also includes parts, supplies and equipment sent to us from around the world. We then turn it into highly productive, high quality farm exports. We also have an integrated North American system of farm production.



When I retired from government, it was my pleasure to close out that role as the Agricultural Counselor for USDA at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa. It had been clear over my 30-year career that the U.S. and Canada shared the agricultural greatness of North America

and we needed to work together. SSGA works for a day when the transportation potential of the Great Lakes through the Seaway grows for both of our nations and offers the opportunity to our trading partners abroad to access inland markets with the economic benefits of water transportation.

We plan to host the third annual Transportation Go! Conference, an event bringing U.S. agribusinesses and farmers together on the Great Lakes in Toledo, Ohio, March 12-14, 2024. This event combines North Central states to strategize and grow the way our businesses profit from using transportation.

Our group recently took a visit to the Port of Halifax – outside the strict limits of the Seaway, but with an attempt to look further into the Atlantic from our home ports of Duluth, Milwaukee or Toledo. The North Atlantic access from the region has strong anchors in Quebec or further to Nova Scotia, by rail or water. It was clear to our trip participants that our growth markets in Europe, North Africa, and even Asia, are accessible by routes eastward from our North Central U.S. States. Transportation companies see the region as a top 5 global opportunity. To take advantage of the opportunity, we need to research counterpart trade. The St. Lawrence Seaway is a pathway to our domestic U.S. companies

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that need imported goods. From SSGA, we insist that all of us fulfill our responsibility to the transportation system to understand exports and imports as part of the same trade flow, and to make strategic decisions that garner advantages for two lanes of traffic. Finding these opportunities will mean U.S. and Canadian sellers working with states and provinces to trade in a mutual – not one-sided – manner. I think the U.S.-Canada mutual benefits we find in trade taught us that we share the lakes and can extend our business with connections outward.

SSGA and our member states and businesses see how the US St. Lawrence Seaway strategy of working in the States and region directly with interested parties is working to provide new opportunities. Our farmers and businesses can't wait to help and grow this partnership with the Seaway. To learn more about SSGA's mission and events, join us at [soyagrainsalliance.org](http://soyagrainsalliance.org). ■■■

## Seatrade Europe

### Seatrade europe

The second trade mission to Germany for 2023 began with the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System delegation exhibiting at the Seatrade Europe Exhibition held in Hamburg, Germany, September 6-8, 2023.

While there, members of the Great Lakes Cruising Coalition and the GLS's Office of Trade & Economic Development (OT&ED) had the opportunity to raise awareness of the Great Lakes as an up-and-coming destination for cruise ship owners, operators, and itinerary planners. As the meeting place for the European cruising market, thousands of international participants were able to learn more about the Great Lakes and the unique destinations for cruise ship passengers.



In addition, the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) held their annual Ports & Destinations Dialogue on Tuesday, September 5, immediately preceding Seatrade Europe. As a CLIA member, GLS was able to attend the conference and learn more about the evolving trends in the global cruising market and participate in one-on-one meetings with representatives from several cruise lines exploring itinerary options. It was followed

by an evening event which allowed representatives from the Ports of Milwaukee and Duluth the opportunity to network with cruise line executives and continue promoting the region as a destination of choice. ■■■



Left to right: Maria Cartier, Market Development Manager, Port Milwaukee; Matt Grimes, Senior Vice President, Fleet Operations, Viking Cruises; and Kate Ferguson, Director of Trade & Business Development, Duluth Port Authority.



Delegation left to right: Kate Ferguson, Duluth Port Authority; Maria Cartier, Port Milwaukee; Aaron Bensinger, Central Marine Logistics; Jazmine Jurkiewicz and Rebecca Yackley, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

## GLS 2023 European Trade Efforts

In an eventful spring and summer, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation's (GLS) Office of Trade & Economic Development (OT&ED) crossed the ocean several times to continue amplifying visibility of the Great Lakes maritime supply chain. In accordance with their Strategic Plan that was submitted to, and approved by, the U.S. Congress, the GLS OT&ED executed three trade missions to Europe to identify and strengthen opportunities for trade through the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System.



Within weeks of concluding the May trade mission to Munich, Nuremberg, and Dusseldorf, Germany, which was detailed in the Spring 2023 edition of the *Seaway Compass*, the GLS OT&ED joined their binational Seaway partners, the SLSMC, to host a delegation of stakeholders at the Breakbulk Europe Exhibition in Rotterdam,

The Netherlands, June 6-8, 2023. The delegation consisted of U.S. & Canadian ports, terminals, and operators promoting their operations to key overseas customers and trading partners. Using the Hwy H2O brand, the Seaway's efforts focused on many different fronts: education of attendees with little or no understanding of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System, discussions with attendees looking for specific solutions to bring cargo into or out of the Great Lakes Region, and meetings with users of the Seaway to strengthen existing trade relationships.

Returning to Europe for the second time in a month presented the GLS an opportunity to continue in-person dialogue that began at Transport Logistics in Munich in May. Specific follow-up discussions with the Ports of Niedersachsen, the Port of Hamburg, The Ports of Genoa, and the Port of Bilbao took place in Rotterdam. Each meeting focused on effective collaboration to strengthen these strategic maritime trade routes between Europe and the heartland of North America.

Overall, the Breakbulk Europe Exhibition was attended by a record 10,445 attendees from over 126 countries. Fortifying the foundation of the Great Lakes-Europe trade lane remained the goal of the third trade mission, which took place in early September. It was built around Seatrade Europe, a key cruise industry event in Hamburg, Germany September 6th through 9th.

This mission offered the GLS an opportunity to better understand the maritime supply chain of Northern Germany's ports stretching from the North Sea into the Elbe River and the Weser River.

Delegation members joining the GLS included port authorities of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Duluth/Superior, Minnesota as well as a vessel agent from Chicago, Illinois representing several international carriers into the Great Lakes.

The trip consisted of both cruise and trade components. While the cruise-centered Seatrade Europe Conference took place, GLS Great Lakes Regional Representative, Peter Hirthe, and the Hwy H2O European Representative, Alan Taylor, held meetings with the Hamburg shipping community to discuss cargo-related synergies and arranged tours of Hamburg's breakbulk terminals.

Upon conclusion of the cruise conference, the focus turned completely to the subject of trade. The Port of Hamburg brought relevant local stakeholders together with the GLS delegation for a port tour by water. While observing the cargo terminal operations throughout the port, discussions centered on the maritime shipping services and trade possibilities of breakbulk and project cargo between Northern Germany and the Great Lakes Seaway System.

From Hamburg, the delegation headed west to the Port of Cuxhaven, where the North Sea meets the Elbe River, to meet with officials and tour their expansive terminal. The proximity of the port to the burgeoning offshore wind industry was quite evident. The port shared its strategic plan for growth to meet Europe's sustainable energy production goals. This presented the delegation an opportunity to discuss the Green Shipping Corridor Network Initiative underway in the Great Lakes as well as the strong maritime supply chain that utilizes the St. Lawrence Seaway system to supply and support wind energy projects throughout the heartland of North America.

Leaving Cuxhaven, the delegation traveled south along the Weser River to the Port of Brake and a visit to their combination grain and breakbulk terminal. During this visit, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Ports of Niedersachsen to collaborate on mutually beneficial trade development opportunities. The Niedersachsen Ports have 15 locations, making them the largest operator of public seaports in Germany.

The trade mission concluded with a visit to the largest breakbulk terminal in Europe, operated by BLG Logistics in the Port of Bremen on the Weser River. This terminal has seen trade with the Great Lakes region on various breakbulk and project cargos. Their rail connectivity into the Hinterlands of Germany and the European continent is at the core of their maritime business.

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For the GLS, this trip concluded an active year of emphasis on increasing awareness of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System in Europe. This heightened investment of time meeting with the other end of our key supply chain was integral to successfully implementing the GLS OT&ED's Strategic Plan. With spring's Transport Logistics in Munich and Port of Antwerp-Bruges and Great Lakes Forum in Dusseldorf, June's Breakbulk Europe in Rotterdam, and September's Northern Germany trade mission, the GLS's successfully implemented its strategic vision of face-to-face re-engagement with key European trade partners.

The valuable trade relationships developed during these three trips to Europe are already leading to a renewed spirit of collaboration, laying a foundation that can be built upon to increase trade into, and out of, the Great Lakes St Lawrence Seaway System. ■ ■ ■



Left to right: Felix Jahn, Managing Director, Seaports of Niedersachsen; Maria Cartier, Market Development Manager, Port Milwaukee; Diana Jazik, Marketing and Communication, Seaports of Niedersachsen; Jazmine Jurkiewicz, International Trade Specialist, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; Rebecca Yackley, Director, Office of Trade and Economic Development, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; Aaron Bensinger, VP of Operations, Central Marine Logistics; Sabine Sander, Marketing, J. Müller; Kate Ferguson, Director of Trade and Business Development, Duluth Seaway Port Authority; Peter Hirthe, Great Lakes Regional Representative, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; and Lejla Pasukan, Sales, forest products, J. Müller.



Left to right: Tim Ladendorf, Global Application Manager, Liebherr; Kate Ferguson, Director of Trade and Business Development, Duluth Seaway Port Authority; Aaron Bensinger, VP of Operations, Central Marine Logistics; Jazmine Jurkiewicz, International Trade Specialist, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; Rebecca Yackley, Director, Office of Trade and Economic Development, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; Peter Hirthe, Great Lakes Regional Representative, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; Andreas Ritschel, Deputy Sales Director, Liebherr; and Maria Cartier, Market Development Manager, Port Milwaukee.

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## Seaway Administrator Leads Safety Roundtable at Twin Ports

In August 2023, three executives from the U.S. Department of Transportation convened a roundtable focused on freight safety at the Twin Ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin. Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht served as moderator and was also joined by Administrator Robin Hutcheson of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and Deputy Administrator Tristan Brown of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

The Twin Port Safety Nexus Roundtable met with the goal of fostering collaboration among local, state, and federal transportation stakeholders. Attendees included the City of Duluth Mayor Emily Larson and Chief Administrative Officer Noah Schuchman, Duluth Seaway Port Authority (DSPA) Executive Director Deb DeLuca, City of Superior Port Director Jason Serck, as well as representatives from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Minnesota State Patrol, local shippers, and other Twin Ports stakeholders and customers.

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Administrator Robin Hutcheson,  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety  
Administration (FMCSA)



Administrator Tristan Brown,  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration (PHMSA)



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Motor  
Carrier Safety  
Administration**



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

The discussion centered around improving safety, efficiency, and effectiveness within the freight transportation system in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Participants shared insights on their greatest safety challenges, measures taken to enhance safety, and lessons learned from past experiences. They also discussed the National Roadway Safety Strategy's goal of zero fatalities, explored obstacles to freight flow, and examined strategies for workforce development and infrastructure funding, particularly through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and Inflation Reduction Act through the Biden-Harris Administration.

Notably, stakeholders engaged in a robust conversation about balancing increased freight capacity with ambitious climate goals, emphasizing the need for innovative approaches. The roundtable successfully provided a platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and the initiation of collaborative efforts focused on safety and efficiency. In conclusion, the Twin Port's Safety Nexus Roundtable facilitated a productive dialogue among diverse transportation stakeholders, with a focus on safety, efficiency, and collaboration. It laid the groundwork for future actions, with participants committed to working together to address challenges, implement best practices, and contribute to the overarching goal of achieving a safer and more efficient transportation system in the Twin Ports. ■ ■ ■



*The Twin Port Safety Nexus Roundtable met with the goal of fostering collaboration among local, state, and federal transportation stakeholders. Attendees included the City of Duluth Mayor Emily Larson and Chief Administrative Officer Noah Schuchman, Duluth Seaway Port Authority (DSPA) Executive Director Deb DeLuca, City of Superior Port Director Jason Serck, as well as representatives from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Minnesota State Patrol, local shippers, and other Twin Ports stakeholders and customers.*

## Greentech 2023



The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) sponsored and attended the Greentech 2023 Conference held June 12-14 in Seattle, Wash. This year's conference hosted a record number 340 delegates which included Great Lakes maritime industry stakeholders as well as attendees from Europe and Australia. The conference's 50 speakers and 40 presentations addressed decarbonization, resiliency, and many other issues related to environmental performance.

Of particular note was a panel on Green Shipping Corridors, a subject of great relevance given the binational Green Shipping Corridor Initiative (GSCN) underway within the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System, a collaborative effort led by the U.S. and Canadian

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Seaways. During the conference, Green Marine participants were presented their annual environmental program certifications at a ceremony held in the MoPOP Museum. The Greentech 2024 Conference will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 5-7, 2024. ■■■

*From left to right: Green Marine President David Bolduc presented GLS International Trade Specialist Peter Hirthe with the Corporation's certificate during GREENTECH 2023 in Seattle, Wash. on June 12-14, 2023.*



## Green Shipping Corridor Network Working Groups Foster Collaboration and Set Industry-Led Goals



### Background

At the COP 27 World Summit, the United States and Canada jointly announced the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway **Green Shipping Corridor Network (GSCN) Initiative**. The U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of State, and Transport Canada will work with state, provincial, local, private-sector, non-governmental leaders, and Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the United States to host consultations with ports and other stakeholders, with the goal of facilitating the establishment of the GSCN. This effort builds on the work established by the “Joint Statement by the U.S. Department of Transportation and Transport Canada on the Nexus between Transportation and Climate Change.”

### Green Shipping Corridor Network (GSCN) Framework

Green shipping corridors can spur early and rapid adoption of fuels and technologies that, on a lifecycle basis, deliver low- and zero-emissions across the maritime sector, placing the sector on a pathway to full decarbonization. The United States envisions green shipping corridors as maritime routes that showcase low- and zero-emission lifecycle fuels and technologies with the ambition to achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions across all aspects of the corridor in support of sector-wide decarbonization no later than 2050. There are multiple pathways through which a fully decarbonized corridor can be achieved; the GSCN provides maritime stakeholders with the flexibility to choose the path that best suits the needs of the Great Lakes ecologically and economically.

### Objectives: 1st GSCN Chicago Plenary Collaborative (April 2023)

- Introduce key personnel with direct oversight on Great Lakes and shipping policy.
- Create a common body of knowledge to identify opportunities for voluntary collaboration efforts and implementation strategies, based on best available science and technology
- Explore physical and operational issues affecting development of the GSCN, and
- Establish a GSCN Working Group.



*Left to right: GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht, Acting Consul General of Canada in Chicago Aaron Annable, and SLSC President/CEO Terence Bowles during the April 2023 GSCN Collaborative Forum in Chicago, Ill.*

### GSCN Working Group Meetings

The Green Shipping Corridor Network's (GSCN) Performance Working Group gathered in Washington, D.C. on August 29, followed by the Alternative Fuels Working Group convening in Montreal on September 7. Both events witnessed a remarkable turnout of diverse stakeholders, marking a significant step towards achieving sustainable decarbonization goals.



*Erika Jensen (upper left corner, holding the microphone), executive director of the Great Lakes Commission, moderating the Performance Working Group that gathered in Washington, D.C. on August 29.*

During the meetings, participants engaged in fruitful discussions and exchanged innovative ideas, emphasizing the urgent need for environmentally friendly transportation solutions. The Performance Working Group, in particular, focused on learning about the current interventions underway across the industry – government and private sectors, as well as, establishing a data clearinghouse to ensure consistency of data sets and reporting; Valuable insights were shared, leading to the successful attainment of our objective – *“Begin establishing a comprehensive approach for achieving a decarbonization roadmap through collective stakeholder efforts.”*

Similarly, the Alternative Fuels Working Group meeting in Montreal witnessed enthusiastic participation from industry leaders, government officials, and experts in the field. The discussions centered around the development and implementation of transitional alternative fuels (now-2035) and long-term alternative fuels (2050) to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable practices in the maritime sector. The meeting concluded with a strong commitment to further these efforts and ensure tangible progress.



*GLS Deputy Administrator Anthony Fisher (bottom right corner, standing, holding the microphone) delivered opening remarks during the Alternative Fuels Working Group when it convened in Montreal.*



*SLSMC President and CEO Terence Bowles (right, standing, holding the microphone) delivered closing remarks during the Alternative Fuels Working Group that gathered in Montreal, Canada, on September 7, 2023.*

To ensure the continuous advancement of the GSCN's initiatives, a committee of principals will be formed. This committee will play a crucial role in ensuring that efforts remain industry-led, while governments provide support and facilitation when appropriate. By fostering collaboration between various stakeholders, this committee aims to drive substantial progress towards achieving sustainable maritime goals.

Exciting developments lie ahead as the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) and The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) continue to build upon the success of these working group meetings. Stay tuned for updates on the upcoming working group sessions, where further engagement and brainstorming will take place.

The GLS and SLSMC's commitment to industry leadership, government facilitation, and inclusive engagement ensures a promising future for decarbonization on the Great Lakes and beyond. With collective efforts and innovative solutions, the network moves closer to its vision of a greener and more environmentally conscious world. ■ ■ ■



## Pacesetter Awards Presented to U.S. Ports

In July 2023, Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht presented the annual Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation's (GLS) Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award in-person to the Port of Buffalo (N.Y.); Port of Chicago (Ill.); Port of Cleveland (Ohio); Port Milwaukee (Wis.); Port of Monroe (Mich.); and Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (Ohio) during the Annual Conference of the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) in Chicago.



*Adam Tindall-Schlicht (right), Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, presented the Pacesetter Award to Scott Simmons, General Manager / Port Director, Port of Buffalo and Port associate, during the Annual Conference of the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) in Chicago.*



*Adam Tindall-Schlicht (right), Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, presented the Pacesetter Award to Erik Varela, executive director, Port of Chicago, during the Annual Conference of the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) in Chicago.*



*Adam Tindall-Schlicht (right), Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, presented the Pacesetter Award to Will Friedman, President and CEO, Port of Cleveland, during the Annual Conference of the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) in Chicago.*



*Adam Tindall-Schlicht (right), Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, presented the Pacesetter Award to Jackie Carter, Port Director, Port Milwaukee, during the Annual Conference of the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) in Chicago.*



*Adam Tindall-Schlicht (right), Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, presented the Pacesetter Award to Paul LaMarre, Port Director, Port of Monroe, during the Annual Conference of the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) in Chicago.*



*Adam Tindall-Schlicht (right), Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, presented the Pacesetter Award to Thomas Winston, President and CEO, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, during the Annual Conference of the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) in Chicago.*

In August 2023, Mr. Tindall-Schlicht presented the 2022 Pacesetter during separate in-person events at the Port of Oswego (N.Y.) and Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority (N.Y.).

On September 18, 2023, Deputy Administrator Anthony Fisher delivered a virtual presentation of the prestigious award to the Port of Manitowoc, (Wis.) during a City of Manitowoc Common Council Meeting.

The Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award was established in 1992 to recognize the achievements of U.S. ports whose activities result in increasing international tonnage shipped through the St. Lawrence Seaway, excluding Canada, in comparison to the previous year. More than 237,000 jobs and \$35 billion in economic activity are supported annually by movement of various cargoes on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System.



Adam Tindall-Schlicht (left), Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, presented the Pacesetter Award to Steve Lawrence (right), executive director, Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority (OBPA), during an in-person event at OBPA on August 8, 2023.



Adam Tindall-Schlicht (left), Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, presented the Pacesetter Award to William Scriber (right), executive director, Port of Oswego Authority (POA), during an in-person event at the POA on August 9, 2023.

The Pacesetter Award name was officially changed in 2001 to posthumously honor the noteworthy career of former GLS Logistics Director Robert J. Lewis, who was instrumental in developing and implementing the GLS's trade development program. The award serves to raise awareness among the wider community about how important ports are as assets to the local, regional, and national economy. Great Lakes ports are working harder than ever to handle more commerce safely and efficiently. The GLS congratulates each port director and their respective teams for their commitment to keeping the port thriving! ■■■

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## American Great Lakes Ports Association Hosts Record Breaking Annual Conference

Senior members of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) staff attended the Annual Conference of the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) in July 2023 in Chicago. A key event and gathering with a focus on pivotal issues and developments surrounding the Great Lakes region, the Conference was the highest attended in AGLPA history. The event provided a platform for key stakeholders to come together and address pressing concerns, including with GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht who offered a keynote address.

A highlight of the Annual Conference was an update from U.S. Coast Guard Ninth District Admiral Jon Hickey. AGLPA attendees received valuable insights into the Coast Guard's efforts to ensure safety and security in the Great Lakes, emphasizing the importance of their role in protecting these vital waterways.

Another significant topic discussed at the meeting was the release of the recent [Economic Impact Study](#). This study shed light on the substantial economic contributions made by the Great Lakes ports to their respective communities and the wider regional economy. It underscored the ports' significance in generating jobs and revenue, reinforcing the need for continued

investment and support for the Great Lakes Seaway maritime economy.

Shipbuilding in the Great Lakes region was also a focal point of discussion. Participants explored opportunities and challenges facing this industry, with an eye towards further bolstering the region's shipbuilding capabilities. The importance of a robust shipbuilding sector in the Great Lakes cannot be overstated, as it directly contributes to the vitality of the entire maritime ecosystem.

Dredging on the Great Lakes, a crucial element in maintaining navigability, was another key topic. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented updated plans and strategies for dredging operations, highlighting the importance of their ongoing efforts to keep shipping lanes open and safe for robust commerce.

Tugboat operations took center stage as well, as attendees delved into the integral role played by these vessels in the Great Lakes region. Tugboats are the workhorses of Great Lakes ports, assisting in docking, undocking, and navigating vessels safely at countless U.S. and Canadian harbors.



GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht played a prominent role throughout the event, delivering multiple remarks, including a poem to help commemorate the christening of two tugboats, the *Illinois* and the *Indiana*, built and operated by the Great Lakes Towing Company of Cleveland, Ohio. Christening of the *Illinois* and the *Indiana* marks a significant Great Lakes milestone, symbolizing the ongoing commitment to the development and modernization of the Great Lakes maritime industry. Administrator Tindall-Schlicht delivered a commemorative poem (below), partly developed through use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) software, to honor the tugboats.

Overall, the Annual Meeting of the American Great Lakes Ports Association again served as a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective action to ensure the continued prosperity and sustainability of U.S. ports and the Great Lakes Seaway maritime economy overall. ■ ■ ■



During the American Great Lakes Port Association Conference in Chicago, the Great Lakes Towing Company christened their two newest tugs, *Illinois* and *Indiana* on Thursday, July 27, 2023.

## *Illinois and Indiana: Guardians on the Water*

*On their official tugboat christening*

Adam Tindall-Schlicht

Administrator, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)

Supported by ChatGPT

Delivered on Thursday, July 27, 2023

In the realm of the Great Lakes, vast and grand,  
Two tugboats grace the water's expanse.  
*Illinois* and *Indiana*, their noble names stand,  
Born from the hands of Great Lakes Towing's advance.

Majestic vessels, crafted with skill and might,  
They sail Lake Michigan's waves, resolute and strong.  
A testament to human ingenuity's height,  
Guided by the currents as they journey along.

*Illinois*, a beacon of strength and grace,  
With each mighty tow, a steadfast embrace.  
Through tempests and trials, it paves the way,  
With unwavering loyalty, come what may.

*Indiana*, a vessel of resolute resolve,  
Navigating challenges, it steadfastly solves.  
With mettle unmatched, it conquers the tide,  
An unwavering partner, in whom we confide.

In the Great Lakes' embrace, they ply their trade,  
Aiding ships in need, their duty unswayed.  
Great Lakes Towing, a company revered,  
Their vision realized, by hard work endeared.

So let us raise our voices in admiration,  
To the *Illinois* and *Indiana*, paragons of creation.  
In their wake, they leave a legacy profound,  
Anchored in the waters where their virtues abound.

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## Introducing New International Trade Specialist



Danielle Pierson joined the GLS's Office of Trade and Economic Development as an International Trade Specialist at the end of July 2023. She brings experience as an International Trade Specialist at both the Department of Commerce's U.S. Commercial Service and Customs and Border Protection's Office of Trade to GLS. She is a Licensed Customs Broker and has an MBA from the University of Oxford. Additionally, she has earned Project Management Professional, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, and Data Analyst certifications.

She is passionate about expanding international utilization of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway and, as such, will focus on collaborative outreach with new and existing stakeholders and partners, both domestically and overseas. She will undertake projects involving analysis of data and trends relevant to the Great Lakes Seaway System and will represent GLS at regional, national, and international trade and transportation events, all with the goal of promoting and identifying opportunities for the Seaway. ■■■

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## 2023 CANUSLACK Exercise

On August 15, 2023, from 0830-1430, the 2023 CANUSLAK exercise was held in Ogdensburg N.Y. There were two sites established – an Incident Command Post (ICP) located at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection “Cargo Warehouse” and a boom deployment and UAS drone exercise at the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, next to the Patterson Street Boat Launch in Ogdensburg, N.Y.

When the ICP was established, the scenario began where a west-bound vessel transiting under the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge had a backpack dropped onto its decks. The vessel continued to travel westbound 30 NM and an explosion occurred aboard the vessel, causing the vessel to lose steering capabilities and to fall off its course to Port, running hard aground blocking the Seaway channel Sector (3) SLSMC traffic control, but in U.S. territorial waters. Upon further investigation of the vessel for stabilization, it was determined to have an onboard fire in two compartments, as well as Heavy Fuel Oil leaking into the river.

Due to the complexity of this scenario, a Unified Command was stood up, with Sector Buffalo Commander Captain Mark Kuperman, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), as the on-scene commander. Included in Mr. Kuperman's Unified Command were Senator Mark Walczyk, R-New York State, Ryan Chatland (GLS), U.S. Customs Port Director, Canadian Coast Guard liaison, Canadian Customs Port Director, N.Y. State DEC Supervisor, U.S. Border Patrol, St. Lawrence County Emergency response coordinator, and David Mergenthaler (USCG ERP Coordinator).

Break-out session discussions were productive, and the following priorities were identified:

- Establish life and safety
- Ensure environmental protection
- Incident stabilization (the vessel and any marine facilities)

The Unified Command approved activation of CANUSLAK, an operational annex to the bilateral Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between the United States and Canada, which was established to ensure coordinated planning, preparedness, and response to a harmful substance incident in the contiguous waters of the two nations.

At the Port of Ogdensburg, the boom deployment and UAS drone exercise were completed. A priority was to verify pollution response boom strategies using Eastern Great Lakes Area Contingency Plan (ACP) and its Geographic Response Strategy (GRS) for the St.

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Lawrence Seaway. Listed below are the objectives met:

- Validate drone capabilities for imaging of the spill
- Ability to respond to an increased MARSEC level – this is communicated to the Admiral of U.S. Coast Guard and approved, if needed
- Validate information-sharing capabilities to interested parties involved ■■■



*During the American Great Lakes Port Association Conference in Chicago, the Great Lakes Towing Company christened their two newest tugs, Illinois and Indiana on Thursday, July 27, 2023.*



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## Personnel News



In July 2023, former Erie County Clerk **Julie Slomski** started her role as the new deputy executive director for the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority and will work alongside the executive director, Martin Lamar, and his team.

As deputy executive director, Ms. Slomski is responsible for partnering with and advising the executive director on operational and organizational matters, external affairs, customer issues and strategic goal setting. She also engages with the board of directors on political, strategic, and policy matters.

Slomski previously served as chief of staff for state Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, D-3rd Dist., and as northwest regional director for Gov. Tom Wolf. In 2020, she unsuccessfully ran against Republican state Sen. Dan Laughlin for the 49th district seat. Prior to her appointment as county clerk, she managed PPE for Logistics Plus.



In August 2023, US Commerce Secretary Gina M. Raimondo designated **Nicole LeBoeuf**, Assistant Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Ocean Service, as the chair of the Coordinating Board of the U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS). The term will last for 12 months and began August 1, 2023. By statute, the chair of the sub-Cabinet Coordinating Board rotates yearly among the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Homeland Security, Transportation and Defense. Ms. LeBoeuf is preceded by Major General William "Butch" Graham, who was the Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, US Army Corps of Engineers, at the time.

The CMTS is a Cabinet-level interdepartmental/interagency maritime policy coordinating committee chaired by Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. As chair of the Coordinating Board, Nicole LeBoeuf will work

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with more than 25 Federal member agencies to manage day-to-day policy development, establish the annual work plan, and provide leadership to the CMTS Executive Secretariat Staff.

Under Ms. LeBoeuf's leadership, the CMTS will build upon the Coordinating Board's work to advance the recruitment, retention, and diversification of the MTS and mariner workforce; support a more resilient MTS under climate change; and support Administration initiatives for an efficient, safe, and secure supply chain.



The International Joint Commission welcomed **Gerald "Jerry" Acker** in late July as the new US co-chair, filling a vacancy open since Jane Corwin retired in June 2022.

Coming to the IJC with a background in law, Acker has a long history of working on legal and policy matters in Michigan, his home state. An alumnus of the University of Michigan for his undergrad studies and the Wayne State University Law School, he earned his law degree in 1981. In 1993, Acker co-founded Goodman Acker P.C. alongside Barry Goodman, a law firm focused on representing injured and disabled clients in Michigan in disputes with insurance companies. He remained active as a managing partner with the firm until retiring in 2022.

Acker has been able to get up to speed quickly thanks to support from fellow Commissioners who joined in 2019. At this early stage in his tenure, he said the areas he's hoping to focus on include climate change and water quality issues. Individual Commissioners often have specific topics they want to look into, but these do not represent the views or priorities of the Commission until adopted by the Commission as a whole.

While this may be Acker's first turn with public service, he has served his Michigan community in a variety of ways. He was elected president of the Michigan Association of Justice in 2012 —the largest pro-civil justice organization in the state—and remains a member of the Bar Association in both Michigan and the District of Columbia. He interned with the US Congress as a student and has worked on a variety of national finance committees in the years since. He also has served on the Michigan Blue Cross Blue Shield board of directors, the Mediation Tribunal Association of Wayne County board of directors, the Hebrew Free Loan Association board of directors and as chair of the State Bar of Michigan's Attorney Grievance Commission. ■ ■ ■

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## Hwy H2O Signs Agreement with Seaports of Niedersachsen



In September 2023, Hwy H2O, the marketing initiative led by the Canadian and U.S. Seaway Corporations, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Seaports of Niedersachsen while visiting the Port of Brake during their delegation trip through Niedersachsen and Bremen. The agreement establishes a marketing alliance between the two groups to foster collaborative opportunities between the German region and the Seaway System.

The agreement was signed by Rebecca Yackley, Director, Office of Trade & Economic Development at the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation on behalf of Hwy H2O and by Mr. Felix Jahn, Managing Director of the Seaports of Niedersachsen.

Central to the discussion and drafting of the memorandum was a focus on increasing tonnage and vessel calls and helping to develop emerging cargo sectors in the Trans-Atlantic trade. The memorandum also recognizes the importance of environmental sustainability, SoN and Hwy H2O remain committed on environmental initiatives that continue to reduce carbon emissions in the seaborne trade and share insight into research and development projects that support the Seaway's environmental benchmarks and goals.



HWY H<sub>2</sub>O SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH SEAPORTS OF NIEDERSACHSEN  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

There is a history of the relationship between the groups, with previous efforts to promote trade in the early days of the Hwy H<sub>2</sub>O brand. The parallels in each region's geography and need to showcase inland waterways systems with one voice. The signing of this Memorandum of Cooperation with the Seaports of Niedersachsen will help to further promote Great Lakes ports' capabilities in the European market. ■ ■ ■

*The agreement was signed by Rebecca Yackley (right), Director, Office of Trade & Economic Development, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation on behalf of Hwy H<sub>2</sub>O and by Mr. Felix Jahn (left), Managing Director of the Seaports of Niedersachsen.*



## Save the Date

October 17-19



### Hwy H<sub>2</sub>O

Toronto, Canada

Info: <https://hwyh2o.com/home/>

