



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

2025 - SEAWAY NOTICE #15

Maximum Permissible Draft – Montreal to Lake Ontario and Welland Canal

Mariners are advised that outflows through the Moses-Saunders Dam are expected to be reduced in the coming weeks to support the safe formation of a smooth and stable ice cover in the Seaway and to limit the potential for ice jams.

While such flow reductions are not uncommon during winter operations, what is uncommon this year is the impact these flow reductions will have on the already exceptionally low water levels on Lake St. Louis. A further flow reduction will not provide adequate depths to support safe navigation on Lake St. Louis at the current 80.0dm maximum draft for the MLO Section.

As a result, effective **December 23, 2025** and until further notice, the **maximum permissible draft in the Montreal-Lake Ontario Section will be further reduced as follows** for all ships:

- From Call-in Point No. 2 to Beauharnois Locks - **79.2 dm**
- Above Beauharnois Locks to Cape Vincent - **80.0 dm**

Speed restrictions remain in effect as described in the latest Montreal-Lake Ontario Notices to Shipping.

In the **Welland Canal**, maximum permissible draft will remain at **80.8 dm** for all ships.

Ships equipped with an **approved and operational Draft Information System (DIS)** will continue to be permitted to transit at a draft of up to **7cm** above the maximum allowable draft.

December 15, 2025