



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

Re : SEAWAY RADIO MESSAGE NO. 26 – 2025

Mariners are advised that the Montreal-Lake Ontario (MLO) and Welland Canal drafts are as outlined in Seaway Notice No. 15 of 2025. A new draft restriction has been in effect since December 23 in the Montreal-Lake Ontario Section.

It is important for mariners to note that any vessel which enters the Seaway upbound at CIP2 shall be designated a wintering vessel in accordance with all the terms outlined in Seaway Notice No. 14 of 2025.

The removal of navigation aids in the Montreal-Lake Ontario section is in progress, more detailed information may be obtained from the respective Traffic Control Centre.

Ice conditions in the MLO section are widespread throughout the system, including the lakes, canals, and anchorage areas. **Ice is present in the Welland Canal.** More detailed information on ice conditions may be obtained from the respective Traffic Control Centre.

In the MLO section, Mariners are advised that one-way convoys are in effect on the lakes and in all canals, and anchorage availability is limited. Pointe-Fortier and Saint-Zotique anchorages are limited to a maximum of three (3) vessels each.

It is extremely important that vessels transiting through all ice-covered areas proceed at the slowest safe speed in order not to disturb the ice fields. Mariners are advised to exercise particular caution when transiting the Beauharnois Canal.

Lockages in the South Shore Canal and at the American Locks are now being conducted using traditional tie-up. Mariners will be required to deploy their mooring lines at St. Lambert, Côte Ste. Catherine, Eisenhower and Snell Locks. In the Welland Canal and at the remainder of the MLO Locks, vessels must be prepared to deploy mooring lines, as ice accumulation on hulls may limit the use of HFM.

Water temperature at St. Lambert on January 5, is 0 degree Celsius.

At 23:59 January 4, the number of ocean vessels above St. Lambert was 11 as compared to 1 in 2024. Above Port Weller the number was 0 as compared to 0 in 2024.

The A ice boom (Prescott/Ogdensburg) opening has been reduced to 600m and is indicated by quick flashing green and red buoys. The installation of Ice Boom G is complete up to the ends of the navigation channel.

All closing procedures outlined in Seaway Notice No. 14 of 2025 remain in effect.

The next radio message will be issued Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

The Seaway Control centre will only broadcast critical information on the air.

January 5, 2026