

## POLICY ON CONSULTATION ON THE WINTER NAVIGATION PERIOD

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### 1. Objectives of the Policy

Establishing guidelines on the consultation process to determine the winter navigation period by the LPA in accordance with the requirements of Section 35(2) and (3) of the *Laurentian Pilotage Authority Regulations* (the “Regulations”).

### 2. Background

Ship transits on the St. Lawrence River in winter require additional elements to consider, such as a reduction of navigation aids in the shipping channel, shorter daylight hours, ice conditions and the formation of batture ice and fast ice.

In order to better manage these elements and ensure safe conduct of the ship, it has been established by regulation that two pilots shall be required aboard a ship at all times during winter navigation period transits.

In view of the randomness of weather conditions on the St. Lawrence River, the evaluation of the start and end date of the winter navigation period varies from one year to another.

These dates are determined by the LPA, as required for the interests of the safety of navigation, following the consultation process described in this Policy and the factors set out in the Regulations.

### 3. Policy statements and requirements

- 3.1 As part of the process set out in Section 35(2) and (3) of the Regulations, the LPA consults pilot corporations, interested groups of shipowners, the Canadian Coast Guard and in addition, Transport Canada, before determining the start and end dates of the winter navigation period.
- 3.2 This consultation is based on the factors relevant to this decision further to Section 35(2) of the Regulations, including:
  - a) The status of navigational aids;
  - b) Water temperature and its recurrence, as taken at the thermometer buoy;
  - c) Three (3) consecutive days where the ambient temperature is below minus five (-5) degrees Celsius;



- d) The speed limits where applicable, including Lake Saint-Pierre, taking into account the formation or ice conditions;
- e) Water levels;
- f) Wind velocity and direction;
- g) Any other pertinent factors.

3.3 The Authority will, as soon as practicable, after determining the winter navigation period in accordance with section 3.2, issue a Notice to industry to inform all stakeholders of the determination.

#### **4. References**

Ice Navigation in Canadian Waters – Canadian Coast Guard

TP 14335E – Winter Navigation on the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence - 2011

TP 15163 B – Joint Industry – Government Guidelines for the Control of Oil Tankers and Bulk Chemical Carriers in Ice Control Zones of Eastern Canada - 2015

Notices to Mariners – Latest edition

#### **5. Responsibility/Additional information**

- 5.1 This Policy has been approved and issued under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer.
- 5.2 The Executive Director, Marine Safety and Efficiency is in charge of the development, implementation, maintenance and ongoing improvement of the Policy.
- 5.3 Any comments or requests for information concerning the Policy and its application should be referred to the following person:

Executive Director  
Marine Safety and Efficiency  
Laurentian Pilotage Authority  
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**6. Related documents**

Policy on ship transits during severe ice conditions in District No. 1.

**7. Date of publication: 2021-04-23**