



The St. Lawrence Seaway



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THE GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY SYSTEM

Since 1959, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System has been a vital waterborne transportation link for moving goods between the heartland of North America and international markets.

The Seaway System, 2,038 nautical miles in length, encompasses the St. Lawrence River and the five Great Lakes, and extends from the Gulf of St. Lawrence at the Atlantic Ocean to the western end of Lake Superior at the twin ports of Duluth, Minnesota, and Superior, Wisconsin.

Each navigation season, more than 2,000 commercial vessel transits are made through the Seaway System's locks to call on major U.S. and Canadian ports. The Great Lakes region, home to North America's industrial and agricultural centers, directly benefits from shipping commerce on the Seaway. In fact, every 10,000 tons of general cargo handled by a Great Lakes port translates into a half million dollars in economic benefits to that port community.

The St. Lawrence Seaway remains a model of binational cooperation between the nations of the United States and Canada. The waterway is co-managed by the U.S. and its Canadian partner.

SAFETY, RELIABILITY, AND EFFICIENCY

- Modern lock facilities and well-maintained navigation channels offer Seaway shippers a highly-reliable transportation route.
- The Seaway Corporation, in a joint program with the U.S. Coast Guard, screens foreign vessels prior to entering the U.S. waters of the Seaway for compliance with U.S. safety and environmental protection laws.
- In 1989, the Corporation developed its Emergency Response Plan to quickly and safely handle any type of oil/chemical spill or vessel incident on the St. Lawrence River. Annual emergency training and exercises are staged to prepare for any conceivable emergency on the Seaway.
- Several Great Lakes ports are positioned closer to major European markets than competing North American ports. For example, the distance from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Rotterdam, The Netherlands, is 4,837 nautical miles; from Rotterdam to Detroit, Michigan, the distance is only 3,849 nautical miles.
- Maritime traffic on the Seaway System has a distinct energy-saving advantage over competing modes of transportation. Railroads, for example, would have to more than double their fuel efficiency to equal that of the Seaway System, which can move one ton of cargo as far as 800 km on one gallon of fuel.
- Transportation studies have concluded that the Seaway System is a cost effective route especially for shipping mine products, steel, breakbulk, agricultural, and heavy lift cargoes to and from Europe.



MAJOR GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY CARGOES



IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS

Iron and steel products, raw and processed, have been a major cargo for the Seaway since it opened. Products include steel slabs, scrap iron, bars, rods, and manufactured iron and steel. These commodities carry the highest value of goods shipped on the Seaway and their handling is the most labor-intensive.



OTHER PROCESSED AND MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS

In addition to iron and steel products, the Seaway is a cost-competitive route for a number of other processed cargoes. Each year more than 10 percent of Seaway trade consists of fuel oil, petroleum products, chemicals, forest products, and animal products.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Agricultural products represent about 40 percent of all Seaway trade. Grains shipped both by the United States and Canada are primarily for export. Cargoes include wheat, corn, soybeans, barley, oats, and flaxseed.



MINE PRODUCTS

Mine products make up more than 40 percent to total Seaway trade each year. Products include iron ore, coal, coke, salt, and stone. There is strong demand by European utilities for low-sulfur coal from the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana shipped via the St. Lawrence Seaway.



THE HEARTLAND OF NORTH AMERICA - THE GREAT LAKES REGION

- The Great Lakes region is made up of the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario.
- The region is home to one-quarter of North America's population --more than 90 million people. It grows almost half of the United State's soybeans and corn, and it accounts for 40 percent of U.S. manufacturing and two-thirds of Canada's industrial production.
- The Seaway System lies at the heart of an ideal intermodal network. More than 40 provincial and interstate highways connect the System's ports with key cities throughout the United States and Canada, and nearly 30 railroad companies serve the System's ports.
- The Great Lakes region has the five largest steel producing states, which account for 70 percent of all U.S. steel production. It also produces 70 percent of the value of the nation's machine tools.
- Nearly half of the *Fortune 500 Industrial Companies* are headquartered in the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes region.
- Shipping on the Great Lakes Seaway System means jobs to the Great Lakes region. In fact, more than 45,000 U.S. jobs and \$2 billion in personal income are directly generated by shipping activity on the Seaway.



SERVING THE WORLD SINCE 1959

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System was made possible by the construction of the joint U.S.-Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway navigation project during the late 1950s. When the project was finished in 1959, it linked the Great Lakes region to emerging global markets.

The U.S. and Canadian Seaway agencies operate the Seaway's locks and channel and furnish vessels transiting the Seaway with vessel traffic control assistance. They jointly publish transit regulations for vessels, negotiate and establish Seaway toll policies, and set the Seaway's annual opening and closing dates.

The Seaway Corporation also promotes the waterway through an extensive domestic and international marketing program. Each year, it sponsors trade missions to international markets to promote the advantages of shipping via the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System.

Other services offered by the Seaway Corporation include: marketing advice, export/import trade data, trade and traffic reports, various special information newsletters, and seminars and workshops.

For more information, contact the Seaway Corporation's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., tel: (202) 366-0091, fax: (202) 366-7147.

