



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

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**2013 - NOTICE TO SHIPPING #17**

NIAGARA REGION  
WELLAND CANAL

**HANDLING OF MOORING WIRES**

Mariners are advised that in an ongoing effort to provide safe and efficient transits for vessels and their crews, and in order to avoid any potentially unsafe situation for Seaway lock personnel, we request that Pilots / Masters give attention to the following areas:

- Ensure that every effort is made in order to avoid backlashes from the winches.
- Vessels preparing to cast-off will drift forward to avoid contacting the breast wall when the lower end gates are opening. This often results in long leads on mooring wires 2 and 4 that are then difficult to cast-off for the lock crew.
- Ensure that during the down bound cast off, vessel crews heave in the mooring wires only up to the point where the mooring wire eye reaches the fairleads. Heaving the mooring wire in completely to the winch drum before the lock crew has a chance to pass the heaving line back to the vessel could cause a potential unsafe situation.
- Mooring lines and Hand lines should be of a uniform thickness throughout their length with no splicing.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Glenn Rutherford  
Process Support Coordinator - Canal Services  
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**The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation**  
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