Canada

Administration de pilotage des Laurentides

Laurentian Pilotage Authority

Winter Navigation

Presented for Shipping Federation of Canada

Our *MISSION*

The Authority's mission is to uphold the public interest with integrity by operating, maintaining, and managing an efficient pilotage service on the St. Lawrence and Saguenay River. Through excellence in service, a commitement to progress, and a focus on collaboration, the Authority ensures safe navigation while safeguarding its financial self sufficiency.

Winter Period

DECEMBER				JANUARY	WINTER PERIOD	MARCH			APRIL	
2 to 9	9 to 16	16 to 23	23 to 30	1 to 6	Double Pilotage	9 to 16	16 to 23	23 to 30	1 to 7	7 to 14
	Pre-winter Period						Post-winter Period			

PRE-WINTER	
Start	When a four-season priority light buoy is out of position, non-functional or ice coverered.
Average Duration	3 weeks
End	January 1st or before if conditions warrant

POST-WINTER	
Start	March 16th
Average Duration	3 weeks
End	Positioning of the last priority buoy (variable)

Pre-Winter Period

This period is before the winter period.

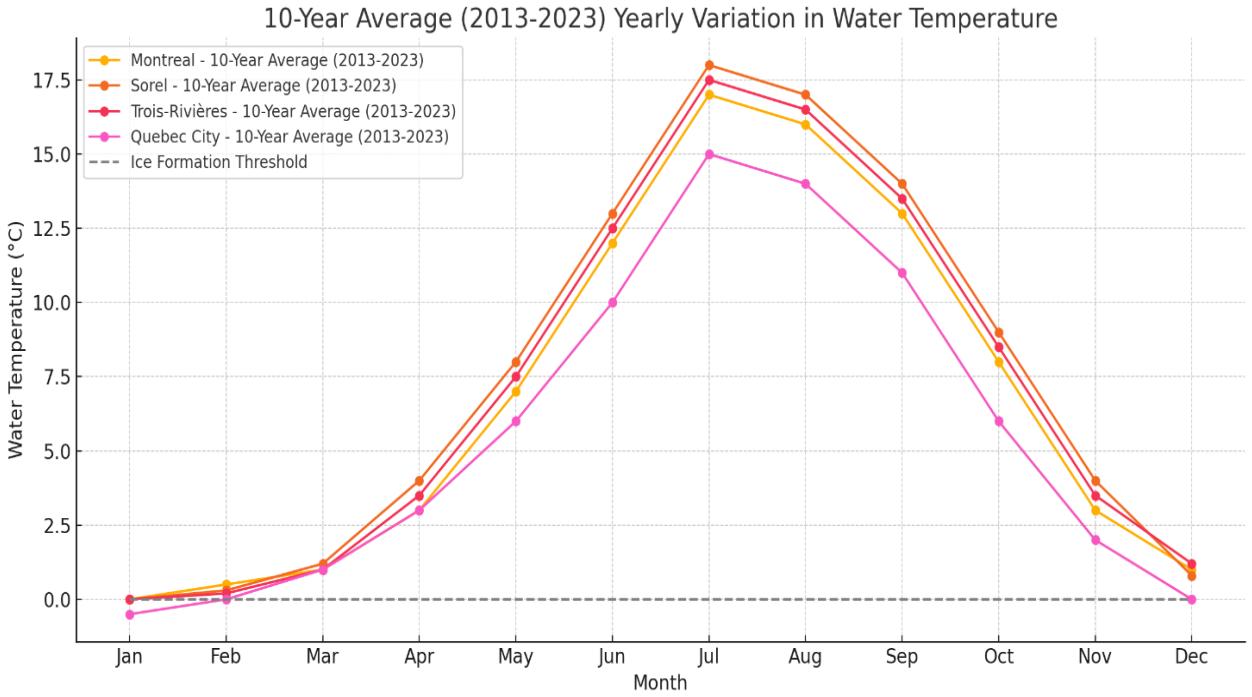
Pre-winter navigation may be initiated if a four-season light buoy becomes non-functional or shifts out of position :

Start of Pre-Winter Period Restrictions :

- Double Pilotage at night
- Departure windows for Specific Vessel Types
  - Tankers more than 25,000 DWT
  - Ships over 245 m LOA
  - Deep draft vessels

Ice Cover Exceeding 3/10

- No restrictions for compliant ships
- Departure restrictions apply to all other ships



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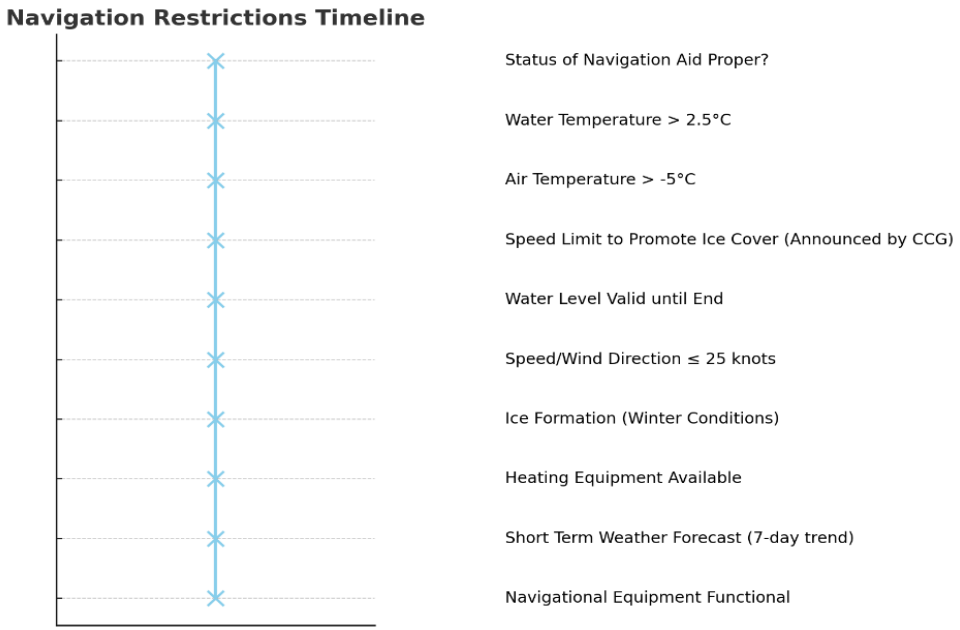
Winter Period Declaration



The Authority will promptly mtify all involved parties of the start date of the winter navigation priod as soon as it is determined.

For the safety of navigation, the **AUTHORITY** with establish the navigation period district in collaboration with the **CANADIAN COAST GUARD**, **PILOTS** affiliated with a corporation, and **INTERESTED GROUPS OF SHIP OWNERS**, based on the following considerations:

- **the status of navigational aids;**
- **Weather condition;**
- **ice formation and ice conditions;**
- **any other relevant factors.**

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Post-Winter Period

Identical conditions apply during the pre-winter period, with its start and end determined by specific factors unique to each navigation district

Start of post-winter period

DISTRICT 1

- Ice floes located east of Québec Bridge
- When ice from Lake St. Pierre breaks up and is flushed downstream

DISTRICT 2

- Post-winter starts March 16th

SAGUENAY RIVER

- Ice floes flushed out of the Saguenay River
- When ice from the Saguenay River breaks up and is flushed downstream
- Post-winter conditions in the Saguenay River

End of post-winter period

DISTRICT 1

- When the majority of non-priority buoys have been installed

DISTRICT 2

- Water temperature
- Absence of ice in the Saguenay River
- End of ice bridge on Orleans Island
- Opening of the Delta anchoring area
- No significant ice in the Traverse Nord
- Air temperature

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Previous Winters

Winter 20/21

- Severe ice conditions under Québec Bridge
- Cold periods, abundant snow precipitations.
- Increased surveillance undertaken on Lake Saint-Pierre and the Québec Bridge

Winter 22/23

- Severe wind conditions around Christmas, forcing shut down of navigation on St. Lawrence

Winter 23/24

- Unusual Ice Drift
- Frequent Fog Events – Increase frequency of fog in late winter, impacting visibility.
- Shifts in Departure Windows – Adjustments in departure windows for large tankers and deep draft vessels due to unpredictable ice flows.
- Temperature Fluctuation – Rapid temperature changes led to ice breakups followed by re-freezing, affecting navigation planning

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Thank You.

Questions? Comments?