



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway

**Presentation to RCC Stakeholder Dialogue Session
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Overview of the initiative

Desired outcome of the Work Plan

Establish a framework to

- jointly address issues related to the safety (including the protection of the environment), and security of vessels operating within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway, in order to eliminate duplicative inspections and eliminate impediments to trade.

Action Item 1: Explore the feasibility of an expanded Joint Initial Verification Program in the St. Lawrence Seaway at Montreal to address both safety and security inspection requirements with the intent to reduce duplication of inspection.

Action Item 2: Explore feasibility of mutual recognition of regulatory oversight regimes for vessels operating exclusively on the GL and the SLS.



Progress update

Action item 1 – Results of the Pilot Project on Port State Control (PSC)

- 22 requests made for joint inspections with 8 different marine agents.
- 18 positive answers (4 refusals). Of those eighteen positive answers, ten (10) vessels were jointly boarded for inspection by both TC and USCG inspectors.
- 6 vessels given PSC Exam Credit by USCG.

Preliminary Findings - Outcome

- Joint PSC inspections are feasible and can be accommodated by vessel crews.
- Conducting joint PSC examinations in Canadian waters may not be the most efficient method.
- The joint PSC process should remain separate from JIVP for the time being.
- Leveraging the St. Lawrence Seaway Enhanced Seaway Inspection process may lead to more efficiencies for both countries.



Progress update

Action item 2 - Highlights of actions undertaken

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation on issues of Mutual Interest Respecting Marine Safety and Security between Transport Canada and the United States Coast Guard became effective in June 2012.
- MOU between USCG and TC Respecting Mutual Recognition of Domestic Mariner Qualifications (2002) being revisited.

Outcome

- USCG is conducting fewer inspections of Canadian lakers visiting a U.S. port (annually).
- TC is conducting a less detailed inspection on a limited number of U.S. vessels in Canadian ports (annually).
- Efforts are being taken to bring these two approaches more closely into alignment.



Recent Stakeholder Outreach

The Great Lakes and St Lawrence Seaway working group has reached out to a number of stakeholder groups in the past several months.

- Great Lakes Shipping Association** - December 2012.
- Great Lakes Waterways Conference** - February 2013.
- Lakes Carriers' Association** - February 2013.
- Seaway Customer Relation Meeting** - March 2013.
- Shipping Federation of Canada** - March 2013.
- Canadian Maritime Advisory Councils** - March/April 2013.



Next steps and key issues

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway project is now complete.
- The final report will be submitted shortly.
- No issues are considered outstanding.



Questions

As the two country's regimes are so closely aligned, what do you see as the impediments to mutually recognizing the other country's regime?