ALL-SEASON BUOYS TO IMPROVE NAVIGATION

Historically, navigation buoys in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Maritime Transportation System have been a high-maintenance component of MTS infrastructure. The ice coverage that largely closes navigation in the system for the winter months requires that buoys be deployed early each spring and retrieved in the late fall. To reduce the costs of this work, the Canadian federal government announced in October, 2018 that the Canadian Coast Guard had procured 184 four-season lighted navigation buoys at a cost of $12 million (CAD) to be deployed in the St. Lawrence River shipping channel, between Québec and Montréal. According to the announcement, the four-season buoys are “unique in the world, designed using Canadian Coast Guard expertise to withstand the severe ice and tidal conditions found in the St. Lawrence shipping channel.” They will remain in the water year-round and only require maintenance every two to four years.

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