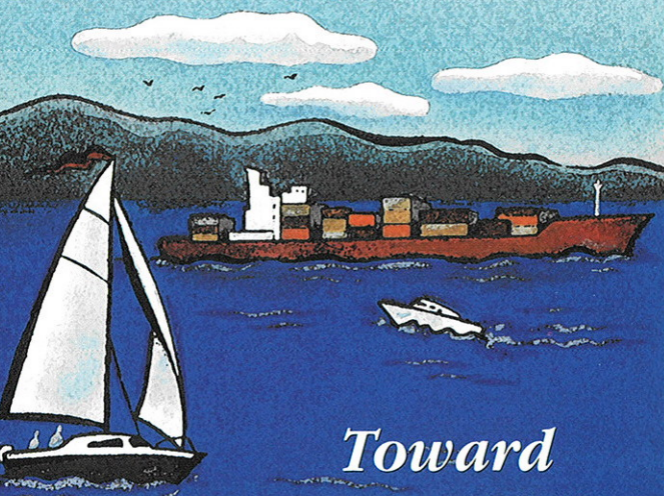


Saint-Laurent

Vision 2000



Toward sustainable navigation

Linking navigation
and protection of
St. Lawrence



Navigation and protection of the St. Lawrence

The St. Lawrence River is a world-class navigable waterway nearly 1600 kilometres in length. Linked to the Great Lakes vast ecosystem, it is characterised by a very particular system of currents and tides, by a variety of habitats, and by an ice cover in winter. The St. Lawrence brings together complex environmental, social and economic concerns.

Since 1988, governments work together to restore, protect and preserve the river's ecosystem under the St. Lawrence Vision 2000 (SLV 2000) Action Plan, a Canada-Québec cooperation agreement on the St. Lawrence. Commercial shipping and recreational boating have been included as part of Phase III of the agreement, which was signed on June 8, 1998.

The Consensus-building Committee on Navigation brings together some 20 members representing the three main sectors involved:



The Consensus-building Committee on Navigation

The mission of the Consensus-building Committee on Navigation is to develop and implement a strategy that will ensure navigation management with a concern for the sustainable development of the St. Lawrence that is more environment friendly. To reach this goal, the committee works in cooperation with representatives of the marine industry, environmental and community groups, and governments to elaborate and propose concerted and feasible actions.

Members of the Consensus-building Committee on Navigation

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Environment Canada
Transport Canada

Transports Québec

Environnement Québec
Faune et Parcs Québec

Montreal Port Authority

Amis de la vallée du Saint-Laurent

St. Lawrence Shipoperators Association

Corporation of Mid St. Lawrence Pilots

Shipping Federation of Canada

St. Lawrence Economic Development Council (SODES)

Société d'initiative et de conservation du Bas-Richelieu

Stratégies Saint-Laurent

Objectives and specific issues

Assessment of navigation on the St. Lawrence

To conduct a thorough assessment of commercial shipping and recreational boating in order to measure the impact of navigation on the ecosystem, to describe the economic and social role of navigation, and to identify conflicting uses and the major issues.

Dredging and sediment management

To establish a method for environmental monitoring of dredging operations related to navigation on the St. Lawrence and to improve sediment control by determining the strengths and weaknesses of the existing processes.

Embankment erosion control

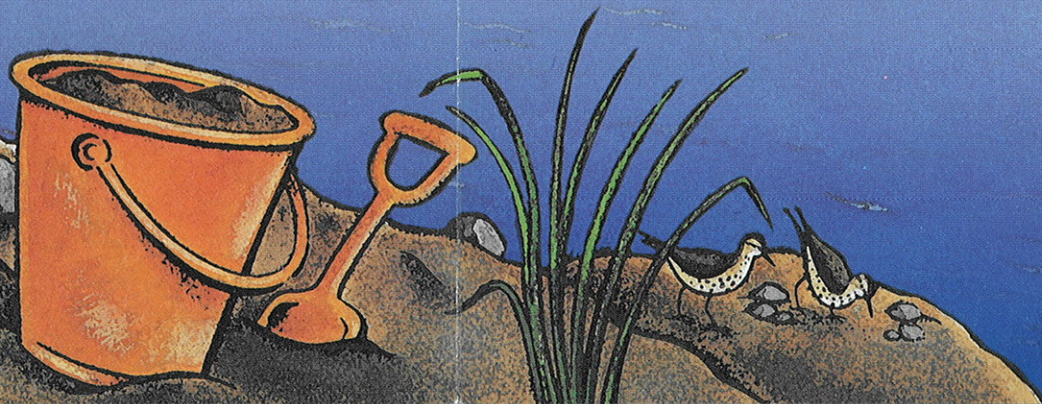
To protect the banks of the St. Lawrence against the erosion caused by commercial shipping and recreational boating by identifying the sensitive areas and the measures to be taken to reduce the adverse effects.

Risks of spills of dangerous substances

To develop the tools and guides required to improve the management of environmental risks and dangers in order to ensure an always safer navigation.

Introduction of nonindigenous aquatic species through the discharge of ballast water

To implement regulations or a code of conduct for the discharge of ballast water, by evaluating the risks incurred and the measures to be taken.



Initial achievements

Information and cooperation

- Increase in dialogue between partners in the private sector and governments

Improvement of knowledge

- Environmental risks and consequences of navigation on the St. Lawrence
- Socioeconomic portrait of navigation on the St. Lawrence
- Comparison of environmental impacts of the modes of freight transport on the St. Lawrence

Dredging

- Comparison of public involvement processes in the management of dredging operations
- Portrait of dredging operations in the St. Lawrence
- Comparative analysis of the management of dredging operations and of sediment quality evaluation tools



Embankment erosion

- Influence of commercial shipping and recreational boating on the condition of the banks of the Cornwall-Montmagny stretch
- Adoption and implementation of voluntary measures to reduce the speed of commercial ships in sensitive areas

Ballast water

- Workshops to elaborate guidelines on the discharge of ballast water from ships travelling in waters under Canadian jurisdiction

An increasing involvement

The Consensus-building Committee on Navigation must consult a growing number of St. Lawrence partners in order to make recommendations that take into account all interests. This consultation approach is at the heart of the actions taken by the committee and the key to finding concrete, attainable and exemplary solutions.



For information

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