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Detroit District

# News Release

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**Contact:** Lynn Duerod 313-226-4680

[Lynn.M.Duerod@lre02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Lynn.M.Duerod@lre02.usace.army.mil)

[www.lre.usace.army.mil](http://www.lre.usace.army.mil)

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## 2006 Soo Locks shipping season swings open soon

**DETROIT --** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District will open its world famous Soo Locks for the 2006 navigation season Saturday.

The Poe Lock will open the morning of March 25 at one minute after midnight. The MacArthur Lock will open for the season at 7 a.m. on April 2.

According to Soo Locks officials, relatively light ice conditions are expected for the start of the navigation season. In fact, a milder winter has prompted an earlier start to the Lake Superior shipping season, primarily in the Duluth Twin Ports area. Ships operating now are limited to ports within Lake Superior, but may head to the lower lakes upon the opening of the Soo Locks 24-hour operation on Saturday.

Several lock maintenance projects were completed during the winter lay-up including repairs to a discharge valve, fender booms, and improvements to gate-operating equipment.

According to the District's Hydrology Branch, freighters along the Great Lakes will find water levels similar to last year's levels. For detailed information on lake levels, visit <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil>.

Additionally, the Soo Locks will open its gates to the public on its annual Engineers Day, traditionally the last Friday in June. This year the family-friendly open house will be June 30, beginning at 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. That is the one day of the year the public can get an up-close-and-personal view of the ships traversing the Locks and the Great Lakes.

If you have questions, or would like more facts regarding the Soo Locks, please contact the Detroit District Public Affairs Office at (313) 226-4680 or Acting Area Engineer, Steve Rose, at (906) 635-3463.