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MacArthur Lock to close Sunday morning as Soo Locks navigation season winds down

DETROIT – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, announces its schedule for lock operations until the end of the navigation season for the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

The MacArthur Lock will shut down for the winter at 7 a.m. Sunday, enabling crews to perform routine maintenance. Built in 1943, the 800-foot MacArthur Lock will reopen in the spring. The adjacent Poe Lock is scheduled to remain open through Jan. 15.

“Our well-trained and dedicated Soo workforce is committed to operating the locks through the navigation season and diligently maintaining them,” said Lt. Col. Mike Derosier, district engineer. “The locks are a vital asset for the transportation of raw materials and commodities that help energize our economy and provide jobs.”

About 4,200 vessels carrying an average of 80 million tons of cargo maneuver through the Soo Locks annually. Iron ore, coal and limestone are among the most frequently carried commodities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, maintains a navigation system of 95 harbors, including the Great Lakes Connecting Channels that join lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie.

For more details, contact Lynn Duerod, public affairs officer, 313-226-4680.

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To see a picture of the MacArthur Lock, visit our Flickr site:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/14643312@N02/6212436727/>

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