



**United States Coast Guard**  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

# News Release

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## **Coast Guard opening West Neebish Channel**

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Ice throughout the St Marys River is deteriorating. With the unseasonably warm temperatures ahead, VTS St Marys River plans to open the West Neebish Channel in accordance with 33 CFR 162.117. Effective 09 March 2024 at 1300 local, the West Neebish Channel will be open to vessel traffic.

The Coast Guard recommends that members of the public who recreate on the ice, particularly those who fish, or operate snowmobiles or all - terrain vehicles on ice-covered waters of the St Marys River, plan their activities carefully, use caution on the ice, and stay away from charted shipping channels. Ice breaking activity weakens the ice far beyond the tracks created by the icebreakers.

For more information, contact the U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service at (906) 635-3299 or via email at [SOOTFC@USCG.MIL](mailto:SOOTFC@USCG.MIL).

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