



SAULT STE. MARIE BRIDGE AUTHORITY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

JAMES MCINTYRE, CHAIR
RICK TALVITIE, MEMBER
GLENN HEWUS, MEMBER
HELEN GILLESPIE, MEMBER

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

NICHOLAS WHITE, VICE CHAIR
LINDA HOATH, MEMBER
SCOTT SHACKLETON, MEMBER
THOMAS BUCKINGHAM, MEMBER

REPLY TO: PHILLIP M. BECKER, P.E., GENERAL MANAGER

934 BRIDGE PLAZA
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN 49783
PHONE: (906) 635-5255 FAX: (906) 635-0540
TDD/TTY – MICHIGAN RELAY CENTER (800) 649-3777

121 HURON STREET
SAULT STE. MARIE, ON P6A 1R3
PHONE: (705) 942-4345
www.michigan.gov/iba

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015

CONTACT:

**Phil Becker, International Bridge Administration, 906-635-5255, ext. 112, or
705-942-4345, ext. 112**

Dan Weingarten, MDOT Office of Communications, 906-485-6322, ext. 136

International Bridge ready for underwater pier inspection

April 20, 2015 -- The Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge will get a regular checkup when underwater bridge pier inspection starts next week.

The work involves inspecting the International Bridge's piers below the water line in the St. Marys River. The inspection will be performed by qualified divers and engineers using scuba gear and digital recording devices to examine and record the condition of the piers in areas not visible above the water line.

The inspection – expected to cost \$51,000 – is mandated by the Federal National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) and must be performed every five years. The last inspection was conducted in 2009. The current inspection was originally scheduled for 2014; however, due to high water flow in the St. Marys River in 2014, the inspection was deferred until this year.

"Fifteen of the 62 bridge piers are in water," said Bridge Engineer Karl Hansen. "The previous inspection in 2009 found that those submerged components of the bridge were in satisfactory condition."

A boat and dive team are scheduled to be working at various pier locations from April 27 to April 29.

For more information on the International Bridge, please visit www.saultbridge.com or follow us on twitter at www.twitter.com/saultbridge.

###

**Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge:
Bridging Our Past, Connecting Our Future**