



A Busy Holiday Weekend on the Water

Recreational Boaters asked to look out for Commercial Ships

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(Green Bay, Wis.) – With the Memorial Day holiday upon us, and warmer weather finally at hand, a lot of people will be out on the water enjoying their boats, jet skis and other watercraft. Even though it's a holiday, recreational boaters are reminded that commercial shipping won't stop. That means it's important for boaters to be aware of – and steer clear of – the large, commercial vessels coming into and out of the [Port of Green Bay](#).

"If the weather is good, we would expect to see a lot of boating on the Lower Fox River and bay of Green Bay during the Memorial Day weekend," said Dean Haen, director for the Port of Green Bay. "While a lot of people will be off from work, and some businesses closed, there's no break for the freighters that deliver important commodities to the terminal operators in the Port. We want to be sure recreational boaters pay attention to those large commercial vessels."

Haen has this advice:

- Boaters should stay a safe distance from commercial vessels. Recreational boats, by law, must stay at least 100 yards (the length of a football playing field) away from a commercial ship. The larger ship always has the right-of-way. "It's easier for you to see a large ship than it is for the cargo ship to see you," explained Haen.
- It can be very dangerous for recreational boaters to travel alongside a freighter, especially when it uses its bow thrusters. Be safe and stay away.
- Avoid double rafting boats along City Deck as the rafting boats maybe in the navigation channel. Also be aware that when tying up to lower docks at the water level in the downtown district, especially when commercial vessels are navigating the area during high use times (Friday night to Sunday night). There is a narrow navigational channel and it can bring ships close to the docks.
- Always carry an approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD/life jacket) for each person on your boat and ensure that everyone is either wearing a PFD, or has easy access to one.

"Being on the water should be enjoyable. Keeping safety in mind and always being aware of what's happening nearby is crucial," added Haen.

Be sure to check out the Port of Green Bay website (www.portofgreenbay.com), or its social media pages, to see when cargo ships may be coming into the Port.

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About the Port of Green Bay: The Port of Green Bay exists to enhance the prosperity of the people of Northeast Wisconsin by providing facilities and infrastructure able to effectively and efficiently move commodities and goods across the nation. As the western-most port of Lake Michigan, the Port of Green Bay offers a direct route for shipping from the Midwest to the rest of the world. The Port of Green Bay has 14 active terminal operators located along three miles of the Fox River involved in shipping commodities: [Ace Marine](#), [C. Reiss Company](#), [Construction Resources Management](#), [Flint Hills Resources](#), [Fox River Terminals](#), [Georgia-Pacific](#), [Graymont](#), [GLC Minerals](#), [KK Integrated Logistics](#), [Lafarge Northern America](#), [RGL](#), [Sanimax](#), [St. Mary's Cement](#) and [U.S. Venture](#).

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Media Contacts:

Dean Haen, Director
Brown County Port & Resources Recovery
(920) 492-4953
www.portofgreenbay.com

Chris Christenson
Leonard & Finco Public Relations
(920) 965-7750 ext. 154
cchristenson@LFpublicrelations.com