

## **When will the first ship come in?**

### *Port of Green Bay opens annual First Ship Contest*

#### **For Immediate Release**

**February 12, 2019**

(Green Bay, WI) With the 2018 shipping season over, and on the record as one of the [Port of Green Bay](#)'s longest seasons, it's time to look toward the 2019 shipping season. The Port of Green Bay is calling for entries to its annual First Ship Contest. Residents are asked to submit their guesses for what date they believe the 2019 season will begin, with the winner taking home a prize package.

The winning entry will go to the person whose guess comes closest to the date and time of the first ship's arrival. This year's winning prize package from the Port of Green Bay will include a free kayak tour with Door County Kayak Tours, a \$120 Gift Certificate to the Landmark Resort in Door County, a 200th Anniversary Brown County Monopoly game as well as two Port of Green Bay coffee mugs. The Greater Green Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau will host the First Ship Arrival contest.

For a little historical perspective: The 2018 shipping season began with a movement of petroleum products on March 26, 2018, which was five days later than both the 2016 and 2017 season due to winter weather. A shipment of petroleum products was imported on January 28, 2019, marking the latest closing date at the Port in at least the past 30 years (as far back as records go), and may very well be the latest closing date in the history of the Port of Green Bay.

"Each winter, the Port of Green Bay must close its waterways to cargo vessels due to ice buildup," explained Dean Haen, Port Director. "In the last few years, the Port has stayed open longer due to a demand for petroleum products, which is facilitated by ice breaking activities. Inevitably the waterway closes each year, and when it can open back up is due to several factors. The number one factor is when the weather is warm enough to melt the ice. Another factor is if there is an economic need for materials, which would require ice breaking in the bay and the Fox River. Water conditions in other parts of the Great Lakes play a part as well."

*(More)*

The start dates of previous shipping seasons in recent years are as follows:

- 2018: March 26
- 2017: March 21
- 2016: March 21
- 2015: April 3

To enter your official guess of date and time, visit [www.greenbay.com/firstshipcontest](http://www.greenbay.com/firstshipcontest). One entry per person is allowed. If there are multiple correct guesses, the person who submitted their entry first will be chosen as the winner.

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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 Coal 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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