



## PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

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### **It's anybody's guess when the next shipping season will begin** *Annual First Ship Contest underway at Port of Green Bay*

**For Immediate Release**

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(Green Bay, WI) – Although the [Port of Green Bay](#)'s last shipping season officially ended on January 22, it's already time to start thinking—or guessing—about the start of the 2018 season. The annual First Ship Contest is underway, collecting guesses from the public for what date they believe the 2018 season will begin.

The [Greater Green Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) will once again host the First Ship Arrival contest. The person whose guess comes closest to the date and time of the first ship's arrival will win a prize package offered by the Port of Green Bay. This year's prize package will include the [200th Anniversary Brown County](#) Monopoly game as well as a gift card to Titledown Brewery.

Due to ice breaking activities, the Port of Green Bay's 2017 shipping season ended well into January and fifteen days longer than the previous season. "A late end to the Port of Green Bay's 2017 shipping season may make it seem like it's too early to start speculating about the 2018 shipping season," said Port Director Dean Haen. "But planning for the 2018 shipping season has already been underway for months."

"The only thing we can't plan is the weather, and that is what really determines when the season can begin," explained Haen. "The shipping season generally starts once ice has melted which is determined by when warmer weather arrives. 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."

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

- 2017: March 21
- 2016: March 21
- 2015: April 3
- 2014: April 18

*(More)*

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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The Port of Green Bay has 14 active terminal operators involved in shipping commodities:

- ACE Marine, LLC
- C. Reiss Coal Company
- Construction Resources Management
- Flint Hills Resources
- Fox River Terminals
- Georgia-Pacific Corporation
- Graymont
- GLC Minerals, LLC
- KK Integrated Logistics, Inc.
- Lafarge North America
- RGL
- Sanimax
- St. Mary's Cement Company
- US Venture

For more information, visit our website at: [www.portofgreenbay.com](http://www.portofgreenbay.com)

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