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# Port N' News

Current Port, Maritime & Transportation  
Topics at the Port of Green Bay

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## Upcoming Events

- July 11-12—AGLPA Annual Meeting, Duluth, MN
- July 24—Harbor Commission Meeting, time and location TBD
- August 10-11—WCPA Annual Meeting, Sturgeon Bay, WI
- August 14—Harbor Commission Meeting at 10:30 am at 2561 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI
- September 11—Harbor Commission Meeting at 10:30 am at 2561 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI

\*Harbor Commission meetings subject to change

## Highlight on Safety

(Green Bay, WI) A “Celebration of Safety” luncheon was held July 6, 2017 at [GLC Minerals](#), a custom mineral processing facility based in Green Bay. GLC has gone three years – or 215,000 hours – without a lost time work accident.

“This is a significant milestone for our workers and our company,” said GLC Minerals President and COO, Holly Bellmund. “It is especially noteworthy because of the type of work we do; which includes loading and unloading ships as well as processing thousands of pounds of materials every day. It demonstrates the focus all of us have when it comes to creating and maintaining a safe work environment. It’s certainly worth celebrating.”

A luncheon was provided for employees during the plant’s shift change to say thank you for their diligence in creating a culture of safety. All 19 plant employees are members of Teamsters Union Local 662. In addition to the plant employees, there are 15 office/administrative staff at the plant, located on the Port of Green Bay.

Established in 1871, GLC Minerals, formerly Great Lakes Calcium, is a fifth generation, family-owned business. It was also a founding member of the Greater Green Bay Chamber of Commerce. “To this day, we continue to be active members of the business community,” said Bellmund. “Our company’s longevity is a testament to our outstanding workforce that makes us successful. It’s fitting we take some time out today to recognize their efforts; especially when it comes to safety.”



GLC Minerals’ Terminal

## 2017 Tonnage Is Up

(Green Bay, WI) Shipping traffic in the Port of Green Bay remains ahead of the pace from 2016, despite a downturn in May. May shipping totaled 137,112 tons, down 23% from May of last year (176,767 tons). But even with the decline in May, overall tonnage is still up 6% for 2017, thanks to a very strong April.

“A reduction in petroleum product and salt played a role in the lower tonnage for May,” said Dean Haen, director for the Port of Green Bay. “However, the market remained relatively strong for cement, coal and limestone. Month to month variances like this are not unusual,” said Haen. “Overall, we are off to a very good start and are optimistic the numbers will pick up as the season continues.”

Eleven ships passed through the port in May. That brings the total to 30 ships that have come through the Port so far this year, two more than the same time last year.

June tonnage has not been completed at this point. However, June 2017 has seen more ships than June 2016. This does not always mean an increase in tonnage, however, it does seem promising.

Throughout the rest of the 2017 shipping season the Port expects to continue to see a decrease in salt and limestone but should see an increase in project cargo, cement and coal.

### Cargo Highlight: Limestone

Just last year the number one import in the Port was limestone, which is basically any rock formed mostly of calcium carbonate. It is usually an organic sedimentary rock that forms from the accumulation of shell, coral, algae and other debris. Limestone is used as pollution prevention, as a filler in animal feed, for construction material, crushed for road base and railroad ballast, in toothpaste, etc.

Tonnage Comparison YTD		
	2016	2017
<b>Domestic Imports</b>		
Cement	73,453	86,076
Coal	90,276	123,611
Limestone	20,805	20,030
Petroleum Products	5,135	4,907
Salt	33,348	0
<b>Total Domestic Imports (5%)</b>	<b>223,016</b>	<b>234,624</b>
<b>Foreign Imports</b>		
Salt	62,454	89,145
<b>Total Foreign Imports (43%)</b>	<b>62,454</b>	<b>89,145</b>
<b>Domestic Exports</b>		
Ash	7,052	0
Petroleum Products	9,741	3,114
Project Cargo	25	12
<b>Total Domestic Exports (-81%)</b>	<b>16,818</b>	<b>3,126</b>
<b>Foreign Exports</b>		
Petroleum Products	19,954	15,955
<b>Total Foreign Exports (-20%)</b>	<b>19,954</b>	<b>15,955</b>
<b>Total Tonnage (6%)</b>	<b>322,243</b>	<b>342,850</b>

## Great Lakes High Water Levels

The wetter than usual spring, experienced by much of the Midwest, is causing the Great Lakes to once again rise. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says water levels on the five Great Lakes were expected to increase to more than 1 ½ feet above average in June, and reach their highest levels in two decades. This increase is just the latest in a dramatic series of water level increases over the past three years, rebounding from record lows in early 2013. The impacts of low water levels, as well as high water levels, are wide ranging; affecting ports, communities and shorelines.



### ***The impact of low water levels***

Just four short years ago, there was considerable concern about record low water levels; and with good reason. Low water levels cause shippers to carry lighter loads as goods and commodities are transported to market; which isn't as economical. There's often more dredging done to keep shipping channels open. And during times of low water levels, it's not unusual to see the formation of shoals; shallow collections of sand that can be navigation or grounding hazards.

Beyond commercial shipping, the low water levels also impact recreational boaters, homeowners living on the water, and shoreline ecology. All of this might make you think higher levels would be a welcome sight. To some extent, you're right.

### ***Why are water levels rising?***

It's important to understand that water levels on the Great Lakes are cyclical in nature. While the water levels vary from lake to lake, they tend to follow the same seasonal pattern. As the year begins, water levels are generally at their lowest levels. Once spring arrives, they start to rise, thanks to melting ice, snow runoff and precipitation from spring rain storms, until they reach their peak during the summer months. Then, in fall, the levels tend to decline. Great Lakes water levels are continuously monitored by U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, and have been since the 1860s. They have found that the annual water cycle mirrors a larger pattern that takes place over decades.

### ***What do higher Great Lakes water levels mean?***

For shipping and ports on the Great Lakes, the high-water levels are generally beneficial. Deeper water enables shippers to carry heavier loads. It's more economical for the shippers and it means more product moves through the port, generating a larger economic impact on communities. Additionally, higher water levels mean there's less of a need for dredging to keep shipping channels open and clear. Less dredging means lower costs and it's less disruptive for shippers as well as those who use the water recreationally.

While higher water levels are good for shippers and Ports, higher than average water levels, if sustained over a long period of time, can lead to erosion problems for properties along the shoreline and could potentially cause flooding.

What's important to remember is that the current high water levels will not last forever. The pattern of the Great Lakes will continue and the factors that impact lake levels will change. Eventually, the water levels on the Great Lakes will again decline.

# Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association Annual Meeting

The 2017 Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association (WCPA) annual meeting will be held August 10th—11th in Sturgeon Bay. On the first day of the conference the WCPA Board annual board meeting is held as is a discussion on state and federal issues. On the second day of the conference speakers from Wisconsin's port industry will present their work, issues that they and the ports are facing and their successes. This year's speaker line-up includes a presentation on the Soo Locks Project by the Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Ship Building by Bay Shipbuilding Company and an update on Great Lakes Water Levels by the UW-Sea Grant Institute.

The WCPA annual meeting provides a great opportunity for port industry professionals across the state to gather and exchange thoughts and ideas.

The WCPA annual meeting is by invitation only and advanced registration is required. For more information please contact the Port of Green Bay at [bc\\_port@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:bc_port@co.brown.wi.us).



Port of Sturgeon Bay

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