



## Port of Green Bay encourages safe boating during celebrations

### For Immediate Release

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(Green Bay, WI) – Many recreational boaters take to the bay of Green Bay and the Fox River for 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. It's important to note that, with increased boat traffic and regular commercial ships passing through the area, boaters should use extra caution and follow boating safety rules.

"This is a peak time for people to be out on the water," explained Dean Haen, [Port of Green Bay](#) Director. "That's why we want to remind the public of the importance of safely navigating our waterways. Stay at least 100 feet away from commercial ships. These large ships leave powerful wakes, and they cannot stop as quickly as a small recreational boat. We know it can be tempting to try and get up close to one of these big vessels, but it's really not a safe thing to do."

Additionally, Haen points out that, with the high water levels we're experiencing right now, the water can cover all sorts of things that used to be visible and easy to avoid. Stay aware and follow all buoys, markers and signs.

Haen shared these additional safe boating tips:

- Carry an approved Personal Flotation Device (life jacket) for each person onboard a recreational boat. Make sure everyone onboard is either wearing the PFD or has easy access to one.
- Always travel at a safe speed and slow down when you see "No Wake" areas on the river or signs for the Fox River Cleanup Project equipment.
- Do not mix boating with alcohol or drugs.
- Designate a lookout to identify obstacles that don't necessarily appear on GPS and need to be located visually. These include, but aren't limited to, man-made spoil areas like Renard Island, cleanup barges, navigational buoys, swimmers and other watercraft.

"We want people to enjoy being out on the water, and the best way to do that safely is by being aware of everything going on around you and being respectful of those around you," added Haen.

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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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