

PORT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT



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Shipping channels to remain open through January 2017; possibly longer

******Snowmobilers & Ice Fishermen should take note******

For Immediate Release

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(Green Bay, WI) The U.S. Coast Guard has announced it will conduct ice breaking operations in the bay of Green Bay in January in order to keep the shipping channel open for safe navigation and transport of economically-significant commercial shipments. In particular, this will allow for petroleum products to continue arriving at the Port, while the only fuel pipeline between Milwaukee and Green Bay is shut down. The pipeline was closed indefinitely this past spring due to repair and reconstruction issues.

“The Port’s ability to handle petroleum products throughout the winter months is a key piece in the current supply chain as well as an important factor in keeping the Northeast Wisconsin’s economy strong,” explained Dean Haen, Director of Brown County Port & Resource Recovery. Prior to the closure of the pipeline, the Port of Green Bay was exporting petroleum products to the east coast of the United States and to Canada.

The Coast Guard will establish and maintain tracks through the ice from Rock Island Passage to the Fox River. The tracks through the ice will extend to Escanaba, Marinette-Menominee, Sturgeon Bay and Green Bay.

As many as three tanker transits destined for the Port of Green Bay are planned for the month of December and two to three transits for the month of January. Depending on local need, there could also be a transit or two in February.

Prior to each ice breaking, a 72-hour advance notice to the public will occur via broadcast notice to mariners on VHF-FM marine radio channel 16, 21 or 23, as well as public outreach through media notification and social media outlets @USCGGreatLakes on Twitter and on Brown County Sheriff’s Office’s Facebook page.

Members of the public who fish, operate a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or otherwise recreate on the bay of Green Bay during periods of ice cover should be aware of this activity and watch for future announcements. “We want people to continue to enjoy their recreational activities, but we also want them to be safe,” added Haen.

(more)

The Coast Guard recommends all recreational ice users plan their activities carefully, dress appropriately, use caution on the ice, and stay away from shipping channels. Recreational users should stay tuned to local media resources for the status of regional waterway closures.

“Coast Guard waterway managers balance the needs of commercial operators moving the cargoes that fuel industry with those of recreational users enjoying the pristine natural beauty of our Great Lakes,” said Capt. Amy Cocanour, commander of Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan. “Those who choose to recreate on or near ice-covered waterways may potentially put themselves at increased risk when recreating near still-operational shipping lanes.”

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The Port of Green Bay imported/exported 1.9 million tons of cargo in 2015 and has 14 active terminal operators involved in shipping commodities:

- ACE Marine, LLC
- C. Reiss Coal Company
- Construction Resources Management
- Flint Hills Resources
- Fox River Dock Company
- 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 on the Port, visit www.portofgreenbay.com or Twitter @PortofGreenBay.

NOTE: Portions of this news release came from the U.S. Coast Guard’s release about ice breaking operations. <http://coastguardnews.com/coast-guard-prepares-for-bay-of-green-bay-ice-breaking-operations/2016/11/18/>

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