Ship Watching 101 at the Port of Green Bay

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(Green Bay, WI) While ships move in and out of the Port of Green Bay on a regular basis, many visitors to the area, and even Green Bay residents, don’t take time to catch the sight of a big ship. However, with a bit of planning, anyone can spot a ship once or twice, or even become a regular “ship spotter.”

“Sitting on the City Deck in downtown Green Bay for an extended period of time is one way to be sure you see one of these Great Lakes ships,” said Port Director Dean Haen. “However, that can be hit and miss. If you’re really interested in catching a look at one of these majestic ships, you should pay attention to monitoring sites, like the Port of Green Bay’s Twitter and Facebook pages. We post notices of ship traffic and, sometimes, regular ship watchers will post photos of the ships as they make their way to the Port of Green Bay. Plus, it’s interesting to do a little background research beforehand and know some fun facts about the ship you’re seeing.”

So, where do you go for information? The following are basic resources you can use to plan your next ship spotting outing:

Know WHEN the ships arrive:

- **Port of Green Bay online:** The Port of Green Bay posts advance notices of when ships will arrive and depart. You can find the notices on their online channels:
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PortofGreenBay](http://www.facebook.com/PortofGreenBay)
  - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PortofGreenBay](http://www.twitter.com/PortofGreenBay)
  - Website: [www.portofgreenbay.com/shipactivity](http://www.portofgreenbay.com/shipactivity)
- **Smartphone apps:** Marine Traffic and Findship can be used to track a ship’s location.
- **Scanner:** If you’re looking for all Great Lakes shipping updates, you can use a VHF scanner. The majority of radio traffic carried out on the Great Lakes is in the high VHF band with frequencies ranging from 156-157 MHz. Get the full list of maritime frequencies here: [www.boatnerd.com/facts-figures/boatfreq.htm](http://www.boatnerd.com/facts-figures/boatfreq.htm)

Know WHERE to go to see the ships:

- Having the right time for a ship’s arrival won’t mean much if you don’t also have the right place for viewing. These locations have the best views of incoming ships:
  - City Deck
  - Metro Boat Launch
Know WHAT ships to look for:

- Marine Publishing Co.'s annual field guide *Know Your Ships: Guide to Boats & Boatwatching on the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Seaway*, otherwise known as the “Boatwatchers' Bible,” is a comprehensive field guide to boats and boatwatching on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. It includes stats and full color pictures of Great Lakes ships to help you identify the boats you see.

- Certain ships frequent the Port of Green Bay more than others. Regular visitors include the Arthur M. Anderson, Kaye E. Barker, American Mariner, Phillip R. Clarke and Alpena.

“We can’t always predict the exact time a ship will arrive or depart at their terminal,” explained Haen. “Schedules can shift because of weather. It’s good to keep this in mind as you make your ship spotting plans. Still, with a little bit of effort, and planning ahead, you have a much better chance of spotting a ship at the Port of Green Bay.”

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

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

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

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