

**For Immediate Release**

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## **First vessel of Port Milwaukee's 2025 international season arrives**

*Patagonman sails the Atlantic Ocean to Milwaukee*

MILWAUKEE – Port Milwaukee was excited to welcome the Singapore-flagged *Patagonman* as the first vessel of the 2025 international season on Sunday, March 30.

The *Patagonman* arrived in Milwaukee after unloading cargo in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, following its transit through the St. Lawrence Seaway from an oceanic port. The St. Lawrence Seaway locks opened on March 22, connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. The St. Lawrence Seaway is a binational system, with two American and 13 Canadian locks. The locks operate seasonally, with a standard maintenance period from early January through late March.

Port Milwaukee's international season corresponds with the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. For roughly nine months out of the year, Milwaukee welcomes vessels hailing from around the world. In 2024, cargo moved through the Port was sourced from or destined for Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Direct access to world markets via Port Milwaukee supports growers, producers, and manufacturers throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest.

“Port Milwaukee is a valuable link for businesses and farmers throughout the region who trade internationally,” **Mayor Cavalier Johnson** said. “World markets strengthen our economy, and it is great to welcome the first international arrival of the 2025 shipping season.”

On Tuesday, April 1, Port Milwaukee staff went aboard the *Patagonman* to present Captain Eduard Kovalevskiy with a plaque in honor and celebration of being the first vessel of the 2025 international season.

“The *Patagonman's* arrival signals the start of Port Milwaukee's international season, and we are hopeful we'll go above and beyond 2024 tonnage levels,” **Port Director Jackie Q. Carter** said. “We wish Captain Kovalevskiy and his crew a safe voyage and are thankful for their role in transporting Wisconsin products around the world. We look forward to welcoming more vessels this season.”

After loading in Milwaukee, the *Patagonman* set sail for the United Kingdom. Port Milwaukee had 42 international vessel visits last year, carrying over 324,000 metric tons of cargo - an increase of roughly 70 percent compared to the previous year.



The public can stay up-to-date on vessel arrivals and departures throughout the 2025 season by using Port Milwaukee's virtual vessel tracker, available [online here](#).

*Port Milwaukee is an economic entity of City government governed by the seven-member Board of Harbor Commissioners, a panel appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council. It administers operations on the 467 acres that make up the Port. It promotes regional shipping and commerce by providing access to domestic and international ships, rail, and over-the-road transportation.*