

Port of Oswego busy with grain, aluminum and windmill parts

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By **Debra J. Groom / The Post-Standard**

Oswego, NY -- The Port of Oswego is busy this summer handling grain, aluminum and windmill parts coming in for shipment to other sites.

The port was named in the latest release called "Marine Delivers," which includes statistics on shipments on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The release notes grain shipments are up more than 20 percent as the river sees an increase in international demand for American and Canadian wheat.

One segment of shipping that is booming on the seaway is wind turbine parts, the statistics show.

"One port experiencing this influx is the Port of Oswego," said Rebecca McGill, director of trade development for the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corp.

Jonathan Daniels, executive director of the Port of Oswego, said windmill parts came in by ship and were offloaded to trucks for shipment to Howard, just south of Canandaigua Lake.

The ship then was to continue to Cleveland, Ohio with more parts destined for a wind turbine project in Euclid, Ohio.

"But we were able to negotiate a rate to discharge that cargo here," Daniels said. "It added two days of work for our longshoremen. It was another day of the vessel being here. It was good for everybody. It shows the port's ability to expand its reach."

"Shippers carrying wind component cargoes continue to send vessels into Great Lakes ports," McGill said. "These oversized pieces move economically by water to ports where rail or, more commonly, trucks move them to site destinations."

Daniels said the port is receiving a shipment of aluminum about every 18 days, with a majority of the material going to a Novelis plant in Oswego County. The port also has begun bringing in wheat.

"We had dabbled in it before, but now have a strong showing," Daniels said. This past fall, the port received local wheat via truck and shipped it by rail to Virginia, where it was moved to Egypt.

McGill said grain shipments on the St. Lawrence River from March 22 to June 30 totaled 2.6 million metric tons, compared to 2.1 million metric tons during the same period last year.

Year-to-date total cargo shipments remain steady with a 3.5 percent rise to 12.8 million metric tons over last year, largely bolstered by demand for grain, salt and construction materials.

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