

Keep Your Eyes Peeled For This Giant 'Potato' Floating Around NYC

by Ben Yakas in Food on Aug 24, 2016 2:45 pm



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Yes, that is a barge carrying a GIANT POTATO up the East River under the Brooklyn Bridge! @EarthCam #NewYorkCity

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“Potato barge” may sound like the name of an obscure B-52s song, but it’s also something that is actually (sort of) floating around NYC today. Multiple people have spotted what appears to be a six-ton spud that has been hoisted upon a tractor trailer on a barge and is being pulled by a tugboat in the waterways around New York.

According to NBC, the “potato” has been making cross-country trips since 2012, when the Idaho Potato Commission saw the potatotality of ways to celebrate the agency’s 75th anniversary. (Although our hearts want to believe this really is a giant potato that would make 30,325 servings of mashed potatoes, our eyes are not fooled—this potato is made of steel, plywood, foams and concrete. You can learn about the process of how they made it here)

They’ve sent the faux potato, which is the equivalent of 32,346 medium-sized Idaho potatoes (and 1,102 times heavier than the largest potato ever grown), across the country every year since 2012—we imagine it took a lot of hashing it out to be able to get it to NYC, but thankfully, a latke hard work was put in to get it here. No second tots about it.

Big Idaho Potato has been live streaming via Periscope all day aboard the barge: