

# Comprehensive Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning

## A U.S. Seaport Perspective

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*for the*

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- Thank you for inviting me here today to discuss the seaport industry's perspective on comprehensive coastal and marine spatial planning.
- America's seaports have always been and will continue to be integral to the economy, environment and security of the nation. As such, we're very pleased to be offered the opportunity to discuss the seaport industry's role in marine spatial planning and how goods movement can be factored into the planning process.

## AAPA/Seaports Overview

*Committed to keeping seaports  
navigable/secure/sustainable*



- *Includes 86 public port authorities in U.S.*
- *As public agencies, ports' missions are to facilitate commerce while being stewards of the coastal environment*
- *Ports play a critical role in terms of the nation's economy, environment & security*



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## **AAPA Supports Marine Spatial Planning That Recognizes, Includes Human Use Aspects Of The Coastal Environment**

### ***Pressures confronting those responsible for managing coastal resources include:***

- ***facilitation of commerce***
- ***preservation of habitat***
- ***access to energy sources***
- ***coastal community growth, including increased public access***

### ***Marine spatial planning:***

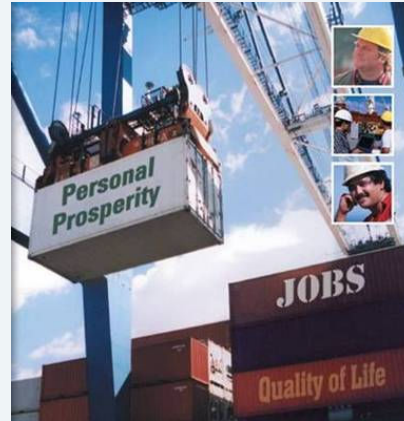
- ***Offers opportunities to plan for the future***
- ***Ensures needs of all are met***
- ***Protects human uses of the waterfront***

- AAPA supports marine spatial planning efforts that recognize and include human use aspects of the coastal environment.
- Changing trade patterns will have a major impact on the U.S., such as the Panama Canal expansion slated for 2014. Emerging markets are continuing to grow, along with federal and private investments in infrastructure.
- These shifting trade routes will have environmental impacts on coastal communities that must be mitigated, but will present tremendous opportunities for increased efficiency of goods movement. Climate change impacts will also play a role in shifting trade routes, as ports and shipping lines adapt to rising sea levels and the potential for increased weather events.
- These changes are placing greater pressure on coastal lands and the ocean itself to accommodate a variety of uses.
  - Facilitation of commerce, preservation of habitat, access to energy sources and growth of coastal communities - including increased public access - are some of the many pressures that confront those responsible for managing coastal resources.
  - Marine spatial planning offers an opportunity to plan for the future, ensuring the needs of all are met and that human uses of the waterfront are protected.
- Projections about the impacts of climate change on coastal lands will be critical as the nation's goods movement system seeks to adapt to these challenges.

## Seaports Deliver Prosperity

*For centuries, seaports have served as an economic lifeline*

- *Handle 99% of overseas trade . . . including food, clothing & American-made export goods*
- *Integral to international trade which accounts for over ¼ of U.S. Gross Domestic Product*
- *Seaport activities generate 13.3 million U.S. jobs*
- *Sustain & create new 'green' jobs*
- *Key players in economic recovery & investment*



- Throughout civilization, seaports have served as a vital economic lifeline for the movement of goods and services to people around the world.
- Modern, navigable and secure seaports are vital to international trade, economic prosperity, for protecting our national borders and as stewards of the coastal environment. Seaport activities and infrastructure development must also be sustainable; port authorities and their partners are investing millions of dollars annually to significantly reduce the environmental impact on their communities and natural resources.
- In the U.S., seaport activities generate nearly \$3.2 trillion a year in economic benefit, employ 13.3 million people in trade-related jobs, and handle more than 2 billion tons of import, export, domestic and military freight, including food, clothing, medicine, fuel, building materials, electronics and toys. U.S. ports also enable some 10 million Americans a year to take cruise vacations.
- Because they are our gateways with the rest of the world, ports are critical to the nation's economic recovery and long-term prosperity.

## Seaports are a Vital Freight Moving Asset

*Modern, safe, navigable shipping channels crucial to international trade & national economic prosperity*



- *Larger vessels need deeper, wider channels*
- *Material dredged from channels used for beneficial purposes*
- *Efficient waterway access good for the environment*

• On the waterside, with ships getting increasingly larger, waterside infrastructure, such as dredging the deep-draft navigation channels, is more crucial than ever, both to maintain the existing channel depths and widths, and to expand them to accommodate these larger ships. What's more, the material dredged from these channels is being put to use in beneficial ways, such as for road construction, to create or enhance shallow water habitat, and to cap inactive refuse sites.

• Yet, the U.S. government doesn't fully utilize the federal Harbor Maintenance Tax for its intended purpose—to pay for navigation dredging. Since its inception in 1986, this tax has too often been used for other programs while serious dredging needs have been neglected.

• To provide incentives for removing cargo from America's most congested roadways and putting it on the water, AAPA advocates eliminating the domestic portion of the Harbor Maintenance Tax. Doing so will make shipping domestic freight by water more affordable, promoting the more environmentally friendly short-sea shipping option while helping alleviate highway traffic congestion on some of America's busiest highways.

• AAPA believes that improving waterside transportation infrastructure must be a high priority of the new Administration and Congress. These investments aren't only critical from an environmental and safety standpoint, but they will create jobs and help construction and engineering businesses, small and large, immediately.

## Seaports Deliver Environmental Stewardship

*Port authorities are committed to protecting coastal resources while facilitating commerce*



- ***Environmental mitigation/enhancement is vital to port development projects***
- ***Ports embrace sustainability as a standard business practice, balancing the pursuit of economic prosperity with natural resources protection***
- ***Ports also support reducing greenhouse gas emissions from goods movement activities***

•As stewards of the coastal environment, seaports are addressing air and water quality issues related to their operations and are working to keep invasive species from ballast water out of their waterways. This is all part of their commitment to protect coastal resources while facilitating commerce.

•In terms of social responsibility, ports realize that engaging their communities in the business of the port is good business. Ports are working with their communities to reduce their carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions from the goods movement supply chain.

## Healthy Oceans Start With Healthy Practices



### **Ports are:**

- **Adopting Environmental Management Systems**
- **Creating/restoring wetlands**
- **Restoring/enhancing coastal habitat**
- **Monitoring water quality**
- **Filtering storm water runoff**
- **Finding beneficial uses for dredged materials**



• In 2007, AAPA passed a resolution encouraging sustainability as a standard business practice. As seaports adopt a sustainability platform – the balancing of economic, environmental and social concerns – they will continue to take voluntary actions yielding environmental benefits to the communities they serve and the coastal environments they help protect.

• Many ports have implemented Environmental Management Systems, which use a process-based approach to manage for and reduce environmental risks. Last fall, AAPA launched its third round of the Port EMS Assistance Project, which has aided more than a dozen port authorities in the creation and implementation of EMSs since the assistance project's inception in 2005.

• Public ports also regularly develop wetland sites; create, restore and enhance native habitat; and monitor water quality. Since most port facilities include large expanses of paved surface, managing and filtering stormwater runoff is also a high priority.

• When shorelines or water quality becomes compromised, either due to past practices, normal operations, accidental spills or nuisance species introductions from ballast water, ports often restore coastal habitat as part of their broader stewardship efforts.

• And due to the natural process of sedimentation, it's necessary to periodically dredge navigation channels and shipping berths to provide vessel access. Many waterways must also periodically be deepened and widened to accommodate the newer, larger ships being built. Although the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for dredging the federal navigation channels, ports and their tenants dredge more than 100 million cubic yards annually from their vessel berths and private terminals. Of course, all this dredged sediment—some of which is contaminated—must go somewhere.

• The best and most desirable alternative is to find beneficial uses for it. For example, Louisiana's Port Fourchon is using it to rebuild a natural forest ridge that was reduced by coastal erosion. Such ridges serve as buffers between the sea and coastal marsh habitats for fish, shellfish and other wildlife. Other uses range from construction fill material for projects like piers, wharves, buildings, bridges and airport runways, to restoring eroded beaches, constructing golf courses and capping landfills and certain in-water contaminants.

## **AAPA Supports National & International Vessel Environmental Solutions**

### **Air Quality**

**Advocated for:**

- **Adoption of MARPOL Annex VI treaty setting vessel emission limits**
- **Strengthening treaty through more stringent emission standards**
- **Creation of an Emissions Control Area (ECA) for US/Canada**

### **Invasive Species**

**Advocated for:**

- **IMO ballast water treaty**
- **Federal standards for ballast water treatment systems**

From an environmental policy perspective, handling large, oceangoing vessels poses a unique challenges for seaports.

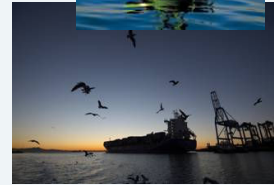
- The very nature of oceangoing vessels is that they are international . . . most of them are foreign flagged and have global itineraries.
- AAPA has supported efforts to regulate oceangoing vessels at the International Maritime Organization through MARPOL Annex VI, the treaty that sets emission limits for engines.
- This treaty entered into force several years ago, and AAPA helped lead the charge for the U.S. to ratify and implement it, and join the rest of the world in abiding by MARPOL.
- Perhaps more importantly, the U.S. delegation recently sought a number of changes to MARPOL Annex VI to make it more stringent, and AAPA supported these changes.
- The changes will apply to all countries currently party to Annex VI and will produce meaningful emissions reductions from oceangoing vessels.
- If the world is using MARPOL Annex VI as its basis for controlling ship emissions, then everyone is on an equal playing field – U.S. ports and the consumers they serve are not at a disadvantage.

## Promoting Sustainable Oceans & Waterways

### *AAPA supports green ports and blue oceans*



- **Funding for diesel emissions reduction & electrification programs**
- **Funding to support NOAA's mapping & charting services, tidal & ocean currents data & Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Systems (PORTS)**
- **Reauthorization of Coastal Zone Management Act, including protections for waterfront areas for current/future port operations**
- **Increasing port efforts to engage in climate change planning**



In addition to policies limiting air emissions from ships and other freight-handling sources, AAPA supports water quality initiatives that protect and enhance fisheries and natural habitats.

- Recognizing the problems caused by aquatic invasive species, we support the International Maritime Organization's ballast water treatment treaty, as well as legislative efforts to set a federal standard for ballast water treatment systems.
- Realizing that aids to navigation are critical to the safe movement of vessels into and out of harbors, AAPA advocates funding to support NOAA's mapping, charting and survey services, and its collection and reporting of tidal and ocean currents data, including the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Systems, better known as PORTS.
- AAPA supports reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act, including recognition of the importance of working waterfronts. We believe it's critical that Congress protect waterfront areas for vital port operations.
- We also believe that more research is needed to help fill information gaps pertaining to climate change and how climate change will affect seaports. AAPA is partnering with Stanford University and the International Association of Ports and Harbors to survey port authorities regarding their efforts to plan for sea level rise and other effects of climate change.

## Ports Are Our Lifeline With Rest of the World

- *Seaports provide jobs, goods, security, environmental stewardship & more*
- *Ocean shipping and seaport operations vital to America's overall prosperity and ocean stewardship*



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- As a vital economic lifeline and a critical link to access to the global marketplace, it's important to take into account the value our seaports and connecting infrastructure have on our nation's economic condition.
- Ports are a critical component of the Marine Transportation System, and AAPA encourages the Administration and Congress to address the movement of freight in marine spatial planning and in the next surface transportation reauthorization bill.
- We look forward to working with the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force to develop a unifying framework for our oceans that balances the needs of commerce and trade with ecosystem preservation and protection.
- I invite you to check out our website at [www.aapa-ports.org](http://www.aapa-ports.org) so you can learn more about what AAPA and our member seaports are doing to enhance the coastal environment, push our economy forward and deliver long-term prosperity to all.
- Thank you.