

# Environmental Considerations in Terminal Operations

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# Dead Whale Hitchhikes Up Bay After Hit By Ship



35-foot, 8 ½ ton , Sei Whale

**“An Endangered Species”**

# Laws and Regulations

- The Maine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) – administer by NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service – Part of NOAA)
- Many Other Laws, that Port/Terminal Operators Need to be Aware of:
  - The Clean Water Act
    - Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
  - The National Environmental policy Act (NEPA)
  - The Endangered Species Act (ESA),



# New Terms Are Everywhere

“Green Port”

“No Net Increase”

“Sustainability”

“Environmental Management Systems”  
(EMS)

# What Is A Green Port?

- A Port (or Terminal) that is Committed to Good, Sound Environmental Policies
- Port of Long Beach Green Port Policy:
  1. Protect the local community and environment from harmful port impacts;
  2. Employ the best available technology to minimize port impacts and explore advance technology solutions;
  3. Promote sustainability in terminal design, development and operations;
  4. Distinguish the Port as a leader in environmental stewardship and regulatory compliance; and,
  5. Engage and educate the community about Port development and environmental programs.

# Air Quality is The Big Issue of the Day

- " No Net Increase" – means being able to reduce total emissions, even as your business grows
- Emissions from vessels, cargo handling equipment and motor vehicles account for 80% of all air pollution at Ports



# Air Pollution Sources

- For Ports, Focus is on Mobile Emission Sources
  - Oceangoing vessels (OGVs);
  - Harbor Craft
  - Cargo Handling Equipment (CHE)
- Other land-side Mobile emission sources at ports Include:
  - Locomotives
  - On-highway vehicles

# Ways to Reduce Air Polluting Emissions

- Alternative Maritime Power, or "AMP,"
- Use of low-emission or non-polluting fuels in Vehicles and Cargo handling Equipment
  - Low Sulfur Fuels
  - Electricity
  - Natural gas,
- Institute Vessel Speed Reduction Programs
- Use Electric-Powered Cranes and Terminal Equipment
- Retrofit Older Vehicles and Vessels
- Provide for Off-Peak Truck Operations



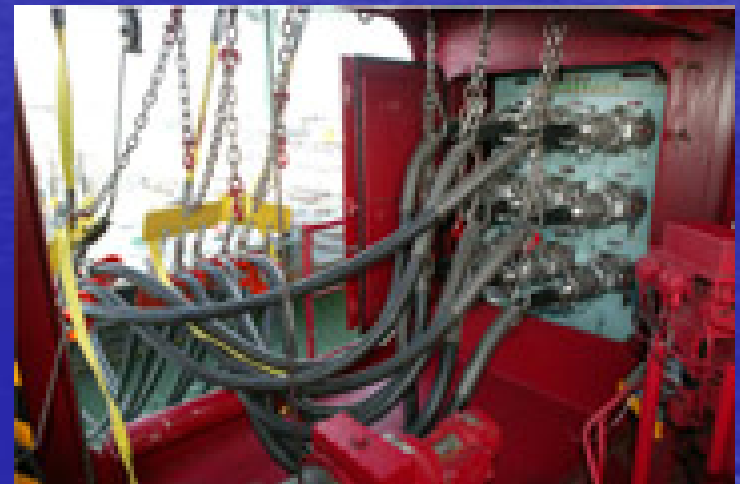
# Cold-Ironing or Alternative Maritime Power



# Cold-Ironing or Alternative Maritime Power (AMP)

- Cold-ironing refers to shutting down auxiliary engines on ships while in port and connecting to electrical power supplied at the dock,

If all ships calling ports were cold-ironed, hotelling emissions would be reduced by 95 percent



# Examples of APM Success

- Since implementing a AMP program the POLA:
  - received more than 50 vessel calls,
  - eliminated more than 80 tons of pollutants from the air,
  - average reduction of 95% in NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and PM per vessel call.
- The Port of Seattle has provided AMP facilities that allows cruise vessels to plug into shore power- reducing cruise ship air emissions by about 30 percent



# Use of Alternative Fuels

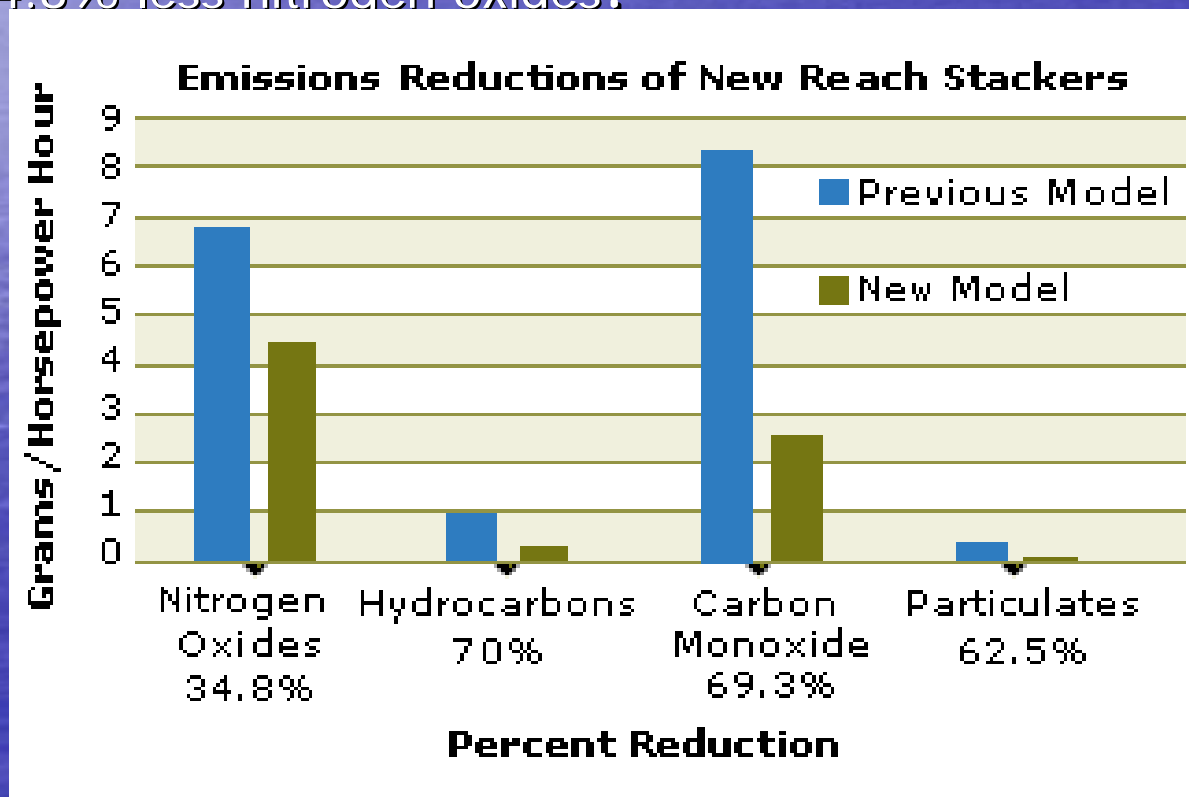
- Emissions from diesel engines using the alternative diesel fuel and outfitted with diesel oxidation catalysts produce 50 percent less particulate matter and 20 percent less nitrogen oxides.

# Husky Terminal, Port of Tacoma

- Switched 31 yard tractors and all cargo handling equipment to the cleaner-burning, vegetable based biodiesel,
- Reduced sulfur oxides by as much as 99 percent, compared to standard diesel fuel.

# Reach Stacker Replacement Port of Portland

Purchased new reach stackers, which produce 62.5% fewer diesel particulates, 69.3% less carbon monoxide, 70% fewer hydrocarbons and 34.8% less nitrogen oxides.





# Port of Tacoma Air Quality Improvement Measures

- Purchased and installed EPA-verified diesel oxidation catalysts on 30 straddle carriers.
- The Port is replacing Port-owned vehicles with hybrid vehicles.
- Four of the Port of Tacoma's six container terminals use ULSD (Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel)
- Of the Port's 54 forklifts, 22 are powered by propane, a clean fuel.
- Low sulfur diesel is used in the locomotives for switching operations

# Truck Traffic Improvements

- At the Ports of LA and LB, an Off-Peak program, that provides an incentive to use off-peak terminal gates has been implemented
- If a container is moved during one of the off-peak terminal gates or via rail, there is a “fee refund”
- Projected to increase off-peak gate usage to more than 40 percent,
- Has successfully reduced truck-waiting time inside port terminals and truck traffic during peak daytime commuting periods.

# Environmental Management System (EMS)

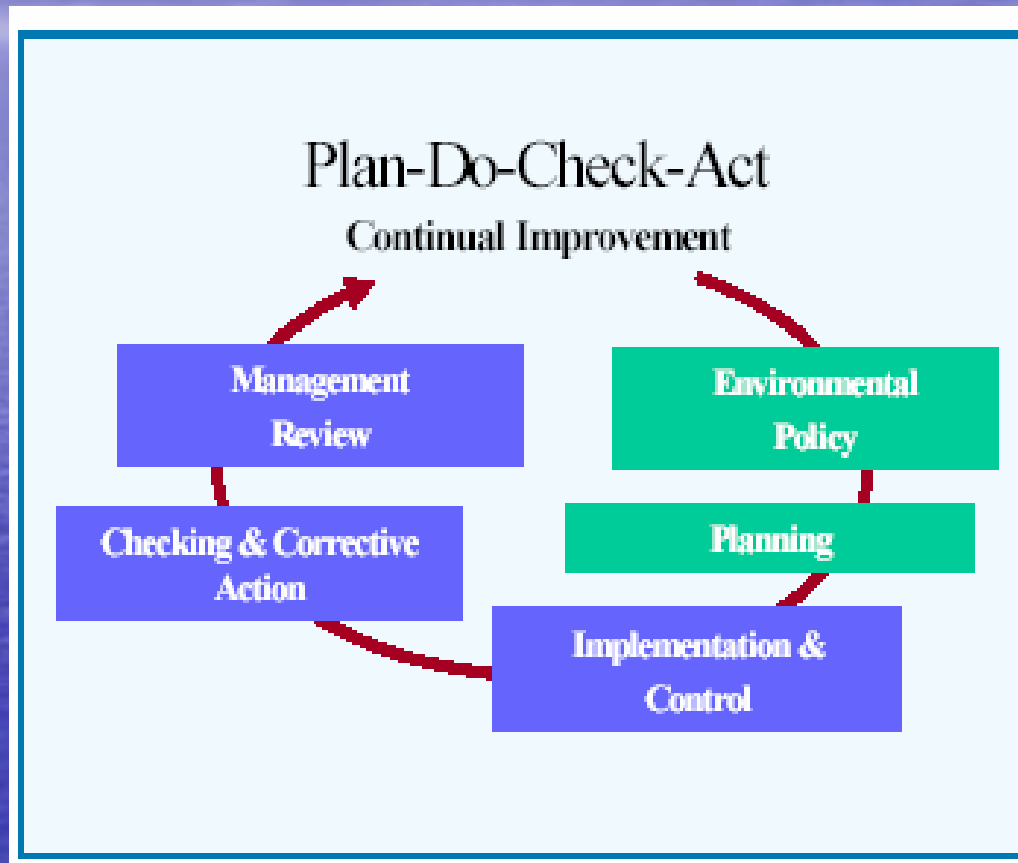
- An EMS is the establishment of management processes and procedures that allow an organization to improve their environmental awareness and procedures.
- Benefits include:
  - improved overall environmental performance,
  - expanded pollution prevention opportunities
  - improved compliance, and
  - enhanced operational control and efficiency.



# Key to Success

- Top management support
- Integration in Existing Port Management System
- Dedicated Resources
- Employee buy-in
- Access to most effective practices
- Strong core and implementation teams
- Training

# Pan-Do-Check-Act



# The Port of Houston Authority (PHA) EMS

- The Port of Houston Authority (PHA) implemented an the EMS effort focused on environmental issues in the following areas:
  - stormwater impacts,
  - air emission reductions, and
  - waste minimization.
- In two years, the PHA's EMS has
  - minimized stormwater impacts,
  - reduced absorbent disposal by 75% and nitrogen oxide emissions by 3 tons, and
  - completely eliminated the disposal of oily rags.



# Community Relationships (Environmental Stewardship)

- Ports are recognizing that they are part of a larger urban community;
- They need to be attentive to public processes and issues beyond their boundaries.
- Ports must be recognized as good neighbors



Marine Terminal Management Training Program

April 27, 2006

# Community Relationships (Environmental Stewardship)

Ports have responded to these issues by:

- Better management of their facilities and operations;
- Are starting to educate the general public on the importance and role of ports;
- Establishing Better Committee Outreach and Public Involvement Procedures

# Community Relationships (Environmental Stewardship)

These efforts are not only yielding environmental improvements, they help to create a political climate that helps to support port development and operations within the community.



# Port of Los Angeles Community Advisory Committee

- The Port of Los Angeles Community Advisory Committee was established as a standing committee of the Port of Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners in 2001.
- The purposes of the Committee are:
  - (1) To assess the impacts of Port developments on the harbor area communities and to recommend suitable mitigation measures
  - (2) To review past, present and future environmental documents in an open public process
  - (3) To provide a public forum and to make recommendations to the Board to assist the Port so that the quality of life is maintained and enhanced by the presence of the Port.

# Port of Baltimore

## Dredged Materials Management Program

- A Public-Government Management Team to Develop the Port's Dredging Program
- The Citizens Committee - include:
  - representatives from all counties,
  - conservation associations,
  - civic associations,
  - community associations and organizations,
  - Chambers of Commerce, and
  - watermens associations

# Other Environmental Areas of Concern

- Brownfield Clean-Up and Development
- Dredge Material Disposal/ Contaminated Sediments
- Endangered and Threatened Species
- Habitat Restoration
- Land Based Water Pollution
- Ballast Water Management



# Brownfield Clean-Up and Development

- Brownfields are commonly defined as:
  - Abandoned, Idled or under-used industrial property;
  - Usually port expansion and/or development opportunities exist
  - Always complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination
- Brownfield site contaminants can included:
  - Hazardous or Toxic material (under the Clean water Act)
  - Contamination of property is usually caused by past industrial or commercial activities

# Cleaning and Reuse of Brownfields

- Can eliminate environmental and public health threats
- Can make good use of existing transportation facilities and other in-place utility systems;
- Brownfield reuse diminishes the pressure to develop “Greenfield” sites
- Ports have been the recipient of a number of brownfield suitable for Port/terminal development

# Piers A and S

## Port of Long Beach

- 725 acres used as oil and gas production, owned by Union Pacific Resources Company (UPRC)
- Site was declared a Superfund Site
- The port implemented a phased remediation program
  - Eliminate any human health risks; and
  - Minimize impacts to any groundwater
- Site has been developed into active marine terminals
  - Pier A (160 acres) was completed in 1997,
  - Pier S (175 acres) was completed in 2003



# Southwest Harbor Redevelopment Port of Seattle

- Project required the rehabilitation, through cleanup and redevelopment, of five large contaminated sites (180-acres) including former shipbuilding and ship repair yard, municipal landfill, and others;
- Now – Terminal 5, a Major Container Terminal



# Dredge Material Disposal and Contaminated Sediments

- Several hundred million cy of material is dredged from ports each year;
- Port dredging is essential to create and maintain required channel and berth depths;
- Disposal of the dredged material can be difficult and controversial, particular if the sediments contain toxic pollutants;



# Dredged Material Disposal Options

- Open-water disposal;
- Confined disposal; and
- Beneficial use.





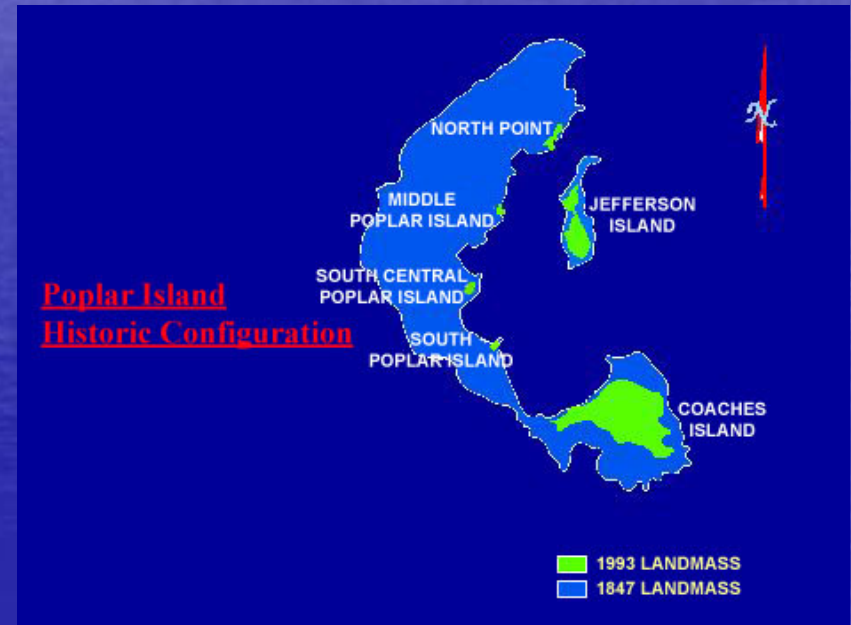
# Beneficial Use Options

- Habitat restoration/recreation;
- Beach nourishment;
- Aquaculture;
- Parks and recreation;
- Strip mine reclamation and landfill cover;
- Shoreline stabilization and erosion control;
- Construction and industry uses

# Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

- Environmental Enhancements –such as wildlife habitats, fisheries improvements and wetlands restoration.
- Engineered Uses – such as land creation, beach nourishment, capping, land development and berm creation.
- Agricultural/ Product Uses – such as construction material, aquaculture & topsoil.

# Poplar Island Restoration Project Port of Baltimore





# Endangered and Threatened Species

- There are more than 1,000 species in the US listed as threatened or endangered and there is a backlog of species waiting to be listed
- Many animals find particular aspects of a port environment appealing;
- Others are frequent visitors to the highly industrial and heavily trafficked land and waters surrounding a port
- Applicable Federal Regulations include:
  - The Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

# Port Everglades Manatee Protection

For decades, manatees have made their winter homes annually in Florida Power & Light's warm discharge canal inside the Port.

The Port has actively participated in a variety of manatee protection programs to safeguard Florida's favorite marine mammal.



# Port of Los Angeles Least Tern Habitat

- The California Least Tern is a small migratory bird that nests along the southern California Coast;
- The port protects important shallow water feeding areas in the harbor,
- Created a 190-acre shallow water habitat region to serve as replacement for habitat lost during construction of various expansion projects





# Habitat Restoration

- Ports are often required to restore adversely impacted habitats or create additional habitat as compensation for an expansion project
- Sensitive coastal habitats such as : wetlands, estuaries, mangrove forests and reefs are easily damaged by port activity through either construction or by the effects of pollution ;
- Wetlands comprise the largest portion of habitat projects in the US

# Management Options

- Environmental laws require “proponents” of projects to restore degraded or create new habitat;
- If properly designed, new or restored wetlands can provide adequate replacement habitat;
- The use of dredge material has become a widely applied practice for restoring wetlands;
- The construction of artificial habitats using:
  - Habitat enhancement structures;
  - Fish aggregating devices and artificial reefs
  - They provide cover, shelter and a protected environment

# Batiqitos Lagoon



- One of the nation's largest habitat restoration projects,
- Part of the Port of LA's mitigation program for developing Piers 300/400
- Several threatened and endangered bird species are nesting in record numbers and shorebirds are feeding on the newly created mud flats.



# Oyster Reef Construction, Port of Houston

- The Deepening of the Houston Ship Channel would impact 118-acres of primary oyster reef habitat;
- Mitigation required the construction of six separate 20-acre oyster reefs in Galveston Bay
- The port developed a project to use combustion by-products to construct the reef
  - Fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, etc.
- Reefs were monitored and demonstrated to be highly successful

# Land Based Water Pollution

- Water pollution can result from:
  - Major events – such as oil spills;
  - Or chronic point and non-point sources
  - An estimated 80% of pollutants in the marine environment are generated as a result of land-based activities, and enter into marine waters from point source discharge

# Management Options

- Designing a comprehensive Water Quality Management Program
  - Evaluation of pollution sources;
  - Identification of best management practices
  - Proper maintenance of stormwater collection systems and combined sewer overflow systems to improve their water carrying capacity
  - Use of foliage buffer zones near water bodies to serve as natural water treatment for run-off;
  - Diversion of run-off to storm water retention basins;
  - Use of porous pipes to reduce overall volume of point-source discharge;
  - Redesigning the drainage system to accommodate pollutant removal



# Oil Pollution

- Oil Pollution is one of the most serious environmental problems to the marine environment;
- Most oil pollution stems from non-catastrophic events;
- 70% of all oil pollution comes from:
  - municipal and industrial wastes or run-off,
  - Dumping of waste oil; release of oily bilge water, and
  - From other than tanker transportation
- Most chronic spills occurs in ports, from:
  - Loading, off-loading of product;
  - Tank washing and
  - Waste water discharge

# Management Options

- Develop Oil Spill Prevention Plan
- Develop Best Management Practices (BMPs)
  - Design of Fueling Facilities
  - Use perimeter drains, etc;
  - Develop vessel fueling procedures
  - Have appropriate environmental/clean-up equipment
- Vessels and facilities need to develop
  - Vessel Response Plan
  - Facility Response Plan

# Ballast Water Management Program

- Vessels to required to maintain a ballast water management plan that is specific for that vessel
  - Exchange ballast water only in waters more than 200 miles from shore and more than 2,000 meters in depth;
  - Retain ballast water aboard the vessel;
  - Use environmentally sound ballast water management plan/practices that have received prior USCG approval; and
  - Only discharge ballast waters into approved reception facilities or into USCG-approved waters.



# Summary

- Environmental Issues are becoming an increasing important aspect of port operations
- Ports and Terminal Operators must be “pro-active” in identifying and solving key environmental concerns
- Ports can not work in a vacuum, but must be good neighbors and understand community and regional issues