

# National Green Infrastructure Conference: Applications of Green Infrastructure in the United States

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Alliance of the Ports of Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States

Seaports  
Deliver  
Prosperity

American Association of Port Authorities  
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# American Association of Port Authorities

## *Supporting Seaports in the Western Hemisphere*

- 150 Members from throughout Western Hemisphere
- AAPA provides a space for collaboration and exchange of best practices
- Collaboration is essential. We do this through:
  - Education and training
  - Networking and one -on-one interaction
  - Legislative and policy support



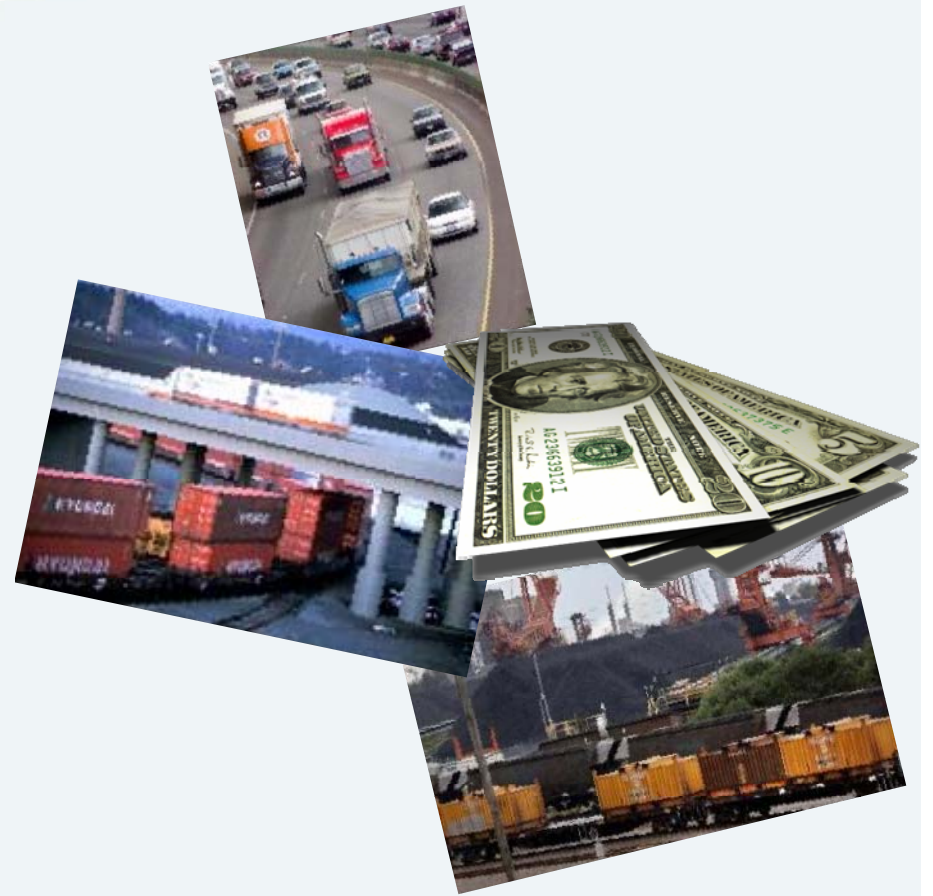
# Seaport Industry Overview

*Committed to Keeping Seaports Navigable, Secure, Sustainable*

- For centuries, seaports have been an economic lifeline
- Seaports help build and grow international trade; strengthening local and national economies
- Provide high paying jobs and increase standard of living
- Seaports connect us to the rest of the world
- Keeping seaports modern, navigable, safe and properly supported is a **CORE PRIORITY** for AAPA

# Seaports as Critical Link to Global Trade

- Seaports are a critical link to global marketplace, and AAPA and its members are committed to keeping seaports modern and efficient.
- Seaports support 13 million jobs/strong family wages
- Every \$1 billion in exports creates an estimated 15,000 jobs in the U.S.



# The Role that Seaports Play to the Economy Cannot be Overstated

- Nearly everything we buy or consume – everything from the clothes we wear, to the foods we eat, to the coffee we start our day with – comes to us on a ship, through one of our nation’s seaports.
- In turn, nearly everything the United States sells in the global marketplace makes its way there via our seaports. This includes valuable domestic commodities like machinery, steel and building materials.



## What you might see at a seaport

- Cars arriving from overseas are partially assembled there.
- Produce from South America is cold-treated there.
- Huge wind turbine components arrive at our ports, headed for distant wind farms to help produce renewable, domestic energy.
- Coal and ore from our mines and grain from our farmland are loaded onto ships there.



**For every task performed at a port; for every piece of cargo processed; for every new capability our ports can offer their customers – there is a jobs impact and an economic impact associated with it.**



# Seaports: Integral Part of our Nation's Infrastructure AND Environmental Stewards

While seaports must facilitate the movement of goods efficiently across our water borders, these demands are balanced with environmental stewardship.



# Seaports Deliver Prosperity Sustainably

*AAPA and its members are committed to delivering prosperity through environmentally sustainable seaports*

- As public agencies, one of the missions is to be stewards of the coastal environment .
- AAPA and its members promote sustainability as a standard business practice.
- Conserving resources and operating efficiently and safely is about more than being good stewards of the environment. It's good for business as well.
- AAPA has a web-based environmental “tool kit” and library of case studies of the many ways ports proactively enhance the environment.



# Seaports and the Environment

*Seaports are working to identify solutions that enhance our coastal resources and reduce environmental impact*

*Ports do this through:*

- Enhancing the coastal environment
- Managing their environmental impact
- Engaging stakeholders and community members



## Enhancing the Coastal Environment

*AAPA's members are proactively working to enhance the air, water and land of the coastal environment. Through partnerships and independent projects, seaports are working to:*

- Reduce air emissions
- Find solutions to the challenges of aquatic invasive species
- Protect and create wildlife habitats

*AAPA-member seaport projects include:*

- Voluntary air emissions reductions
- Habitat restoration
- Beneficial reuse of dredged material
- Advancing ballast water treatment technology
- Community education and outreach

# Examples of Enhancing the Coastal Environment

*Port of Houston – used dredged material from the Houston Ship Channel to create/enhance environmental habitats*

*Maryland Port Administration – pioneered beneficial uses of dredged material in the Chesapeake Bay*

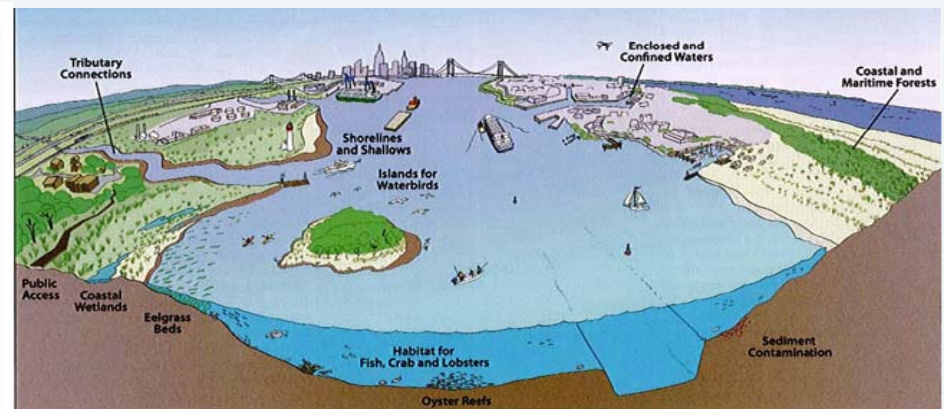


## More Examples:

*San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission is working in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps to restore the former Hamilton Army Airfield and North Antenna Air Field back to a natural tidal wetland.*



*Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan of New York and New Jersey includes using all dredged material from 50-foot deepening projects for beneficial uses, such as for island and wetland restoration.*



# 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
- Seaports in MA, RI engaged with all stakeholders in their state processes
- MA marine spatial plan was the first significant step in the US setting up a path toward ecosystem-based ocean management
- Rhode Island approved its plan recently and will serve as a federally recognized coastal management and regulatory tool

# Managing Environmental Impact

*Seaports are comprehensively managing their environmental impact on an ongoing basis by developing policies and goals that address the seaports' commitment to the environment*

*Examples include:*

- Seaports developing Environmental Management Systems (EMSs)
- Ports adopting clean truck programs
- The Massachusetts Port Authority adopting “Sustainable Design Standards and Guidelines” for use by all seaport planners, architects and engineers

# Managing Environmental Impact



The Port of  
Seattle



The Port of  
Tacoma



Port Metro  
Vancouver, BC

**The Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy**

## Example of Managing Environmental Impact



*The Virginia Port Authority's Green Operators (GO) program provides rebates to retrofit older vehicles with more emission-efficient engines and recognizes partners for setting and achieving goals for reducing air pollution and greenhouse gases associated with the transport of goods.*

# Engaging Stakeholders and Communities

*Seaports are including stakeholders in planning and problem-solving, while also informing community members and involving government agencies to help find solutions and craft a vision for the future that benefits seaports, their neighbors and port workers.*



## Engaging Stakeholders and Communities

- The Maryland Port Administration utilized a community-led process to evaluate and select the placement site for dredged material from Baltimore harbor.
- The Port of Portland (OR) has developed an Environmental Outreach and Communications Program to share information with stakeholders and provide a means of feedback to program and project decision-makers.
- The South Carolina State Ports Authority supported the formation for the Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities and are working with civic leaders to create a community mitigation plan for one of its container terminals.

## What Lies Ahead

- *Today, seaports are working in partnership with environmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and communities to invest millions of dollars in initiatives designed to reduce their impact on the environment.*
- *Around the country, seaports are poised to create thousands of “green-collar” jobs in the years ahead, as seaports and the businesses they support undertake ambitious greening initiatives.*
- *I am honored to be here today to give you a glimpse into what our seaport members are doing to impact the environmental quality of our nation’s infrastructure. We look forward to continuing this conversation in the coming months.*