Session Objectives

• Build a framework so discussions can be built on a shared, common vocabulary

• Describe difficulties in obtaining nationally consistent port measures

• Identify potential data sources for developing list of ports to be included in effort
Key Questions

• **What** are we measuring?

• **Where** are we measuring it?
“The Director shall establish, on behalf of the Secretary, a port performance statistics program to provide nationally consistent measures of performance of, at a minimum—

(1) the Nation's top 25 ports by tonnage;
(2) the Nation's top 25 ports by 20-foot equivalent unit; and
(3) the Nation's top 25 ports by dry bulk.
Some Definitions

Tonnage

• What does it include?
  • Everything, even the shipping containers themselves

• Metric vs Short
  • 1,000 kg vs 2,000 lbs.
Some Definitions

Containers

- Counts vs TEUs vs FEUs
- Full vs Empty
- Transshipment
- Cross Border

Port of Los Angeles
Some Definitions

Dry Bulk

• As opposed to liquid bulk or break bulk
• Usually “dropped” cargo
  • Bauxite, cement, coal, chemicals, iron, grains
• Unpacked and Homogenous
• Measure by Weight?

Borax at the Port of Los Angeles

Grain at the Port of Seattle
Ports vary greatly in size

- a single wharf or quay
- collection of terminals
- multi-mile stretches along a river
Jurisdictional vs. Geographic Definition

- Port Authorities focused on terminals under their jurisdiction
- Variation in legal status
  - Public vs Private vs Joint
  - Complicates data availability
- Other agencies may group data based on their own geographic boundaries
  - USACE Waterborne Commerce Statistics Districts
A Port is a Port, right?

Port of Los Angeles and
Port of Long Beach

Port of New York
and New Jersey
Port Activities Vary

- Dry Bulk
- Liquid Bulk
- Break Bulk
- Project Cargo
- Container
- Ro-Ro
- Ferry/Cruise
Port Connectivity Varies

- Coastal
- Great Lake
- Inland
- Road Access
- Rail Access
- Barge Access
- Pipelines
Other Factors

- Aggregating terminal data and metrics
  - Impact of inactive terminals
- International vs. Regional trade
- Seasonal trade
With so many factors, perhaps best not to reinvent the wheel and instead use an existing list:

- Based on nationally consistent source
- Data in the public domain or a Federal source
- Potentially port level detail
There is no one data source that provides all the answers

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - Waterborne Commerce Statistics → Customs Districts
- U.S. Census Bureau
  - USA Trade Online → Census Districts
- Coast Guard
  - Automatic Identification System
- Maritime Administration
- American Association of Port Authorities
Total Tonnage

Valdez, Alaska, #25 in Tons
Port of South Louisiana, Louisiana, #1 in Tons
Total Tonnage

Ports of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, #13 in Tons

Approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 2015
Container Terminals

San Diego, #25 in TEUs
Container Terminals

Los Angeles, #1 in TEUs
Dry Bulk

Lower Mississippi River – MVN, #1 in Tons

Includes the Ports of South Louisiana, Plaquemines, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans
Over to You

- Other **data sets** we should be considering?

- Is there consensus on “**what is a port**”? 

- Is there consensus on a definition of **what is included for each category**?
  
  - Tonnage
  
  - Containers
  
  - Dry Bulk
## Dry Bulk Goods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metals &amp; Ores</td>
<td>bauxite/alumina, coals, iron ore, ferroalloys, scrap metal, Taconite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minerals</td>
<td>sand &amp; gravel, copper, limestone, salt, sulphur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edible Agricultural</td>
<td>alfalfa pellets, livestock feed, flour, peanuts, raw or refined sugar, seeds, tapioca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grains</td>
<td>wheat, maize, rice, barley, oats, rye, sorghum, soybeans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemicals</td>
<td>petroleum coke, fertilizer, phosphates, plastic pellets, resin powder, synthetic fiber</td>
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- **Cement**
- **Wood chips**