

GreenPort 2014 of Baltimore

Economy



Environment



Community



2014 Annual Review

MPA – Delivering for the Future

The Port of Baltimore touches the lives of nearly every Maryland citizen while taking great care to protect one of the nation's natural treasures, the Chesapeake Bay. The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) is committed to providing the economic benefits of a thriving port while also supporting clean air and water for the Chesapeake region and communities surrounding the port. This annual review is a reflection on the ways in which we have worked towards each of these goals in 2014.

Several big port projects got a boost in 2014. First, Congress passed legislation that authorizes funding for two major dredging projects. The plan to expand Poplar Island was authorized at \$1.2 billion. The Mid-Bay project, which will use dredged material to re-build eroding islands near Dorchester County, won authorization at \$1.9 billion.

The MPA met with Sparrows Point Terminal LLC, the new owners of the former steel-making property in Baltimore County, about options for reviving and expanding marine commerce activities along Coke Point. Discussions

with the new owners, as well community groups and county agencies, include development of a dredged material placement site and an automobile terminal. Over the long term, the dredged placement site would be converted to a container terminal.

The entire Chesapeake region is working on a federally required plan to reduce pollution in the bay. To do its part, the MPA is monitoring and working to reduce the release of nutrients and sediments in outflow from dredged material placement sites while conducting a coordinated, agency-wide effort to improve storm-water management at MPA terminals and other facilities.

The MPA also continued its participation in the Ports Initiative, a project led by the U.S. EPA. The goal of the initiative is to reduce the impact of global maritime commerce on air quality and related public health concerns by working with the American Association of Port Authorities, individual ports, environmental organizations, and community groups.



GreenPort 2014 is the Maryland Port Administration's latest annual update of projects and programs that help the agency contribute to a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. As always, we thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality.

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Cargo, Jobs, and Safety

Maritime commerce is thriving in Baltimore's private and public terminals. The port continually ranks as the top U.S. port for handling automobiles and light trucks, farm and construction machinery, and imports of forest products. Baltimore also remains one of the top ports for the importation of sugar, gypsum, and aluminum, and the exportation of coal.

In 2014, the BMW Group opened its newest vehicle distribution center at the Port of Baltimore. Mazda entered into a contract to bring approximately 65,000 vehicles through the port each year, creating about 450 new jobs.

Exports are rising too. The MPA received the Presidential "E Star" Award in 2014 for its marked increase in exports over the last few years.

The MPA was also selected by Government Security News as the winner of the magazine's 2014 Seaport/Border Security Award for the "Most Notable Seaport Security Program."

Overall, port business at public and private terminals generates about 14,630 direct jobs and 108,000 other jobs linked to port activities. It produces approximately \$3 billion in



The Port of Baltimore ranks as the nation's top port for handling automobiles.

annual wages and salaries, and more than \$300 million in state and local tax revenues.

New and Better Berth

In 2014, the MPA constructed a new berth for ships delivering automobiles at the Masonville/Fairfield Marine Terminal, joining a second berth that has operated at the site for more than 70 years.

At 1,175 feet in length, the new berth is nearly 300 feet longer than the first berth and can support more weight. The time needed for vessel operations at berth has been significantly reduced — this means that air emissions associated with the process have been reduced, too.

Cruising from Baltimore

Cruising from the Port of Baltimore continues at approximately 100 cruises per year with ships from the Royal Caribbean, Carnival, AIDA, and Europa cruise lines. In October, Carnival moved its ship *Carnival Pride* to Florida to be fitted with technology

to meet newly required international emissions standards. The ship will return in March 2015 with new restaurants and entertainment options.

Crystal Cruises, a luxury cruise line, visited Baltimore in 2014 as part of a 14-day voyage to the Caribbean.

Safe Passage

Plans are underway to evaluate a dredged material placement technique called Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD), which could be used to support dredging in the harbor. A cell is created in underwater sediment by dredging silt, clay, sand, and gravel from the river bottom. These materials are either moved to a dredged material placement site or used in other projects like dike construction. The cell would then be refilled with material dredged from the harbor.

Pending permit approval, a demonstration project will take place near the Masonville dredged material placement site to assess whether the use of CAD would be safe in the Baltimore harbor.



The new berth at the Masonville/Fairfield Marine Terminal makes docking and unloading more efficient, which in turn reduces air emissions.



MPA's Kathy Broadwater helps to unveil the Jones Falls water wheel.

Award-Winning Work

The MPA was honored twice in 2014 for its environmental initiatives. The MPA's Environmental Management System, based on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001, was recertified. The system outlines tasks and sets rigorous standards for stewardship practices in the port's daily operations.

The Chesapeake Stormwater Network presented the MPA with an Innovative Best Management Practice Award for the algal turf scrubber which is operating at the Dundalk Marine Terminal. The scrubber uses the controlled growth of algae to help remove harmful nutrients from the water.

The American Association of Port Authorities gave the MPA an honorable mention in the Comprehensive Environmental Management awards category for the MPA's Water Quality Master Plan. The plan supports Chesapeake Bay clean-up efforts by outlining steps to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff and pollutant loads from nutrients and sediment.

Jones Falls Water Wheel

The Jones Falls, which empties into the Baltimore Harbor, got a boost for clean water with the May installation of a new "water wheel." The wheel captures, lifts, and removes water-borne trash from the Jones Falls before it becomes an eyesore and ecological hazard in the harbor.

The wheel is a project of the Waterfront Partnership. The MPA contributed \$500,000 to the project to offset impacts from the dredged material placement site at Masonville. The MPA will also help with costs to maintain the wheel for the next 20 years.

Dray Truck Replacements

The U.S. EPA awarded \$750,000 to the Port of Baltimore's Dray Truck Replacement Program, which allows owners and operators of short-haul dray trucks to purchase newer, cleaner trucks that meet or exceed 2010 EPA emission certified engine standards.

To date, the program has replaced almost 100 trucks, resulting in annual

reductions of approximately 90 tons of nitrogen oxides, 24 tons of carbon monoxide, four tons of particulate matter, and three and a half tons of hydrocarbons.

Stormwater Education

Masonville Cove, an environmental education and outdoor center developed by the MPA, continues to serve as a dynamic hub for environmental learning. In 2014, the U.S. EPA provided \$75,000 to the Living Classrooms Foundation to help the Masonville Cove environmental education campus provide outreach and watershed educational experiences to about 600 students from Baltimore City Public Schools. The program aims to increase public awareness about stormwater runoff and ways to prevent it.

Eel Passage

The MPA worked with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to develop an eel ladder at Daniel Dam in Patapsco Valley State Park.

The ladder helps eels move upstream in the Patapsco River to reach areas of habitat that are otherwise blocked by the dam. The MPA constructed the eel ladder as a mitigation project for work at the dredged material placement site at Masonville.



A 2014 installation of floating wetlands at the Dundalk Marine Terminal helps to provide habitat and absorb nutrients from the water.

Tours, Events, & Outreach

More than 22,000 people had the opportunity to learn about the Port of Baltimore through events, tours, and programs sponsored by the MPA and port partners in 2014. Teachers, families, students, outdoor enthusiasts, and community representatives were among the many people who explored the Pearce Creek, Cox Creek, Masonville, Hart-Miller Island, and Poplar Island dredged material placement sites, or took part in briefings and terminal tours. The Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper and a group of environmental grantmakers also took part in briefings and tours.

Public outreach received a high-profile boost through a new documentary *Baltimore: Port of Opportunity*, which aired in November on WBAL-TV. The documentary was produced by the Baltimore Port Alliance and can be viewed on YouTube (www.youtube.com, under the keyword "Baltimore Port Alliance").

A teacher training program at the Port of Baltimore is now being replicated by others. The Baltimore Port Alliance partnered with the Southeast Maritime and Transportation Center of Tidewater, Virginia, to expand its teacher training program to 22 teachers and professionals in five states.

Special Projects

During 2014, the MPA worked closely with the public on projects that may help meet the on-going challenge for the placement of dredged material,



Learning about wetland plants at the second annual Masonville Cove open house.

including the potential use of Coke Point/Sparrows Point for a new placement site and new terminals.

At Pearce Creek in Cecil County, where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to re-open a dredged material placement site, the MPA helped ensure that community concerns about well water were addressed. An open house, informational meetings, and web page (www.pearcecreekoutreach.com) earned community leaders' support.

The Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee was rejuvenated with the addition of new members who are providing advice on the planned expansion of the Cox Creek placement site.

The MPA also held outreach meetings to explain Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) and the demonstration project planned near Masonville.

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