



Environmental Report 2020

Annual Review

NAVIGATING THE SHOALS OF 2020

"The Port of Baltimore and the import [and export] of goods plays a crucial role in Maryland's COVID-19 recovery. The expansion of business, especially during challenging times, reflects the industry's unwavering confidence in our Port and its talented workforce." - Maryland Governor Larry Hogan

With a strong foundation built on a legacy of strategic planning and innovation, the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore rose to the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic and economic repercussions the world faced in 2020. In this historic moment, the Port demonstrated its reputation as one of the most highly productive and adaptive ports in the United States. In late February, new leadership took the helm as Gregory Slater was confirmed as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). In July, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan appointed William P. Doyle the executive director of the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). With new leadership in place and the dedication of the Port's talented workforce and partners who worked tirelessly with COVID-19 safety precautions in place, the Port is weathering the storm. As the pandemic disrupted world trade and halted the cruise industry, there were still remarkable achievements, among them:



*The Gunde Maersk is one of the many supersized ships welcomed at the Port of Baltimore thanks to its modern infrastructure and deep channels.
Photo by MDOT MPA*

- By September, the amount of cargo handled at the Port rebounded from COVID-19 lows in May, and in the case of autos, even surpassed previous records;
- Longshore workers handling the Maersk Edinburgh set a new record with 5,536 container moves over three days — marking the largest number of moves for a single ship in the Port's history;
- Metsä Group of Finland, a top international forest product producer, through Logistec (as terminal operator BalTerm), significantly expanded operations;
- General Electric/Haier opened a new gateway on the East Coast, moving additional appliances through the Port;
- Evergreen Line announced two additional vessels would be providing service from Asia through the Suez Canal;
- Volkswagen announced plans to handle 120,000+ vehicles annually and create about 100 new jobs at Tradepoint Atlantic;
- Mercedes-Benz processed 600 units a day, a higher amount than normal, and scheduled 12-hour work shifts, seven-days-a-week to keep up with consumer demand; and
- The Port welcomed the maiden voyage of the Wallenius Wilhelmsen Tannhauser, the third high-efficiency roll on/roll off vessel to join their fleet.



GreenPort 2020, published by the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration, describes the projects and programs that took place in 2020 to support a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. We thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality. www.marylandports.com <http://www.marylandports.com/environment>

“The Port of Baltimore is well-equipped to handle the rise in e-commerce because of the number of distribution, fulfillment, and sorting centers in close proximity. We anticipate that long-term reliance on e-commerce will continue...[I]t’s important to remember we are still dealing with COVID-19, and that continues to make this a very unpredictable maritime trade environment.”

**-William P. Doyle
MDOT MPA Executive Director**



Photo by Bill McAllen/MDOT MPA

Built to Weather the Storm

The COVID-19 pandemic had a tremendous impact on the maritime shipping industry in 2020. Key cargo commodities at POB’s public terminals were down for the year compared to 2019, but the Port’s strong recovery in the second half of the year helped narrow those declines dramatically. For all of 2020, containers, with 632,307 boxes, were down 3.7% compared to 2019. General cargo was down 6.4% from 2019 with 10,387,723 tons; roll on/roll off was down 23.9% with 689,708 tons; and auto/light trucks had 468,401 units, down 25.8% from 2019. The Port generates about 15,300 direct jobs, with nearly 140,000 jobs overall linked to Port activities. The Port ranks first among the nation’s ports for volume of autos and light trucks, roll on/roll off heavy farm and construction machinery, and imported gypsum. It ranks 11th among major U.S. ports for foreign cargo handled and ninth for total foreign cargo value.

Planning for the Future

While focused on 2020’s immediate challenges, the Port kept its sights on the future. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, and MDOT MPA launched a study to investigate how to safely and efficiently accommodate the growing number of larger container ships at the Seagirt Loop channel for years to come. USACE also included funding in the federal fiscal year 2020 work plan for engineering and design for the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Project, which will restore two eroding Chesapeake Bay islands, James and Barren. While reductions to the state’s Transportation Trust Fund due to COVID-19 meant some Port projects needed to be deferred, key MDOT MPA projects were preserved, including the transformative Howard Street Tunnel project and Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility expansion.

Security

For the 12th consecutive year, the POB’s state-owned, public marine terminals received a top security grade by the U.S. Coast Guard. The assessment reviewed security procedures and protocols at the six public marine terminals. In August, MDOT MPA was awarded \$1,158,589 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Port Security Grant Program. The funding is designated to strengthen cybersecurity initiatives and closed-circuit television (CCTV) capabilities at the state-owned marine terminals.

Awards & Recognition

- MDOT MPA achieved recertification of ISO 14001 for Environmental Management System.
- MDOT MPA Office of Safety, Environment & Risk Management (SERM) received the prestigious Mitigation Award of Excellence from the American Association of Port Authorities for the algal flow-way.
- SERM was also honored by MDOT Secretary Slater at the Sixth Annual Environmental Excellence Awards for a restoration partnership at The Maryland Zoo.
- MDOT MPA Director of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler and Outreach Coordinator for Harbor Development Katrina Jones received the prestigious Maryland Watershed Champions Award from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.
- The Propeller Club of Baltimore also named Jones the 2020 Port Person of the Year.
- MDOT MPA’s Manager of Strategic Planning and Special Projects Jill Lemke was one of 40 professionals recognized by Governor Hogan as Maryland’s first Certified Climate Change Professionals®, an international credential administered by the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO).

Climate Adaptation & Resiliency

In September, Governor Hogan announced that the Port would receive \$10 million in federal funds to help protect the Dundalk Marine Terminal against severe weather, sea-level rise, and other potential climate change impacts. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD transportation grant program. It will help MDOT MPA's \$36.7 million Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Improvements project, with the remaining funds coming from MDOT MPA.

POB's climate adaptation and resiliency efforts were highlighted in a congressional briefing by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI).

Diesel & Greenhouse Gas Reduction

In 2020, MDOT MPA made progress upgrading older diesel-powered equipment with newer, cleaner versions to reduce harmful emissions, protect public health, and promote economic growth. A large yard tractor and 28 dray trucks were replaced thanks to funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), state DERA awards, and the Maryland Volkswagen Mitigation Plan. Dray trucks are commonly used for transporting shipping containers short distances to and from the Port.

MDOT MPA completed the fifth successful year working with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to implement air quality improvement projects under the Voluntary Air Agreement. Originally signed in 2015, the agreement committed MDOT, MDOT MPA, and MDE to develop and implement projects that reduce emissions or increase energy efficiency at the Port.

A new grant in 2020 from the Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) Resilient Maryland Program will allow MDOT MPA to complete a feasibility study to investigate microgrid options, looking at wind, solar, batteries, and fuel cells.

In 2020, for the fifth year, SERM hosted a Climate Corps fellow from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). Akin Olumoroti, a dual-degree graduate student at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability, studied the role of electric vehicles at the Port, including environmental benefits achieved through the use of alternative fuels and more efficient engines and infrastructure needs.



Courtesy Photo

Wildlife

For the second year in a row, eaglets thrived at Masonville Cove. In June, they fledged their nest, making it possible for the public to observe them from the Masonville Cove environment. While the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center was closed at the time under COVID-19 precautions, visitors had the opportunity to walk the property, providing a way to recreate responsibly and find solace in nature. In fact, Masonville welcomed its second highest number of annual visitors despite a four month closure for the pandemic.

On Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day, September 26, 2020, Masonville Cove held its seventh annual BioBlitz led by the National Aquarium, while implementing all of the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Forty-one participants found a total of 134 species during 230 recorded observations.



Photo by MDOT MPA

Guided kayak tours were led by Ultimate Water Sports in collaboration with MDOT MPA, National Aquarium, Living Classrooms Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Maryland Environmental Service (MES).

Dredging

In November, construction on the footprint of the 575-acre expansion of the Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island (Poplar Island) began to wrap up to be ready to receive inflow in the next dredging cycle. This much-needed development will provide important remote island habitat in the Chesapeake Bay and an additional 28 million cubic yards of capacity, while helping to keep the shipping channels open and adding to the vitality of the Port that was so important to the supply chain during the pandemic.

In 2020, a new Innovative Reuse & Beneficial Use Strategy was approved as a framework to recover capacity and extend the lifespan of sediment containment facilities. At the end of 2019, a request for proposals was issued for research and development projects to advance the innovative reuse of dredged material with a focus on cost-effectiveness and scalability. In 2020, two contracts were approved by the Board of Public Works.

Giving Back to Our Community

While helping to stop the spread of COVID-19 was the Port's major community focus in 2020, together with our partners, there were still ways to give back to our community, including through two shipping container donations. During the summer, Baltimore Port Alliance partners came together to help Friends of Garrett Park in Brooklyn with a storage solution for their community programs. Ports America Chesapeake donated a 20-foot shipping container, which was cleaned and given a fresh coat of paint, to store equipment for two community gardens, outdoor yoga classes, and other community events. BalTerm delivered the container with help from M&W Towing. Ports America Chesapeake also helped the Park Heights community with a container donation to help with storage needs for their community garden.

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www.marylandports.com

where you can sign up for free subscriptions to the

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Virtual Connections

In 2020, the Port successfully pivoted to the virtual world to conduct official meetings and to stay engaged with stakeholders and students during virtual learning. A record 115 attendees participated in the first virtual Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Annual Meeting on November 6, 2020. Guests were welcomed with a virtual exhibit hall experience and then remarks from MDOT and MPA officials, including MDOT Secretary Gregory Slater, MDOT MPA Executive Director William P. Doyle, and MDOT MPA Office of Harbor Development Director Kristen Fidler.

An Environmental Education E-Learning Portal was developed to provide virtual educational resources from the POB with help from MES. Virtual students were able to keep up with the Head Start terrapins at Poplar Island thanks to Ohio University professor Dr. Willem Roosenburg's Facebook page (Roosenburg Lab at Ohio University). Visitors watched recaptures and saw teachers' reactions to seeing their "babies" return. Additionally, students and their teachers enjoyed the release of 170 terrapin hatchlings through a vlog, or video blog.



Watch the release of the 2020 Head Start terrapins on the Port of Baltimore's YouTube Channel.



Maryland Department of Transportation
Maryland Port Administration

The World Trade Center
401 East Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21202
1-800-638-7519 / www.marylandports.com