



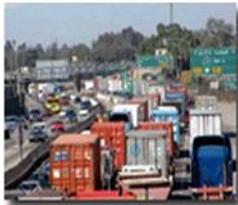
# MARAD FACT SHEET

## Short Sea Shipping



America's Advocate for the Maritime Industry

### *The Wave of America's Transportation Future Short Sea Shipping*



#### The Problem:

International trade is projected to at least double by the year 2020.

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Or  
[http://www.marad.dot.gov/  
programs/shortseashipping.html](http://www.marad.dot.gov/programs/shortseashipping.html)



MARAD's Short Sea Shipping aids in the reduction of growing freight and congestion on our nation's modal transport.

### What is Short Sea Shipping?

Short Sea Shipping is defined as commercial waterborne transportation that does not transit an ocean. It is an alternative form of commercial transportation that utilizes inland and coastal waterways to move commercial freight from major domestic ports to its destination.

#### Mission:

To strengthen the U.S. maritime transportation system - including infrastructure, industry and labor - to meet the economic and security needs of the Nation. MARAD programs promote the development and maintenance of an adequate, well-balanced United States merchant marine, sufficient to carry the Nation's domestic waterborne commerce and a substantial portion of its waterborne foreign commerce, and capable of service as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency. MARAD also seeks to ensure that the United States maintains adequate shipbuilding and repair services, efficient ports, effective intermodal water and land transportation systems, and reserve shipping capacity for use in time of national emergency.

## The Problem: Growing Surface Transportation Congestion

The United States is the world's leading trading nation. Our international trade is projected to at least double by the year 2020. And, as trade escalates, the level of congestion on our already overburdened transportation infrastructure will only increase.

Efforts to expand surface transportation capacity to accommodate this growth can be costly, time-consuming, and in many cases fail to alleviate growing congestion problems. In addition, surface congestion can adversely affect air quality and our overall quality of life.

There are already many warning signs that indicate shortfalls in our freight capacity that can ultimately lead to transportation gridlock. Future cargo volumes may very well overwhelm the nation's surface transportation infrastructure.

## One Solution: Increased Utilization of the Nation's Marine Transportation System (MTS)

It is time to look for alternative and innovative ways to address our freight congestion problems by incorporating all transportation modes in the solution. The smartest, cheapest, and easiest answer to growing surface transportation congestion is an additional investment in the Marine Transportation System. The MTS offers a cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally safe mode of freight delivery.

Short Sea Shipping can utilize the Nation's water infrastructure to augment the surface transportation system for the shipment of goods to our North American trading partners, coastal communities, and along the inland waterway system.

## Learn more about MARAD's Short Sea Shipping Initiative

The Initiative is exploring the use of public system incentives, vessel financing and construction, and customer requirements for the development of new waterborne transportation services in North America.

A Short Sea Shipping Memorandum of Cooperation is already in place with Canada and one is in the planning stages with Mexico.

The Maritime Administration has formed a Short Sea Shipping Cooperative Program that includes maritime business and community representatives to support projects that advance Short Sea Shipping.

### Short Sea Shipping will --

- Grow the economy
- Relieve road congestion and increase mobility
- Create jobs in ports, terminals, and the merchant marine
  - Enhance national security
  - Mitigate air pollution
- Enhance government revenues