

Section 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

Ports around the world are facing increased pressure for development of newer, larger, and more efficient facilities to accommodate increased waterborne trade carried by larger and larger vessels. Deep draft ports accommodate more than 95 percent by weight, and 75 percent by value, of all US overseas trade. According to US customs, the volume of imported cargo will triple by 2020. In addition, cruise ships and other waterborne passenger services are increasingly using commercial port facilities. In 1994, the US port industry, alone, generated:

- 16 million jobs¹
- \$515 billion in income
- \$1.6 trillion in sales
- \$783 billion to the gross domestic product (GDP)

The Environmental Management Handbook assists AAPA in achieving its goal “To support and assist AAPA member ports throughout the Hemisphere in the achievement of their economic and transportation purposes in an environmentally responsible manner.”

Ports, by their nature, are in close proximity to highly sensitive resources, and are under increasing scrutiny by the environmental community — both by the regulators and public/private interest groups. Recognizing this increased pressure, the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), through the Harbors, Navigation and Environment (HN&E) Committee, has developed this Environmental Management Handbook (EMH) to assist ports in effectively managing their environmental issues.

1.2 Purpose

The EMH is intended to be used by any port, with some additional discussion on regulatory issues specific to United States ports. The HN&E Committee recognizes that port authorities have varying degrees of control over operations at their facilities (e.g., “landlord” ports may have less control than “public operator” or “private operator” ports, as discussed in greater detail in Section 4). This document provides suggestions on a variety of environmental issues, but is not intended to mandate any specific actions to be taken by a port or its tenants. While this document has an emphasis on “landlord” ports, the HN&E Committee believes that this document will be valuable to any type of port, regardless of its operating approach. The EMH has two primary goals:

- Provide general guidance on environmental management practices — both for the port and its tenants — designed to protect and enhance the environment. The EMH focuses on day-to-day environmental issues, and

¹

AAPA, Talking Points for Press Interviews, September 1997 as updated December 1997.

does not cover infrequent catastrophic events such as major fuel spills or ship collisions.

- Provide a framework for incorporation of environmentally sound practices into a port's management procedures and structure.

The underlying objectives as defined by the HN&E Committee are to:

- Identify key environmental considerations to be addressed by port managers.
- Identify cost-effective management practices specific to each environmental consideration.
- Develop a framework to incorporate environmental practices in a port's decision-making process.
- Assist in the development of outreach and education programs.
- Provide guidelines for organizing environmental staff within a port.

1.3 Contents of the Environmental Management Handbook

To meet these goals and objectives, this document includes the following sections, in addition to this introduction.

- Section 2 - Environmental Considerations for Port Development and Operations. This section provides a brief summary of the environmental considerations related to port operations. It also describes port- and tenant-operations and activities that may warrant attention in an environmental management program intended to protect and enhance the environment.
- Section 3 - Port Environmental Management Practices². This section identifies and describes environmental management practices designed to minimize risks associated with the activities identified in Section 2.
- Section 4 - Port Environmental Management Tools. This section provides guidance on lease management, compliance auditing, and environmental awareness training.
- Section 5 - Public Outreach. This section provides guidance and case studies on both public relations and public consensus-building approaches.
- Section 6 - Framework for Implementing an Environmental Management Program. This section provides assistance on incorporating environmental management into a port organization.

²

The term "Environmental Management Practices" is used in this document to represent a common sense measure, used on a voluntary basis, associated with a particular activity at a port to protect and enhance the environment.