



March 9, 2016

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## **Largest container ship to visit the U.S. makes call on Seattle**

The Northwest Seaport Alliance had the opportunity to host the largest cargo ship to visit the U.S. when the *CMA CMG Benjamin Franklin* docked at the Alliance's Terminal 18 in Seattle. The visit was part of a test to see how well the port facilities can handle the huge ship which can hold 18,000 containers. While 10,000 unit container ships are regular visitors to Northwest ports, newer container ships like the *Benjamin Franklin* will require some upgrades to port facilities. As part of the Northwest Seaport Alliance's ten year plan, the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma are both investing in upgrades like channel deepening and larger cranes to be able to handle the larger ships. To see a Northwest Seaport Alliance infographic on the size of the *Benjamin Franklin*, click [here](#). More information on the *Benjamin Franklin's* visit, along with the planned upgrades to the ports are available in the press release below:

### **Largest cargo vessel to visit U.S. arrives Monday at Northwest Seaport Alliance's Terminal 18**

Puget Sound gateway preparing to serve big ships of the future to grow cargo volumes and jobs

Feb 29 2016

The largest cargo ship to visit the United States, the *CMA CMG Benjamin Franklin*, arrived Monday at The Northwest Seaport Alliance's Terminal 18 in Seattle.

The *Benjamin Franklin* has capacity for 18,000 20-foot equivalent container units (TEUs). That's more than double the cargo of most container ships calling at Northwest Seaport Alliance terminals. If laid end-to-end, the 18,000 TEUs would stretch from Tacoma to Everett, a distance of about 68 miles.

At 1,310 feet long and 177 feet wide, the *Benjamin Franklin* is longer than two Space Needles or five Boeing 747s placed along its length.

Mega-ships like the Benjamin Franklin are entering the trans-Pacific trade sooner than expected, as shipping lines seek increased economies of scale to reduce operating costs and environmental impact. Last fall, the NWSA welcomed two 11,400-TEU vessels, the CMA CGM Callisto and CMA CGM Cassiopea, and 10,000-TEU ships call regularly in the North and South harbors.

"The entire cargo industry is upsizing to big ships. To keep the Puget Sound gateway competitive, we must invest in our terminal facilities and road and rail networks to efficiently handle these larger vessels and additional cargo," said John Creighton, president of the Port of Seattle Commission.

The larger vessels require terminals with deeper berths, stronger piers and bigger container cranes. The NWSA's 10-year strategic plan identifies key investments in our facilities to meet customer needs and grow jobs, including planned upgrades in the North Harbor's Terminal 5 and South Harbor's Terminal 4.

These complement investments already made by SSA Marine and the NWSA to make Terminal 18 big-ship ready now. Additionally, the Seattle home port and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are halfway through a deepening feasibility study to evaluate alternatives for deepening the navigation channels in the East & West Waterways up to 55 feet.

"A vibrant, growing maritime sector is good for Washington state, where 40 percent of jobs are tied to international trade," said Connie Bacon, president of the Port of Tacoma Commission. "We are committed to doing our part to create more jobs and economic opportunities for the region, and supporting a great quality of life for the Puget Sound region."

According to a 2013 study, NWSA marine cargo operations support 48,000 jobs in the Puget Sound and generate nearly \$4.3 billion in economic activity. If we factor in the farmers and manufacturers who ship products through the two harbors, NWSA's activities reach 443,000 jobs across the state.

#### **What others are saying**

"I'm proud to welcome the Benjamin Franklin to Washington state, because it shows the world that we are big-ship ready and open for business supporting the efficient, clean and prosperous shipping trends of the future," said Gov. Jay Inslee.

"The arrival of the Benjamin Franklin highlights the critical role ports play in supporting jobs and economic growth in Washington state and the nation," said Sen. Patty Murray. "As The Northwest Seaport Alliance works to compete in the global marketplace, I will continue to advocate for federal policies that better support our ports' sustained growth and success."

"This is a significant milestone for the Port of Seattle and Washington state. This mega ship demonstrates that Washington's ports and maritime industry remain a leader in global trade," said Sen. Maria Cantwell. "The Benjamin Franklin further proves that when we make smart investments in our freight infrastructure, we can create more jobs and have more containers moving through our ports. Moving forward, we must continue our efforts to reform the harbor maintenance tax to help Washington ports compete in the global economy. At the end of the day, the faster freight moves, the faster Washington's economy will grow."

## **Navigation stakeholders seek \$1.28 billion in FY2017 HMTF spending, \$2.8 billion for Corps navigation program**

As Congress begins the appropriations process for FY2017, navigation stakeholders are advocating for \$1.28 billion in Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) spending for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This funding is meant to keep us on track for full spending of annual HMTF receipts by FY2025, as authorized in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA). The \$1.28 billion is a 1.3% increase from the FY2016 omnibus and would provide significant dollars for our nation's ports.

The HMT request, which has been spearheaded by the [American Association of Port Authorities \(AAPA\)](#), continues the forward momentum despite an unanticipated drop in estimated FY2016 HMT revenues. We believe it is important to slightly increase spending

in FY2017, to ensure Congress is on track to reach future targets. PNWA supports AAPA and will be using the \$1.28 billion funding level in discussions with our Congressional delegation.

The HMT request is also part of the national effort to fund the overall Corps navigation program at \$2.8 billion. In addition to coastal operations & maintenance (O&M) funded through the HMTF, the \$2.8B includes funding for the construction and general investigations accounts, inland O&M, and donor ports. The full breakdown can be found below. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact [Jim Walker](#) from AAPA , or [Heather Stebbings](#) from PNWA .

## We Urge Congress to Support \$2.8 Billion for the 2017 Corps Navigation Program

	2017 Stakeholders	2016 Enacted	2017 Pres Budget
<b>COASTAL NAVIGATION</b>	<b>\$1.545 B</b>	\$1.3908 B	\$1.009 B
Investigations	\$15 M	\$ 13.6 M	\$ 8 M
Construction	\$200 M	\$185.2 M	\$105 M
Operations & Maintenance	\$1.280 B	\$1.167 B	\$896 M
Donor and Energy Ports	\$50 M	\$ 25 M	\$ 0
<b>INLAND NAVIGATION</b>	<b>\$1.210 B</b>	\$1.1746 B	\$888 M
Investigations	\$20 M	\$ 19.6 M	\$ 14 M
Construction	\$390 M	\$402 M	\$243 M
Operations & Maintenance	\$800 M	\$753 M	\$631 M
<b>MS RIVER &amp; TRIBUTARIES</b>	<b>\$45 M</b>	\$46.1 M	\$ 37 M
<b>TOTAL NAVIGATION</b>	<b>\$2.800 B</b>	<b>\$2.614 B</b>	<b>\$1.934 B</b>



**NAVIGATION  
STAKEHOLDERS  
CALL FOR \$2.8B  
FY17 CORPS NAVIGATION  
PROGRAM**

Competitive Ports and Inland Waterways Stimulate U.S. Jobs  
and Economic Growth.

FROM NAVIGATION COALITION, POC  
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## Countdown to the 2016 Mission to Washington begins!!

PNWA's [2016 Mission to Washington](#) kicks off soon! The 2016 Mission to Washington will be held March 13th-17th at the [Sofitel Hotel](#) and promises to be one of our greatest events. Our highest priority projects and issues are on the agenda for this year's event, including Corps funding, waterways issues, surface transportation reauthorization implementation, the national wheat picture, 2016 political climate and much more. Throughout the program, participants are able to gain valuable insights, share information, and network with key federal agency officials, industry partners and DC insiders. We'll also spend two days on Capitol Hill meeting with the Northwest Congressional delegation. Stay tuned for pictures and a recap from our time in Washington, DC.

We are also proud to host our annual [Taste the Northwest](#) reception on Tuesday, March 15th from 6:00 to 8:00pm in 325 Russell Senate Office Building. No RSVP is necessary, just come ready to enjoy some tastes of the Northwest. We look forward to seeing you there!

[www.pnwa.net](http://www.pnwa.net)