



## CMTS MEMBER AGENCIES VISIT THE PORT OF BALTIMORE

On August 11, 2009, 30 federal agency managers and staff advanced their understanding of the marine and inter-modal transportation system by visiting the Port of Baltimore. The trip was organized by the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS). The group viewed Maryland Port Administration (MPA) operations and how the port works with its maritime-related business partners, including federal agencies, terminal and dock operators, and stevedores, to serve their customers and create a sustainable port.

The visitors had an up-close tour through Seagirt and Dundalk marine terminals. MPA has diverse port operations, which includes containers, as well as bulk, break bulk (e.g. forest products, steel, etc.), and 'ro-ro', which is roll-on, roll-off cargo such as autos and farm equipment, plus a growing cruise liner business. Attendees also saw how freight is transferred to/from ships, trucks and trains. The group then visited the Maritime Administration's Ready Reserve Force vessel, *Cape Washington*, to learn how it is being used to test new ballast water treatment systems. They also received a lunch-time presentation by the local "Federal Agency Quality Working Group" on what it takes to import a container from Rotterdam, including the interaction between ship agents, brokers, and Federal agencies. Attendees then went aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) new *Bay Hydro II* research vessel, which is equipped with sophisticated survey technology used to measure water depths and identify obstructions on the seafloor that can affect commercial shipping and recreational boating.



The day ended with a tugboat tour of the harbor aboard the Robert E. McAllister, where Federal agency participants gained an appreciation of the diverse and often competing land uses on the waterfront, e.g. condos and cranes. MPA personnel and their business affiliates and Coast Guard personnel were available for discussion and to answer questions from participants as they synthesized all they had seen and heard throughout the day.