U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System
Washington, D.C.
www.cmts.gov

News

July 23, 2008

Dear Stakeholder:

I am pleased to announce the availability of a new data portal which provides search capabilities for an inventory of all publically-available federal maritime data. This new portal simplifies access to the wide range of federal maritime information that is used, collected, compiled or managed by 12 different federal departments and agencies. Because of the number of departments and agencies involved in marine transportation, it can be challenging to understand and track the breadth and scope of available information.

The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) has launched this searchable online data portal to make this information easier to find. The user-friendly search engine yields such information as a detailed summary of U.S. foreign imports and exports, by commodity, port, waterway system, or state, as compiled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Also available are North American cruise statistics, compiled by the Maritime Administration, and real-time information on tides and currents, provided by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as hundreds of other statistics and series in more than 140 publicly-available federal reports.

The data portal is one of the first products of the CMTS, a cabinet-level, inter-agency organization chaired by the Secretary of Transportation and comprised of 18 different federal entities, all of which have some responsibility for, or stakeholder interest in, the Marine Transportation System which includes America's waterways, ports, and intermodal connections. This public data portal is currently available on the CMTS site, www.cmts.gov.

In addition to the "feedback" capabilities within the portal, feel free to contact Richard Lolich (CMTS maritime data team lead) at Richard.lolich@dot.gov or Helen Brohl (Director of the CMTS Executive Secretariat) at helen.brohl@cmts.gov if you have additional questions.

Very sincerely,

Sean T. Connaughton
Chair, CMTS Coordinating Board