Tioga

CONTAINER PORT CAPACITY STUDY (2010)

This study was initiated to obtain a broad overview of East Coast and Gulf Coast container port capacity for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The study results supported USACE long range planning and was used to supplement documents used in the preparation of project feasibility studies. The Tioga study team addressed the following questions:

- What are the near-term and long-term capacities of the major East Coast and Gulf Coast container ports?

- What factors constrain port capacity ?

- How well is capacity currently utilized?

- How well are the major container ports prepared to handle larger vessels?

- How do the smaller container ports fit into the US port network?

There is a particular concern over the capacity of East Coast and Gulf Coast ports. Before the recession, emergence of multi-coast import strategies shifted market share and volume from the West Coast to the East and Gulf Coasts. In addition, the planned opening of the new, higher-capacity Panama Canal locks in 2014 will permit carriers to deploy larger, more economical vessels in Asia-East Coast and Asia-Gulf all water services.

Major Ports Analyzed

North Atlantic	South Atlantic	Gulf
Boston	Charleston	Mobile
New York/New Jersey	Savannah	New Orleans
Philadelphia	Jacksonville	Houston
Wilmington	Port Everglades	
Baltimore	Miami	
Virginia		

The major conclusions of the study include:
- North Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Gulf ports have substantial inherent capacity for near-term growth.
- Port capacity expansion can be achieved through more intensive use of existing terminal resources, i.e. land, cranes, and berths.
- The existence of aggregate system wide reserve capacity does not preclude specific shortages at individual ports and terminals.