

State & Provincial Maritime Asset Inventory



Beginning in 2013 with the launch of the Governors' and Premiers' Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Maritime Initiative, the Council of Great Lakes Governors has worked diligently to seize opportunities to achieve the full value of the binational maritime system for the region. The Council recognizes the importance of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence maritime transportation system as one of the region's competitive advantages, a backbone of the \$5 trillion regional economy, and a key to the region's continuing prosperity. Transportation networks are regional in nature, yet to date the maritime system has not been coordinated on a strategic, regional basis. The Governors' and Premiers' Maritime Initiative is changing this dynamic.

For the first time, the States and Provinces of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region have developed an inventory of regional maritime assets. This comprehensive survey of the region's systemically important assets includes, for example:

- Port and port terminal information
- Connections to regional road and rail networks
- Major system users
- System capacity
- Goods moving through the system

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Maritime System - supporting a \$5 trillion regional economy:

- More than 100 commercial ports
- Approximately 400 million tons of goods moving through the region's ports
- 23 of the United States' top 100 harbors by tonnage, and 12 of Canada's top 20 ports by tonnage
- A continuous waterway extending more than 2,400 miles from Duluth, Minnesota to the Gulf of St. Lawrence
- More than 600 miles of maintained navigation channels.
- Connections to 30,000 miles of rail track, 70 intermodal terminals, and more than 40 interstate and provincial highways
- Directly responsible for more than 220,000 jobs and \$14 billion in annual wages
- Generates more than \$30 billion in annual business revenue
- Major products handled include iron ore, grain, coal, and various manufactured goods.



Using a common framework, this inventory allows the States and Provinces to identify shared strategic priorities, work together on a regional basis, and better manage these regional assets. The data and information gathered can also help to integrate maritime into State, Provincial, and regional multimodal transportation plans. Maritime provides a reliable, low-cost, and environmentally sound option to alleviate surface transportation congestion and improve the overall efficiency and competitiveness of the regional transportation system.

In developing the asset inventory, the States and Provinces engaged with port authorities, shippers, local and federal government agencies, and other system users to compile the necessary datasets. This collaborative process established and deepened connections between key actors, and sets the stage for shared work in the future.

The asset inventory will help to inform a regional maritime strategy to be developed by the States and Provinces. This strategy will in turn inform policy and funding decisions to improve the binational maritime system. It will include policy, program and project recommendations for maintaining and improving system assets, and aligning them with regional priorities including optimized connectivity and linkages with other transportation modes. Rather than continue managing a system built to meet yesterday's needs, the maritime strategy will anticipate tomorrow's needs and create a vision for a 21st century system.

