



# **Texas Ports Association**

## **Stakeholders for a “Coastal” Corps**

**Chris Fisher, Port of Beaumont**  
**Mark Vincent, Port of Houston Authority**

# Texas Ports Association



- 18 member ports and districts
  - Border to border
  - Deep and shallow draft
- 25% of U.S. total waterborne tonnage
- Share common challenges



# Texas Ports-Economic Impact\*

National and State impact from 12 Texas ports:

- Total U.S. jobs—4.8 million
- Total U.S. economic value--\$1.093 trillion
- The \$354.5 billion of total economic activity in Texas represents 22% of the State Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

\*2016 Martin and Associates Studies



## 6 Steps for Stakeholder Engagement

1. Solicit input early
2. Explain the process
3. Provide the content but not the conclusion
4. Include economic impact
5. Assess risks and be transparent about available resources
6. Doing greater good

# Top Priorities



Galveston District has made good progress on key issues:

- Real estate processes, including licensing tipping fee fairness
- Placement area availability, including 401c permission and sediment testing
- Section 408 processes
- Section 217 processes

# TPA's Request to the Corps



- Incorporate the six keys to stakeholder success in processes
- Continuously improve:
  - Delegation of authority to SWD for 401c approval is good; but work to streamline process and approval time
  - 408 permits: expedite regional general permissions; identify instances where engineering submissions will be minimal, and streamline those processes
  - Seek early, informal comments from stakeholders to ease the drafting process for new or evolving policy
  - Support and promote policies which first consider the public

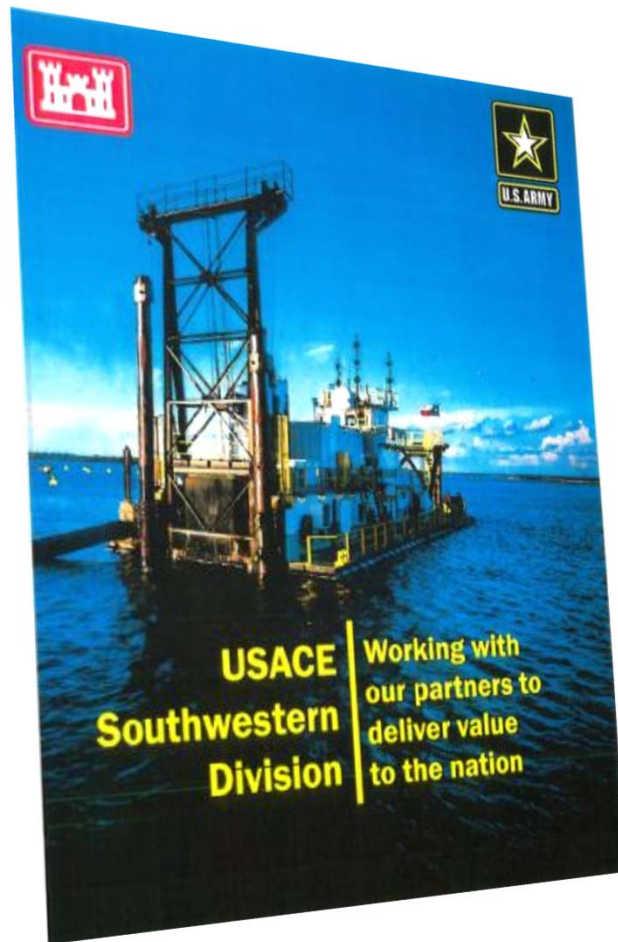
# Continuous Improvement Challenge, continued



- Real Estate:
  - Help stakeholders understand solutions to problems
  - Identify options, and report the master plan for actions which can further industrial development
- Consider what best serves the public interest
- If it doesn't work, let's fix it as a team

*Every issue resolved, and every success is applauded by the entire Texas coast*





## Texas Coast

### How do we work with our Texas Coast partners?

Texas is the only state along the Gulf Coast that does not have a comprehensive plan for addressing the long term viability and protection of its coast. The Texas Coast is a treasured national resource that remains at risk to hurricanes. Approximately three million people live within a storm-surge inundation zone. This coast is home to 40 percent of the Nation's petrochem-

ical industry and 25 percent of the Nation's oil refining capacity. In the Fiscal Year 16 President's Budget, the Coastal Texas Study was approved to proceed with a \$20 million, 5.5 year study. The study was initiated on Nov. 16, 2016, with execution of the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement between the Corps and the Texas General Land Office. This study will investigate storm damage

reduction and ecosystem restoration opportunities to include the entire Texas Coast. Currently the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project is studying storm damage reduction and ecosystem restoration measures along the upper Texas Coast to study ways to mitigate risk to storm surge.

### What do our partners say?



Roger Guenther  
Executive Director  
Port of Houston

### What does the Texas Coast provide?

Texas is the number two state in the Nation for maritime commerce and accounts for more than \$300 billion in economic value. Texas has three of the top 10 ports in the nation (Houston #2, Beaumont #6, and Corpus Christi #7). The Texas Coast is a complex and vulnerable system that provides substantial value to the Nation and is currently experiencing an historic economic transformation associated with shale oil and gas exploration and the expansion of the Panama Canal. Benefits include:

- Texas ports account for more than one million direct jobs every year and another 2.1 million indirect jobs nationally.
- 10 of the 28 Texas ports are in the Top 75 ports in the Nation.
- Texas ports help generate more than \$10 billion in local and state tax revenue each year.
- The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) provides an intermodal linkage through domestic and international

markets and facilities, if measured against all the Nation's ports, the Texas portion of the GIWW would rank 6th in the Nation with respect to total tonnage.

- More than \$25 billion worth of goods are transported annually on the Texas portion of the GIWW.
- Currently there is more than \$150 billion in private investments along the Texas Coast in the petrochemical, Liquefied Natural Gas, and manufacturing sectors.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is an integral partner of the Port of Houston Authority. The port is a longtime economic engine for the Houston region and the state of Texas, as well as for the nation. The port supports the creation of 1.175 million jobs statewide and more than 2.1 million nationwide jobs. It generates economic activity totaling more than \$265 billion in Texas and \$499 billion across the nation. The success of the Port Authority is a success for all of our stakeholders, including the Corps of Engineers. We value our partnership with the Corps."

*TPA: Partners for a better coast and a growing economy*