

Background

- US shipping channels poorly maintained.
- ASCE infrastructure ranking – M.I.A.
- 35% channel availability
- Annual funding to USACE for channel maintenance is flat, really declining.
- Leads to begging for dollars and

**But it does not
have to be this way!**



Harbor Maintenance Tax

- Tax on value of import of goods already in place.
- Intent of tax is to pay for maintenance dredging, also other navigation purposes
- Revenues go into general treasury
- Corps reimbursed for actual maintenance dredging from HMTF
- Congressional approps/OMB involved in determining how much of HMTF gets used.



HMTF Surplus

- HMTF generated as much as \$1.5 billion in 2007, yet only \$750 million spent.
- Continues accumulation of surplus since 2003 that now has fund at balance approaching \$5 billion.
- Fund exists in name only
- Continues to grow since fund not dedicated.

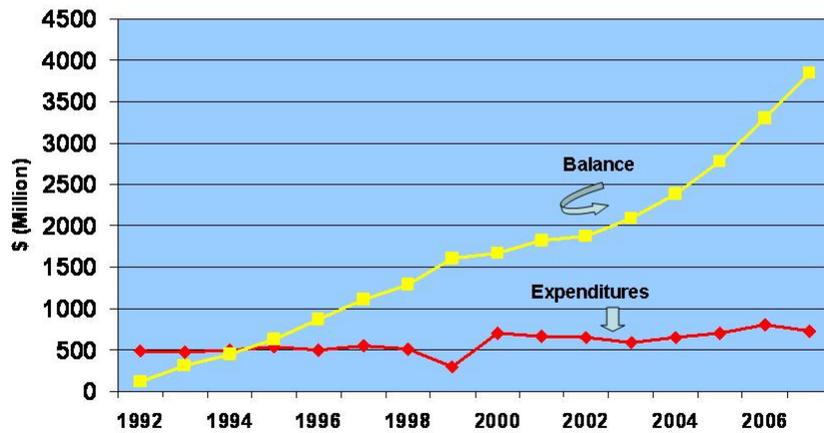


COMPARISON OF HMTF REVENUES TO EXPENDITURES

FISCAL YEAR	EXPENDITURES (millions)	REVENUES (millions)
FY 2000	\$631.2	\$760.6
FY 2001	\$669.4	\$810.8
FY 2002	\$645.2	\$710.8
FY 2003	\$685.1	\$804.5
FY 2004	\$681.4	\$922.4
FY 2005	\$708.8	\$1,123.0
FY 2006	\$697.2	\$1,275.0
FY 2007	\$751.0	\$1,416.0



Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Expenditures and Balance, 1992-2007



Projected for 2007 Based on Conf Rpt.

So what do we do?

- Continue annual funding begathons?
- Continue complaining to anyone who will listen?
- Wait for Congress to come to Corps rescue?



RAMP Formed

Simple Goal

Seek Legislation that will result in full access to annual revenues from Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Tax, to be used for their intended purpose- operation and maintenance of Federal ports and harbors.



RAMP Membership

Broad based coalition of maritime/port entities

- **Shippers**
- **Ports**
- **Unions**
- **Dredgers**



RAMP Membership

- **Popular topic**
- **Almost 200 entities members**
- **Includes associations, bring number of group participating to almost 800.**
- **Needs continued support/member passion.**



RAMP Progress

- **Building/maintaining coalition**
- **Prepare information papers**
- **Meet with Senate and House members and staff**
- **Testify before T&I Subcommittee**
- **Prepare Draft Legislation**
- **Coordinate Senate and House “Dear Colleague Letters”**

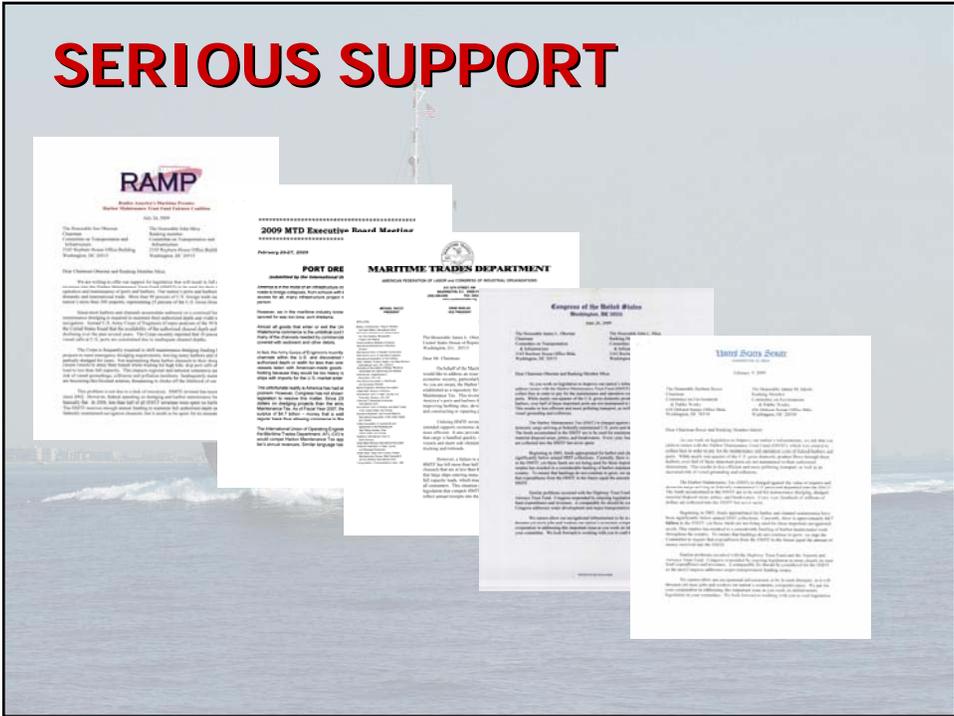


RAMP – What can you do?

- **Congressmen listen to their constituents!!**
- **Tell them you support HMTF Coalition**
- **Ask them to sign the letter of support!**
- **Share your story (impacts) of flat O&M budgets on your operations!**
- **Spread the word to all port users.**



SERIOUS SUPPORT



www.RAMPHMTF.org



HMTF – Future

So what is the Corps going to do with all that money if it gets?

GREAT Question!!! There are more..how about?

- **Can Corps manage a larger dredging program?**
- **Can dredging industry handle all the extra work?**



HMTF Future

- **Corps/Industry partnering**
- **Multiple Topics**
- **Improved Communication**



RAMP versus Stimulus? **NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL!!!**

- Corps requested \$12 billion, basically every project on the shelf prioritized internally.
- Corps received \$4.6 Billion, realistic number but means many projects won't get done.
- Originally \$1b for navigation, ended up \$400 million for dredging,
- How does industry respond?



RAMP V Stimulus

Dredge Industry Response to larger market?

- Existing Excess Capacity, Cutters, Hoppers, and Clams
- Reinforcements – Cutterheads
- Reinforcements – Hopper
- Govt dredges are available under existing law and policy.

RAMP V Stimulus

How is this playing out?

- **Improved Communication**
- **Industry Days**
- **Corps/Ports/Dredging Industry Important**
- **This will put our processes to the test. Good relationships in place to allow appropriate response.**

RAMP v Stimulus

- **Important to cooperate, show Congress, that maritime community, Corps, Ports, and Dredgers can execute the stimulus work and spend the money. Maritime Industry is important!!**
- **If we do it right, HMTF should be an easy discussion.**
- **If not?? ...not an option.**

Lets make this a legacy program!!!

Questions??

**Don't leave without asking them.
That is why you are here!**

