

# Introducing the ASCE COPRI Ports and Harbors Committee

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As its name suggests, the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute (COPRI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) supports the wide-ranging interests of engineers and other professionals in these fields. The Ports and Harbors Committee studies and disseminates information on the planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, pollution control, and technical functioning of ports and harbours.

The Committee also coordinates with port and harbour agencies on a number of engineering-related aspects:

1. Meeting the needs of the locality and those of waterborne transportation, commercial (including fishing), and recreational interests of transportation interests;
2. Planning for expansion to meet future needs;
3. Addressing environmental implications of such expansion; and
4. Engineering aspects of handling equipments and other port related facilities.

The Ports and Harbors Committee coordinates its activities directly with other committees within ASCE and COPRI, particularly with the Coastal Engineering, Coastal Zone Management, and Waterways Committees. The Committee also collaborates with the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) and Permanent International Association of Navigational Congress (PIANC).

Bi-annual Ports and Harbors Committee meetings, usually hosted by a local Port Authority, provide time for networking and planning future events, publications, and other services to the industry. The members meet over two days, with the first day devoted to task committee meetings and the second devoted to the full committee business. These task committees support a wide variety of products and services.

## Current task committees of ports and harbours

### • Ship Characteristics Data

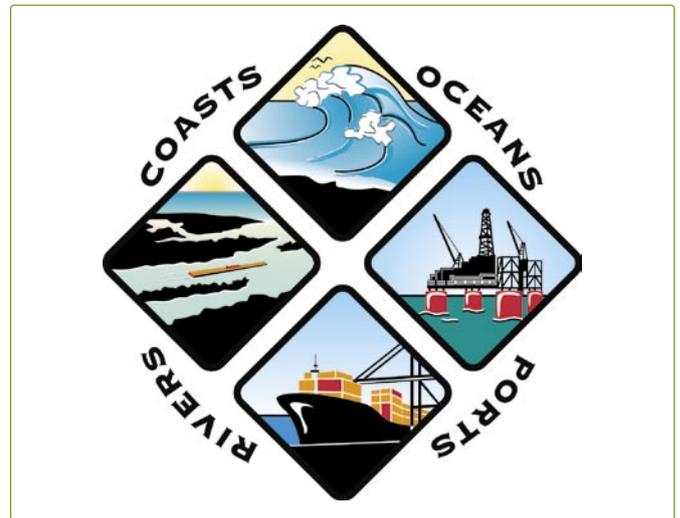
The Ship Characteristics Task Committee is currently compiling data and drawings of typical ship characteristics and sample drawings for publication as a design guideline or handbook. This information will primarily benefit engineers involved with the planning and design of waterfront facilities.

### • Mooring Analysis

Developing comprehensive guidelines that will provide direction for engineering criteria and methodologies for mooring vessels safely in ports and harbours is the focus of this group. These comprehensive guidelines will include design criteria, mooring analysis methodology, and other relevant information.

### • Port Security

The Port Security Task Committee's purpose is to provide a port perspective of the Department of Homeland Security and US Coast Guard and develop port security guidelines. This group will provide information to the engineering community, providing updates on security measures and insight into the physical applications resulting from these measures.



### • Timber Structures

The Timber Structure group develops guidelines for inspecting and protecting timber structures in marine environments.

### • Marinas 2020

This Task Committee is currently updating ASCE manual 50, *Report on Planning and Design Guidelines for Small Craft Harbors*. This manual was last revised in 1994 and many aspects of marina design and operations have changes.

### • Engineer-Diver Qualifications and Standards

The COPRI Ports and Harbors Committee's *Underwater Investigations: Standard Practice Manual* (2001) provides guidelines for facility owners and operators to conduct underwater structural assessments of waterfront facilities. The scope of the manual, however, is limited to the technical requirements for such work. The Engineer-Diver Qualification and Standards Task Committee is developing minimum standards for training and certifications of Engineer-Divers conducting underwater investigations as defined by the ASCE manual, planned to be published in 2007.



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• **Asset Management**

The Asset Management Task Committee is gathering information on asset management, summarising the principles, publishing information to specifically address port facilities, developing standard decision rules for port facilities, creating standard forms and checklists for ports, and publishing a monograph on Asset Management for Port Facilities.

**Committee members**

COPRI's Ports and Harbors Committee consists of port, military, consultant and university engineers that collaborate on issues confronting US Ports. By cooperating with their peers on a variety of technical issues, the committee provides a valuable avenue for port engineering professionals to share experience and projects.

Most participants are senior level managers in the port and consultant organisations so the work discussed is generally at a higher level. The Ports and Harbor Committee requires all of the membership to participate in at least one Task or Standing Committee and frequently attend full committee meetings.

**Addressing technical issues**

The Ports and Harbors Committee strives to address the current technical issues facing public ports and private facilities. It is imperative that its membership be well represented by engineers

that directly deal with public port issues (employees of the ports). While engineers that provide consulting services to ports understand these issues, engineers working directly for these ports have a better perspective of the political, social, and operational impacts such issues have on their individual ports.

Ports have their similarities, but each port is unique. Therefore, the committee is strengthened by a broad representation of ports. In addressing these issues, the Ports and Harbors Committee puts forward ideas and suggested practices that often become standards and even may be codified into law. Without the participation of a variety of ports, the standards may not take into consideration the differing conditions from port to port. Therefore, active participation from all ports is encouraged.

Every three years, the Ports and Harbors Committee hosts the Ports™ Conference ([www.portsconference.org](http://www.portsconference.org)). This year, Ports™ 2007 will be the eleventh in a series of international port and harbour development specialty conferences. Held at the La Costa Resort, north of San Diego, California, March 25-28, the conference will feature technical short courses, plenary session, concurrent technical sessions, exhibitions, and technical field tours to sites of interest in San Diego Harbor. The theme of Ports™ 2007 is '30 years of sharing ideas – 1997 to 2007.' We strongly urge the international community to attend this year's conference at the La Costa Resort, north of San Diego, CA, and to participate in the future Ports™ conferences.

**ABOUT THE ORGANISATIONS**

The **Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (COPRI)** was created in 2000 as an Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the oldest national engineering society. COPRI works to advance and disseminate scientific and engineering knowledge to its diverse membership engaged in sustainable development and the protection of coasts, oceans, ports, waterways, and wetlands. Founded in 1852, ASCE represents more than 137,000 civil engineers worldwide and is America's oldest national engineering society. ASCE celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2002.

**ENQUIRIES**

People interested in joining the COPRI Ports and Harbors Committee should send a letter of introduction and recent CV to:

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Contact Lesa Rair at [lrair@asce.org](mailto:lrair@asce.org) or +1 703 295 6370 for more information on COPRI membership opportunities.

Website: [www.coprinstitute.org](http://www.coprinstitute.org)