



For Immediate Release

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Port of Palm Beach Celebrates Western Hemisphere Ports Day

April 5 marks day of recognition for port contributions to regional economy

(Riviera Beach, FL) – Port of Palm Beach today announced its participation in Western Hemisphere Ports Day on April 5, a day of recognition acknowledging the industry’s role in job creation and economic prosperity, as well as its commitment to education, training and environmental stewardship initiatives on behalf of the communities served across the Americas.

Led by the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) together with the Association of Canadian Port Authorities under the banner “United for the Future,” Port of Palm Beach joins hundreds of ports in North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean to highlight and celebrate the value of ports.

“We’re pleased to recognize Ports Day as part of our ongoing commitment to remind our community and its leaders about the important role we play in Palm Beach County and as a vital link to the global economy,” said Executive Director Manuel Almira. “Like ports worldwide, our work continues to support a strong workforce, a vibrant community and a growing economy.”

According to IHS World Trade Service, combined international sea trade moving through Western Hemisphere ports in 2014 totaled 3.48 billion metric tons in volume and US\$3.75 trillion in value. Of that total, ports in Central and South America handled 1.68 billion metric tons of cargo valued at US\$1.36 trillion, while North American ports handled 1.79 billion metric tons of goods, valued at US\$2.39 trillion.

However, the economic worth of all cargo in terms of jobs and business activity is much greater than its market value. According to Martin Associates of Lancaster, Pa., the total economic value of port activity in the U.S. alone in 2014 was \$4.6 trillion.

“We’re proud to recognize members like Port of Palm Beach in celebration of Western Hemisphere Ports Day,” said AAPA President and CEO Kurt Nagle. “On behalf of workers, farmers, employers, manufacturers and consumers everywhere, our ports are truly united for the future.”

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For more information about Western Hemisphere Ports Day, visit www.aapa-ports.org.

About Port of Palm Beach

Port of Palm Beach is a full-service, diversified port, offering cruise and cargo services to more than 30 onsite tenants and users. At only 162 acres, the port's efficiency is unparalleled – Port of Palm Beach processes over \$7 billion in commodities, over 2 million tons of cargoes and more than 350,000 cruise passengers annually. More than 2,850 people are employed by the Port of Palm Beach and its tenants, making it one of the largest employers in Palm Beach County. And through the contribution of more than \$185 million in business revenue and \$17.5 million in tenant-contributed state and local annual tax revenue, it is one of the largest economic engines in South Florida.