



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **NAEGA MAP Trip Report – DBTG Executive Committee Meeting – Gijon, Spain**

**Name of Traveler:** Jerry Cotter, NAEGA Senior Advisor

**Dates of Travel:** January 10-14, 2017

### **Purpose of Travel:**

Consistent with its UES objectives, NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter traveled to Gijon, Spain on January 10-14, 2017 to represent NAEGA and participate in the Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting of the International Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG).

Through his position on the DBTG Executive Committee, Mr. Cotter acts to lead and contribute his significant expertise on the international measures related to GRNOS cargoes labeling and handling. Mr. Cotter leads NAEGA and global industry efforts to monitor and engage in several critical aspects related to transportation and GRNOS. The DBTG is a critical and credible source of information, cooperation and influence at both the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). Over the past year, Mr. Cotter has been working closely with the International Bulk Terminals Association (IBTA), the sister organization of the DBTG, to address and inform on the activities of the GHS and IMO Committee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC). Both bodies are addressing explosive dust cargoes and relevant shipment materials designations and management.

Mr. Cotter is currently transitioning away from active work with NAEGA. As a result, NAEGA is considering its future engagement strategy with the DBTG regarding international regulatory issues at the IMO and GHS. NAEGA leadership is evaluating how future engagement with the DBTG should work and what policy files to engage with. A future engagement strategy could involve increased participation from the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), which NAEGA holds a leadership role in, at the IMO and GHS. At the Executive Committee meeting, Mr. Cotter gathered information on the value of the NAEGA-DBTG Memorandum of Understanding and the future of the relationship.

### **Summary of Findings**

The DBTG Executive Committee met on January 13. DBTG Chairman Mr. Han Ozturk was unable to attend due to a sudden illness in his family. Mr. Gene Taft, Vice Chairman, conducted the meeting. Due to the cancellation of the September 2016 meeting in Manilla, a significant portion of the meeting was devoted to developing a strong program for the upcoming March 28-31, 2017 Annual Meeting in Gijon, Spain.

In addition to the meeting in Gijon, participants will be provided the opportunity to visit and tour the TASA grain facility in Santander, Spain, roughly 115 miles east of Gijon. This is the only member of the DBTG currently operating a grain importing facility in Europe. Mr. Andres Gomez Bueno, Director General, Gof, S.A, has extended the invitation, including transportation to Gijon following the visit.

On the policy side, one item of particular interest was the IMO Ballast Water Management



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regulations going into effect in September of this year. Nicolas Ingle, Executive Director, DBTG, distributed an informational paper for review. These regulations impact all ports as well as facilities. There will be an extended presentation and discussion on the reception and handling of ballast water during the March DBTG Annual Meeting in Gijon. Where and how ballast water can be discharged will depend on where the water was taken on board and if any cargo residue is incorporated in the water.

Mr. Ingle and Mr. Taft also reported on the successful member recruiting trip to the New Orleans area. Mr. Ingle was hosted by Mr. Taft, President, Summit Marine Services, and Mr. Scott Becnel, Cooper Consolidated. Due to the short length of the trip, Mr. Ingle was unable to visit any of the grain terminals in the area.

Following the report from Mr. Ingle about his member recruitment visit in New Orleans, Mr. Cotter raised the issue on the future of the DBTG-NAEGA relationship. There was unanimous support for maintaining the strategic relationship with NAEGA through the current memorandum of understanding. The DBTG ExCom expressed its support for the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) obtaining NGO status with the IMO and other UN bodies. The two organizations have common interests and can provide mutual support on matters impacting their positions. Mr. Ingles has also offered assistance to the IGTC in submitting and supporting the application for NGO Status.

The ExCom members look forward to continue working with NAEGA. They further stated that Mr. Cotter will be missed, they look forward to working with NAEGA Director of Operations Ryan Olson and the IGTC Secretariat Katy Lee.

Following discussion on the future of the DBTG-NAEGA relationship, the committee move to set a date for its next meeting. The committee agreed to hold the next meeting of the DBTG Operation Meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay in conjunction with the AAPA Latin American Congress of Ports meeting.

**Recommendations**

As NAEGA moves forward with Mr. Cotter’s transition away from active participation, NAEGA should continue to engage with the DBTG and related international regulatory issues at the IMO and GHS. Participation should include active engagement at ExCom and Operational Meetings. In addition, NAEGA should work with DBTG Executive Director Nicolas Ingle to the IGTC to support IGTC efforts to achieve recognition at the IMO and other international regulatory bodies. NAEGA and IGTC should utilize any assistance and support the DBTG can provide.

On a policy front, NAEGA should continue to monitor the IMO’s Ballast Water Management regulations and survey membership on the impact of the regulation on the trade. The survey should be prepared in time for discussion at the Summer’s Operational Meeting.

**Attachments:**

- IMO Ballast Water Management regulations informational paper from Nicolas Ingle, Executive Director, DBTG