

# Federal Maritime Commission

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# FMC Predecessor Agencies

1916-1936 - United States Shipping Board



1936-1951- United States Maritime Commission



1951-1961- Federal Maritime Board



# Federal Maritime Commission -independent agency- *1961 – present*



# FMC's Mission

- Foster a fair, efficient, and secure maritime transportation system.
- Protect American importers, exporters, and consumers from unfair practices of ocean carriers.
- Ensure statutory compliance by passenger cruise vessels, freight forwarders, household good movers, and other licensed/regulated parties.
- Resolve disputes involving ocean carriers or freight forwarders (CADRS).



# History of Laws Implemented by FMC

- 1916 - United States Shipping Board
  - Shipping Act, 1916
  - Merchant Marine Act, 1920 (“Jones Act”)
- 1961- Federal Maritime Commission – created as an independent regulatory agency
  - Controlled Carrier Act, 1978
  - Foreign Shipping Practices Act, 1988
  - Shipping Act of 1984
  - Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 (OSRA)



# Organization of the FMC

- Five Commissioners
  - Nominated by President
  - Confirmed by Senate
  - Staggered 5 year terms
  - No more than 3 of President's party
- Chairman designated by President
  - Current Commissioners:
    - Mario Cordero, CA (Chairman, D); Rebecca F. Dye, VA (R); Richard A. Lidinsky, Jr., MD (D); Michael A. Khouri, KY (R); William P. Doyle, MA (D)
- 130 Employees
  - Headquarters in DC
  - Field Offices in New York, Miami, New Orleans, Houston, Los Angeles, and Seattle



# FMC: Promoting Globalization 1961 - 2015

- Nurtured containerization.
- Pressed conferences to recognize container potential.
- Permitted intermodal dual-rate movement.
- Fostered supply chain growth.
- Adjusting regulation to current transport reality.



# Why The FMC Is Needed

## US Waterborne Commerce

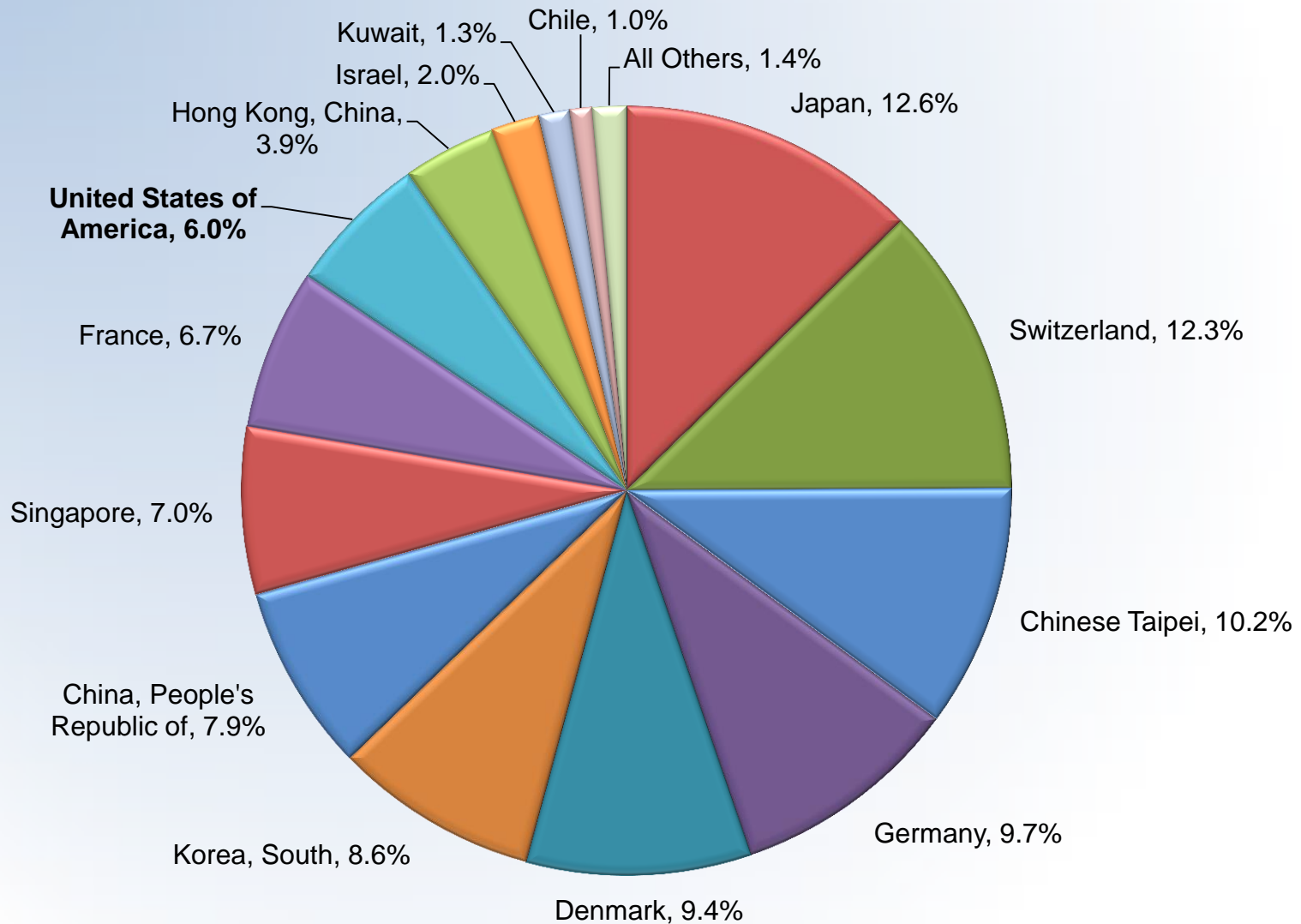
	1916	<u>1961</u>
US Vessel Service	17,928 (35%)	31,144 (19%)
Foreign Flag Service	33,744 (65%)	135,404 (81%)





# US Liner Trade by Nationality of Vessel Operator, 2014

## Total Trade: 30,995,288 TEU



Source: FMC/BTA using PIERS  
Interactive/Sea-Web/AXS-AlphaLiner



# Current Goals for FMC

- Refocus agency actions to support American *exporters, importers, and consumers.*
- Continued monitoring of impact of newly formed Alliances and their practices.
- Port Congestion – impact on importers & exporters.
- Continue monitoring the impact of rising port demurrage and detention charges, due to increasing congestion brought on by the introduction of the Alliances larger vessels.



# Pending Matters

- Modernizing and streamlining Commission rules and regulations.
- Canadian Cargo Diversion and harbor maintenance tax.
- Vigilance against **foreign practices** intended to harm our waterborne supply chain, and cruise line passengers.
- Preventing internet consumer fraud on automobile, household goods, and other personal shipments.
- Working with foreign shippers and governments to harmonize our regulatory efforts and goals.



Thank you for your Interest.  
You can follow our activities at:

[www.fmc.gov](http://www.fmc.gov)

