

Ahoy Port Moody!

All about the ships at port

You live in 'Port' Moody, but how much do you know about the types of ships that come to our port, where they come from, or how many vessels visit our city each year?

Pacific Coast Terminals Co. Ltd. (PCT) – the port in Port Moody – is visited by ships that carry sulphur and ethylene glycol to other ports all over the world.

As a shipping terminal, PCT temporarily stores sulphur and ethylene glycol transported by train from Alberta until a ship arrives to take the products to their final international destination. PCT has special machinery to load these solid and liquid materials onto the ships.

Read on to find out more about the ships that visit our city's port.

Sulphur

Most of the ships that transport sulphur are in a class called "Panamax". This class of vessel is the maximum size of ship that can safely traverse the Panama Canal. There are many types of Panamax size vessels, including some container and cruise ships. However, the Panamax vessels that load at Port Moody's berths are 'bulk carriers'. You might see the Panamax Dawn, Panamax Otter or the Capt George L harboured at PCT next time you drive by.

The Panamax vessels can hold as much as 70,000 metric tonnes. In comparison, the mountains of sulphur at PCT represent 220,000 tonnes of sulphur,



Bulk Carrier: these vessels carry sulphur from PCT to international destinations.

"Most ships that transport sulphur are in a class called 'Panamax'... the maximum size of ship that can safely traverse the Panama Canal."



Bulk Carrier from above: the ships that come to PCT usually have seven giant hatches, or holds, in which the sulphur is loaded and transported.

when PCT is at full storage capacity.

The ships that come to PCT usually have seven hatches, or holds, in which the sulphur is loaded.

With a vessel that can carry as much as 70,000 tonnes of sulphur, it is under-

standable that loading the ship has to be carefully planned. Prior to loading, the captain and the first officer determine the loading plan for the ship. They must ensure all hatches are filled sequentially during the loading process, to avoid unbalancing the ship at any stage.

PCT loads 2,500 tonnes of sulphur per hour into a ship. Since the average shipload is about 42,000 tonnes, it usually takes 18 to 24 hours to fill a ship for its journey.

In a given year, roughly 100 ships may visit Port Moody at PCT, and export approximately four million tonnes of sulphur.

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Liquid Tanker: the Matsukaze is a liquid tanker that exports ethylene glycol from PCT.

Ethylene Glycol

Because ethylene glycol is transported in a liquid form, it must be loaded and transported differently than sulphur. Ethylene glycol is usually shipped in a mid-size tanker that can hold up to 40,000 metric tonnes. However, the ships rarely carry glycol alone, and the average ship leaving PCT holds about 12,000 tonnes of ethylene glycol.

PCT is able to load about 800 tonnes of ethylene glycol into a ship per hour, so it takes around 18 hours to load. Once again, the ethylene glycol is held in several small compartments to ensure the stability of the ship as it sails.

Approximately 80 tankers export nearly one million tonnes of ethylene glycol from Port Moody each year.

There is a lot to learn about the ships that visit Port Moody, and PCT's role as an international export terminal. For more information, visit www.pct.ca.



Liquid Tanker from above: the Matsukaze's tanks and manifold compartments.



Did you know

Sailors and ships from all over the world visit PCT, here are a few of the nationalities represented:



Greece



Russia



Philippines



Ukraine



China



Japan



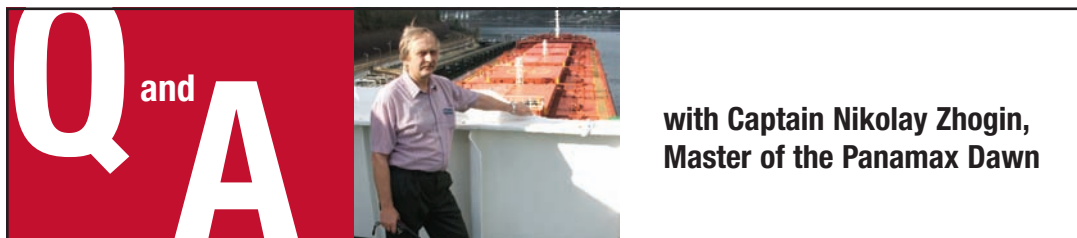
Korea



India

Have you seen a flag on a ship and wondered what country it was from?

Visit PCT's website (www.pct.ca/aboutus/links.htm) for a link to a flag identification web site.



Captain Nikolay Zhogin was recently in port at Pacific Coast Terminals Co. Ltd. and took time to answer a few questions about his stay in Port Moody and, of course, fill his ship with sulphur bound for the Fangcheng and Zhanjiang ports in China.

Q: How long have you been sailing?

A: I've been a sailor for more than 25 years.

Q: Why did you decide to become a sailor?

A: My father was a captain, and I'm carrying on the family tradition.

Q: How often does your ship come to PCT?

A: Once every two months. There is a line of ships, travelling back and forth. It takes 20 days to sail to China, two to three weeks to unload in China, and 20 days to sail back. We're at PCT for only one

week when we return to Canada; it takes nearly four times as long to discharge the material as it does to load it. We usually have to unload at two ports in China, at minimum, and because the unloading process is different from loading, it takes a longer time.

Q: How many people are on board for these sailings?

A: We have 26 crew members. The people are from many countries; some from the Philippines, some from Ukraine, and I am from Russia.


Q: When you are in Port, do you visit the city?

A: Of course. From time to time we go to Vancouver, but Vancouver is very far. We also go to Coquitlam Shopping Centre.

Q: What is special about Port Moody?

A: The landscape is nice, and the mountains and water are beautiful.

Q: As Captain, what is the most interesting part of your job?

A: I enjoy the many different tasks in my job. Today we are loading, tomorrow I'll need to look at the route we must take and check the weather. In narrow places I need to make sure that we are passing safely. There is always something new; the job is not routine. All the time, there are new places to go, new people to meet, and this is nice. 



The Panamax Dawn loads sulphur at PCT.

The Port's City Scene

Spring Pollen Message

Spring is in the air! Literally. Port Moody residents might notice a yellow tint on their vehicles. Rest assured that the yellow specks on your car and deck are pollen, not sulphur.

Arborist Clifford Hoegler of BC Plant Health Care Inc. explains that the cottonwood trees and viburnum shrub in the Lower Mainland are the biggest culprits for the pollen we see from March to May each year.


In fact, PCT has special dust control systems in place that prevent product dust from escaping as it moves, from train to ship, through the terminal.



Fingerling Festival

PCT is proud to sponsor the Port Moody Ecological Society's Fingerling Festival this May. An exciting learning experience for the whole family, 30,000 chum salmon fry will be released into Noons Creek. Come out and help keep local rivers alive and well!

Congratulations

PCT would like to congratulate James Moore of the Conservative Party, who was re-elected in January to his third term as Member of Parliament for the Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam riding. 

Festival of the Arts

The Port Moody Festival of the Arts will take place on March 31 – April 9, 2006. PCT is proud to support the Art 4 U Day on Sunday, April 9th. Paint garbage cans with the Mayor & Council! Hands-on group art, face painting, crafts for kids, great food and more!

PCT scholarships for grads

Know someone who is graduating from Port Moody Secondary School or Heritage Woods Secondary School this year? Make sure they know about PCT's \$1000 scholarships for Port Moody graduates. All scholarship applications must be received at PCT by April 30th, 2006.

Food for Thought



We're looking for feedback on Channel's new look. What's in it for you? A chance to win one of two prizes; a free lunch or a \$100 gift certificate for Saint St. Grill.

Log on to www.pct.ca and complete the six question survey on the newsletter, Channels, and you will automatically be entered to win. All questionnaires must be completed by March 31, 2006.

Contact Information

Channels is published quarterly by:
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Your comments and contributions are welcome. Please forward them to: Ken Catton, Vice-President and General Manager or email: pctinfo@pct.ca

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