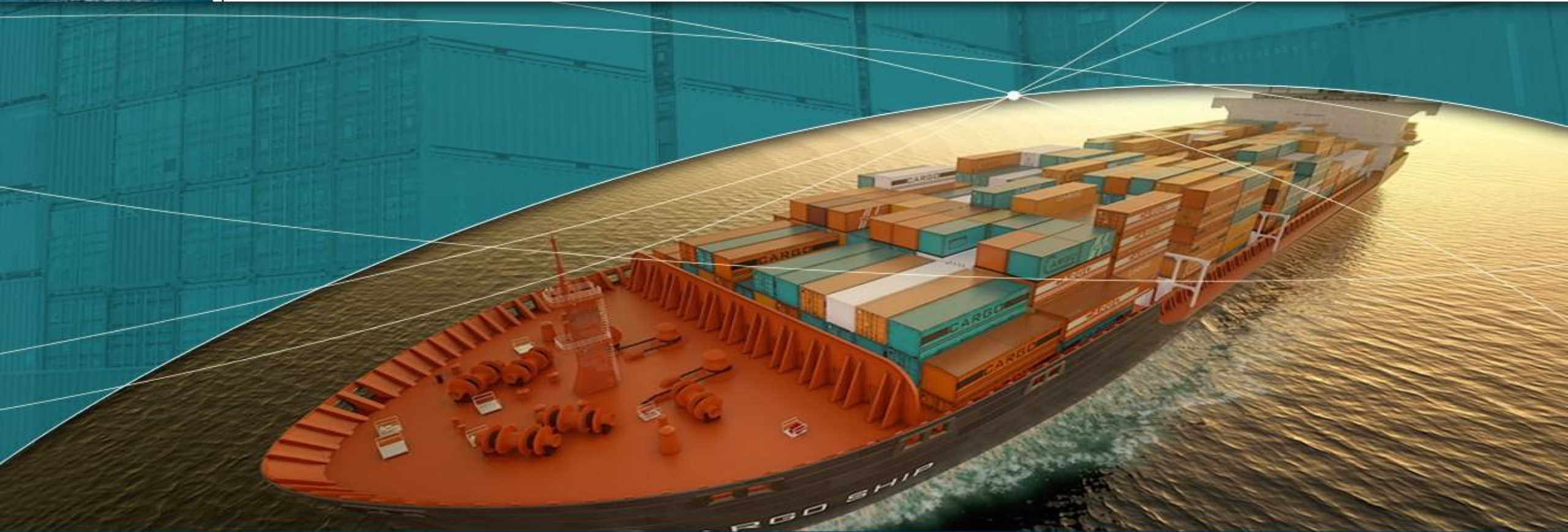




FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Commissioner Max Vekich

April 9, 2026





Commissioner Max Vekich

- **ILWU – 50 Years Working the Docks**
 - **Supercargo**
 - **Chair of Legislative Committee**
- **Washington State Representative**
- **FMC Commissioner**







Food for Thought

- “He who commands the sea has command of everything.” Themistocles
- “Sea power protects lines of communications for commerce and war making. It is the preeminent method to assert national power.” Alfred Thayer Mahan
- “Amateurs talk strategy. Professionals talk logistics.” General Omar Bradley



Roadmap

- FMC Background
- Protection of U.S. Trades
- FMC Priorities/Initiatives





About the FMC

- **Independent Regulatory Agency**

- **Mission Statement:**

Ensure a competitive and reliable international ocean transportation supply system that supports the U.S. economy and protects the public from unfair and deceptive practices.

- **Ensure Economic Security**



Purposes of the Shipping Act

- Establish a nondiscriminatory process with minimum government intervention and cost;
- Provide efficient and economic transportation system;
- Encourage development of U.S. flag liner fleet for national security needs; and
- Promote growth of U.S. exports with reliance on marketplace.



FMC Priorities

- Protecting U.S. Trades from Adverse Foreign Influence
- Ensuring Stability in U.S. Trades
- Protecting the Interests of U.S. Stakeholders





Protecting U.S. Trades from Adverse Foreign Influence

- Spain
- Chokepoints
- Flags of Convenience
- Chinese Ship Detention (Monitoring)



Ensuring Stability and Fairness in U.S. Trades

- Special Permission Requests
 - War Risk Surcharges
 - Bunker Surcharges
- Unreasonable Refusal to Deal & Retaliation
 - \$18m penalty against major carrier
- Unreasonable Practices (NORs) and Detention and Demurrage
 - \$22m Penalty



Upcoming Items of Interest

- Addressing Earliest Return Dates (ERDs)
- Support Closing the Land-Border Loophole
- NSAC Update



Questions?

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