

Port of Vancouver USA Launches Cyber Security Information Sharing Group for Lower Columbia River

VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON, US, May 4, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- According to the United States Coast Guard, there were over 500 major operational cyber-attacks that occurred in the marine industry in 2020, directly affecting the 25,000 miles of navigable channels in the U.S. Recognizing the severity of the issue and that cargo activities at U.S. seaports account for 26 percent of the U.S. economy, the [Maritime Transportation System Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (MTS-ISAC) was formed to combat the rising threat from these bad actors.

According to the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), the Columbia Snake River System is responsible for transporting more than [50 million tons of cargo, annually](#). To address the cybersecurity issue among ports located along the Lower Columbia River, the [Port of Vancouver USA](#) and the MTS-ISAC have successfully launched the Lower Columbia River Maritime Information Exchange (LCR-MIX).

The primary mission of the LCR-MIX is to enhance communication and collaboration on cyber threat activity among regional stakeholders and to provide early situational awareness



Port of Vancouver USA



LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER MARITIME
INFORMATION EXCHANGE

and best practice adoption to prevent incidents.

“So often the partners and stakeholders within the Lower Columbia River are using the same vendors, service providers and often are working with the same business contacts,” said Chris Carter, Information Security Analyst for the Port of Vancouver USA. “A compromise can have cascading consequences and put the entire supply chain at risk. By partnering with the MTS-ISAC, LCR-MIX members are actively consuming and producing actionable cyber threat intelligence, sourced locally and from other MTS stakeholders from around the globe.”

“The MTS-ISAC provides us with actionable intelligence in a timely manner. Their focus on privacy encourages the open exchange of information and the regional scope of the LCR-MIX means that the information is relevant in our daily operations,” added Christopher Hunt, IT Director, Port of Grays Harbor.

“We are thrilled to be working with the LCR-MIX. Often, our peers think public information sharing is complicated but it doesn’t have to be,” said Christy Coffey, VP of Operations for the MTS-ISAC. “Under thoughtful leadership provided by Port of Vancouver USA, this sixth Information Exchange has rapidly come together and is already increasing early situational awareness amongst its members and making our entire MTS-ISAC community stronger. We are grateful for this partnership.”

The MTS-ISAC, a nonprofit formed in February 2020, has seen rapid adoption of its Cybersecurity Information Sharing Services. The LCR-MIX is the sixth cybersecurity Information Exchange of eight to launch since the inception of this program in early 2021.

About Port of Vancouver USA: Strategically located at a major nexus of ocean and river shipping lanes, two interstate highways, and a continent-spanning rail network, the Port of Vancouver USA is a dynamic hub of global trade and the multipurpose port authority for Vancouver, Washington. Established in 1912, the Port of Vancouver USA is a leader in marine and industrial business. The ideal gateway for connecting Asia and South America to the US midcontinent and Canada, the port handles more than 7 million tons of cargo each year, including wheat, mineral and liquid bulks, vehicles, and a broad range of project cargo.

<https://www.portvanusa.com/about/>

About MTS-ISAC: The Maritime Transportation System Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MTS-ISAC) promotes and facilitates maritime cybersecurity information sharing, awareness, training, and collaboration efforts between private and public sector stakeholders. Its mission is to effectively reduce cyber risk across the MTS community through improved identification, protection, detection, response, and recovery efforts. For more information, visit

<https://www.mtsisac.org/>

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