BIG DATA – APPLICATIONS IN FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

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ABSTRACT
Freight transportation, with its continuous movement of ships, barges, trucks, and trains, is well-suited for applications of "big data" methods. This seminar presents examples of how detailed data on the movement of freight vessels has been used to conduct analyses for improving operations, safety, and environmental impacts. At a broader level, the discussion also will show the strengths and weaknesses of emerging data analytics methods.

BIOGRAPHY
In 2019, Mr. Scheffler launched his new career as an independent consultant in transportation economics and safety, following his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard. From 2008-2018 he served as an economist for USCG, where he conducted analyses for proposed rules, and was a member of teams managing contracted research projects. From 2017-2018, Mr. Scheffler served as Chief Economist shifting from serving as a Coast Guard Marine Transportation Specialist.

Prior to his Coast Guard tenure, Mr. Scheffler served on the staff of the American Waterways Operators (AWO), the national trade association of the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry, from 2001-2008. At AWO he developed statistics about the industry and conducted analyses to support industry safety programs.

From 1997-2001, Mr. Scheffler was with the U.S. Census Bureau, on the staff of the Administrative Records Research Team for the 2000 Census. The Team developed processes to integrate large-scale data files ("big data" in today's terms) and imputation models for missing data. From 1989-1997, Mr. Scheffler was on the staff of the Association of American Railroads where he worked on projects involving asset utilization and safety.

Mr. Scheffler currently is enrolled in the Masters program in Data Analytics at University of Maryland University College (UMUC). His previously earned a M.S. in Computer Systems Management and a B.S. in Economics, also from UMUC.