

When recession ends, will container ships come back to Seattle and Tacoma?

By John McLaurin

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THE international container shipping business, which supports tens of thousands of Pacific Northwest jobs, nose-dived along with other sectors of the economy during this terrible recession. The question some observers are now asking is, when the world economy recovers, will the ports here be left behind.

The post-recession competitive challenges facing the international trade community, like those facing the aerospace industry here, relate primarily to cost and choice.

Hundreds of giant container ships are idled around the world. Carriers have already lost billions of dollars and many companies are teetering on bankruptcy. Container traffic across the docks in Seattle and Tacoma is dropping by double digits. Thousands of ship crews, dock workers, truckers, rail workers, and warehouse clerks have lost their jobs.

To read the full story, please go to:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2010270652_quest15mclaurin.html