

Mega-Ships: still for the common good?

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“The Impact of Mega-Ships” Report



The Impact of Mega-Ships



Case-Specific Policy Analysis



The Impact of Mega-Ships

Container ships have grown incessantly over the last decades due to a continuous search for economies of scale by shipping lines. In the past this has contributed to decreasing maritime transport costs that facilitated global trade. The increase in container ship sizes and the speed with which that happens has consequences for the rest of the transport chain. They require infrastructure adaptations and productivity levels that increase costs for port operators, port authorities and other stakeholders in the supply chain. Moreover, mega-ships cause peaks in ports and put a strain on hinterland transports. Has a tipping point been reached, where further increases in ship size result in disproportionately higher port and hinterland costs? What are the impacts of mega-ships for the whole transport chain, and what could be done to optimise the use of mega-ships and mitigate negative impacts? This study aims to answer these questions through a detailed assessment of the consequences of mega-ships for the different parts of the transport chains: maritime transport, ports, terminals and hinterland transport.

This report is part of the International Transport Forum's Case-Specific Policy Analysis series. These are topical studies on specific issues carried out by the ITF in agreement with local institutions.

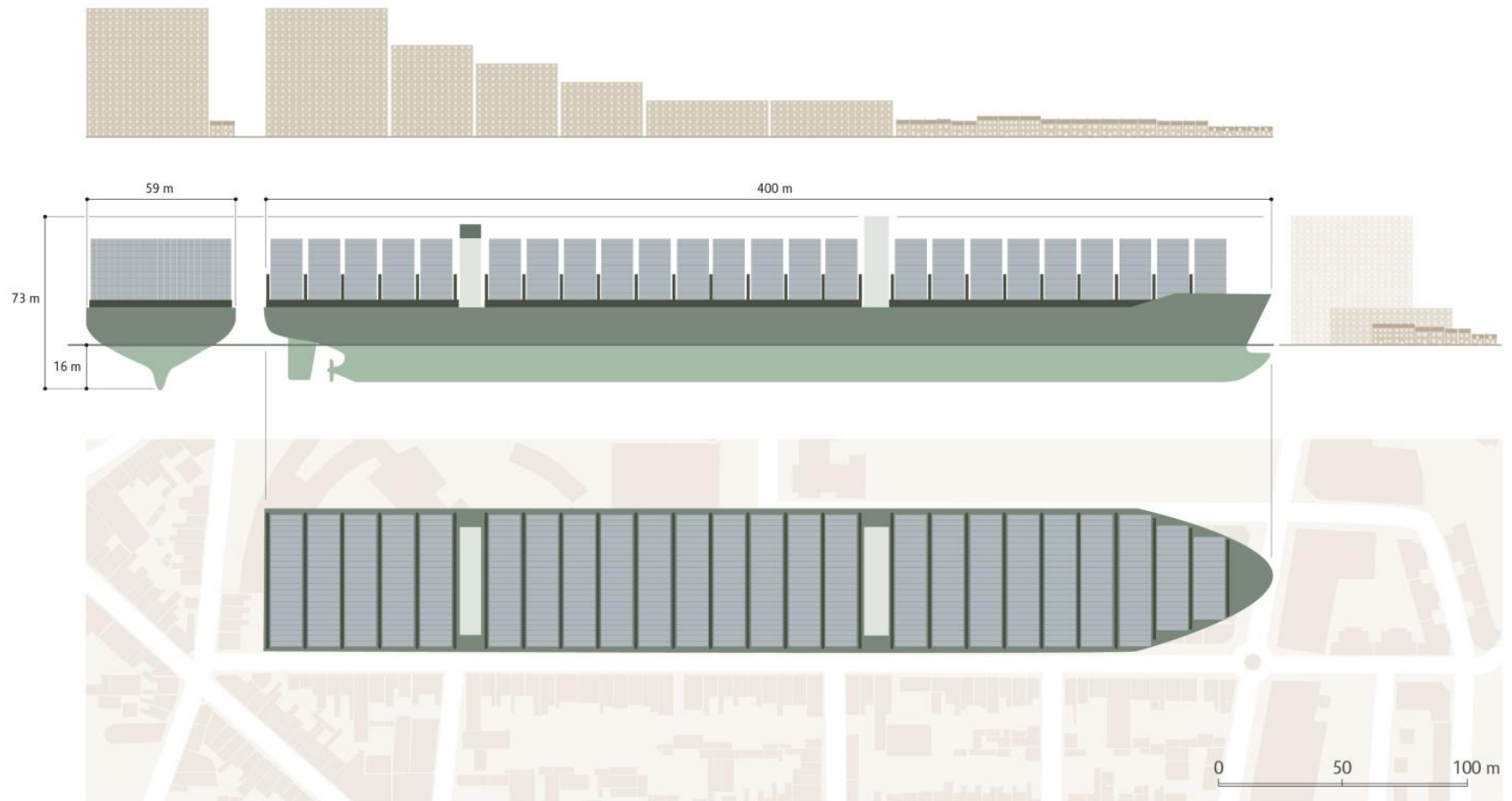
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Mega-ships

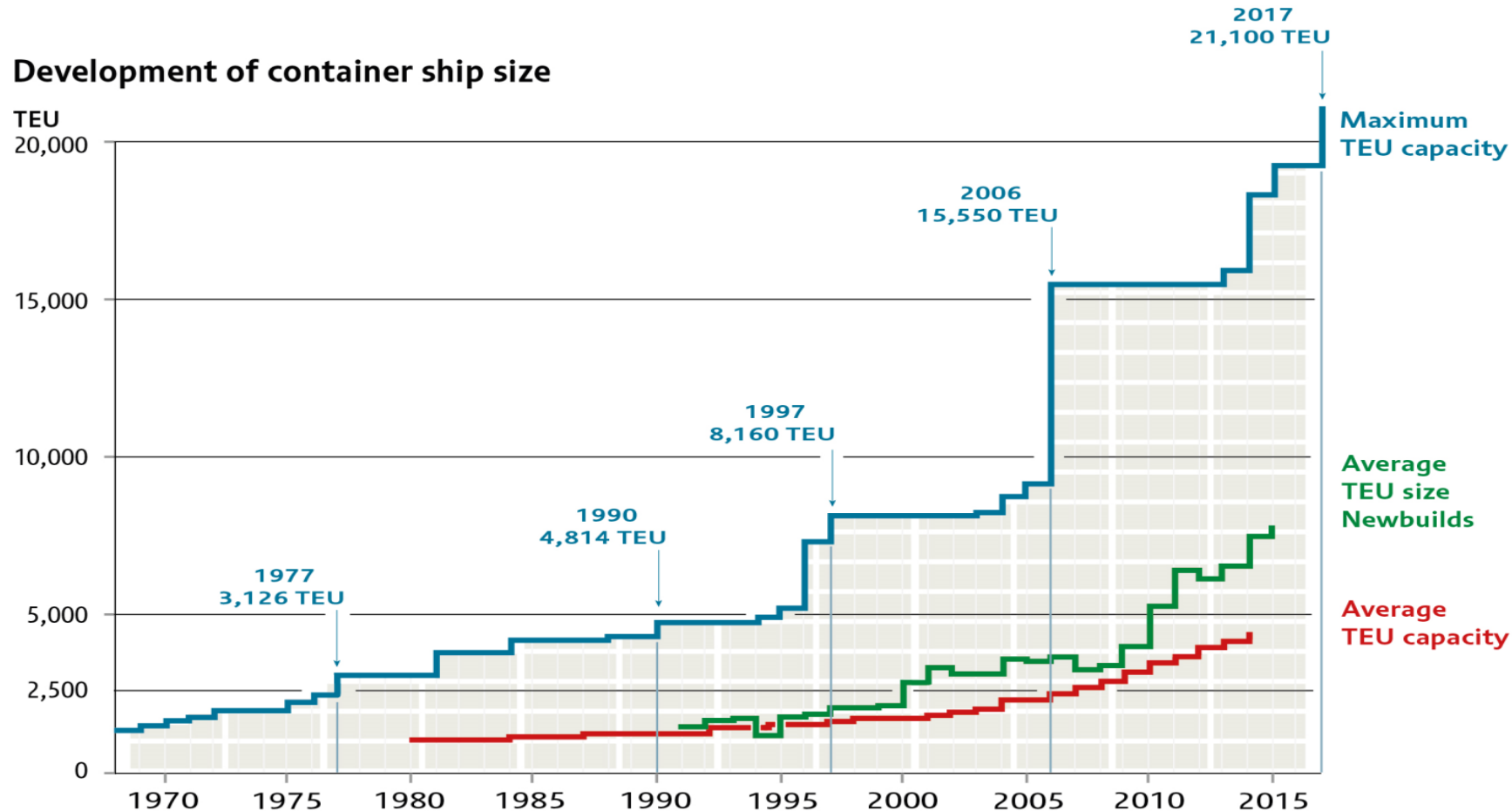
- Where are we?
- How did we get here?
- What is the issue?
- Where are we heading?
- How to make this work?

Where are we?

How big are mega-ships?

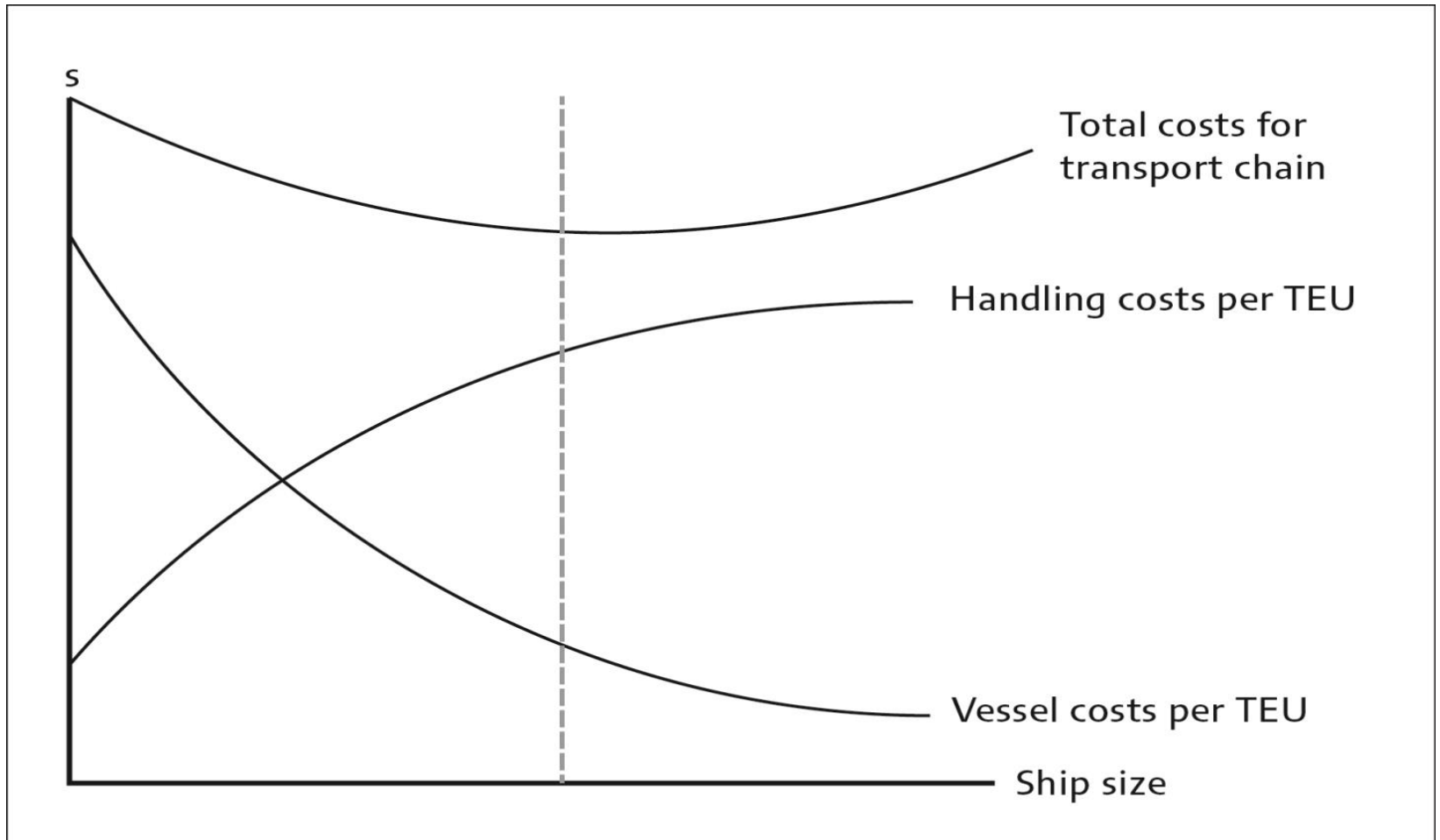


How did we get here?

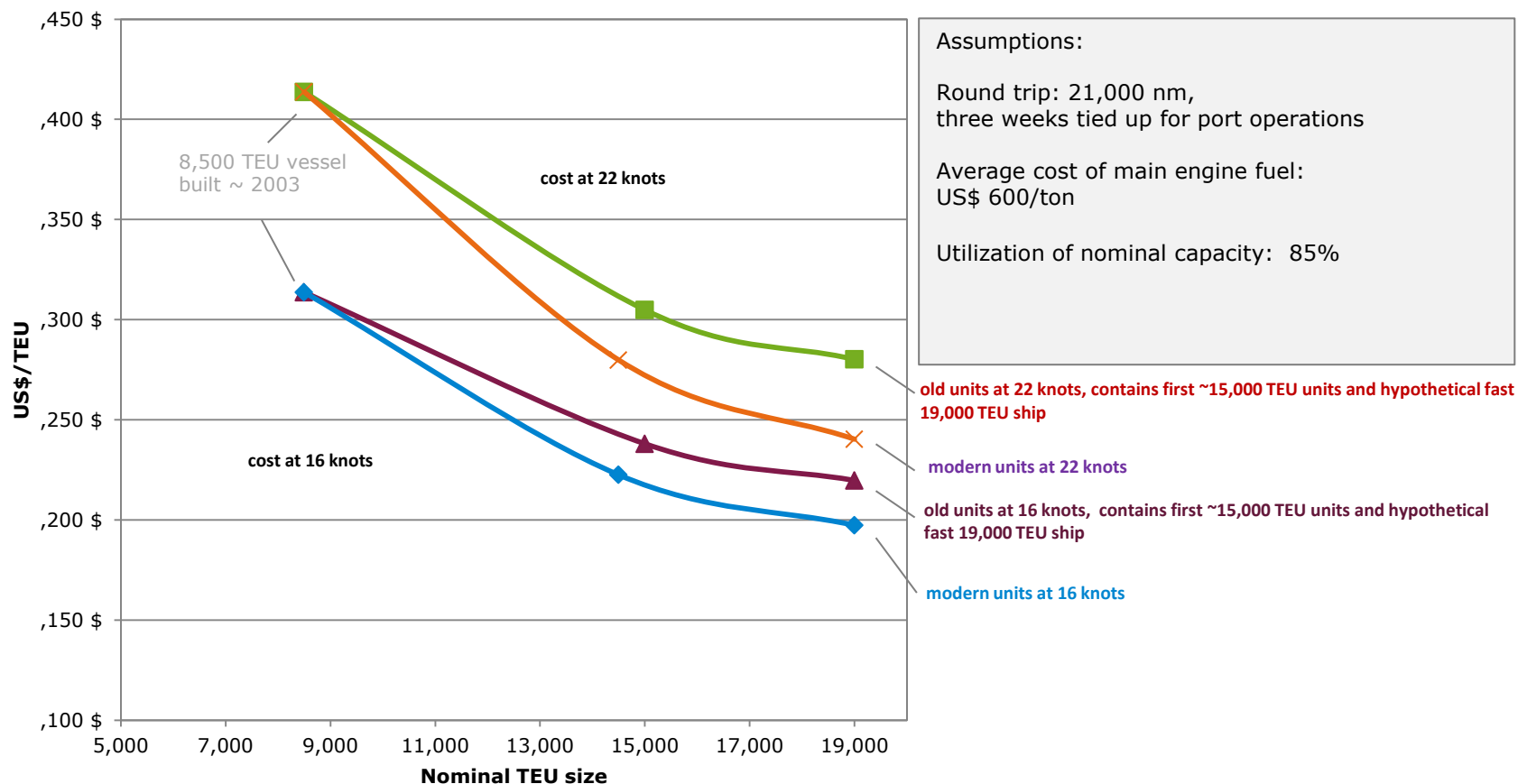


Source: OECD/ITF based on data from Clarkson Research Services

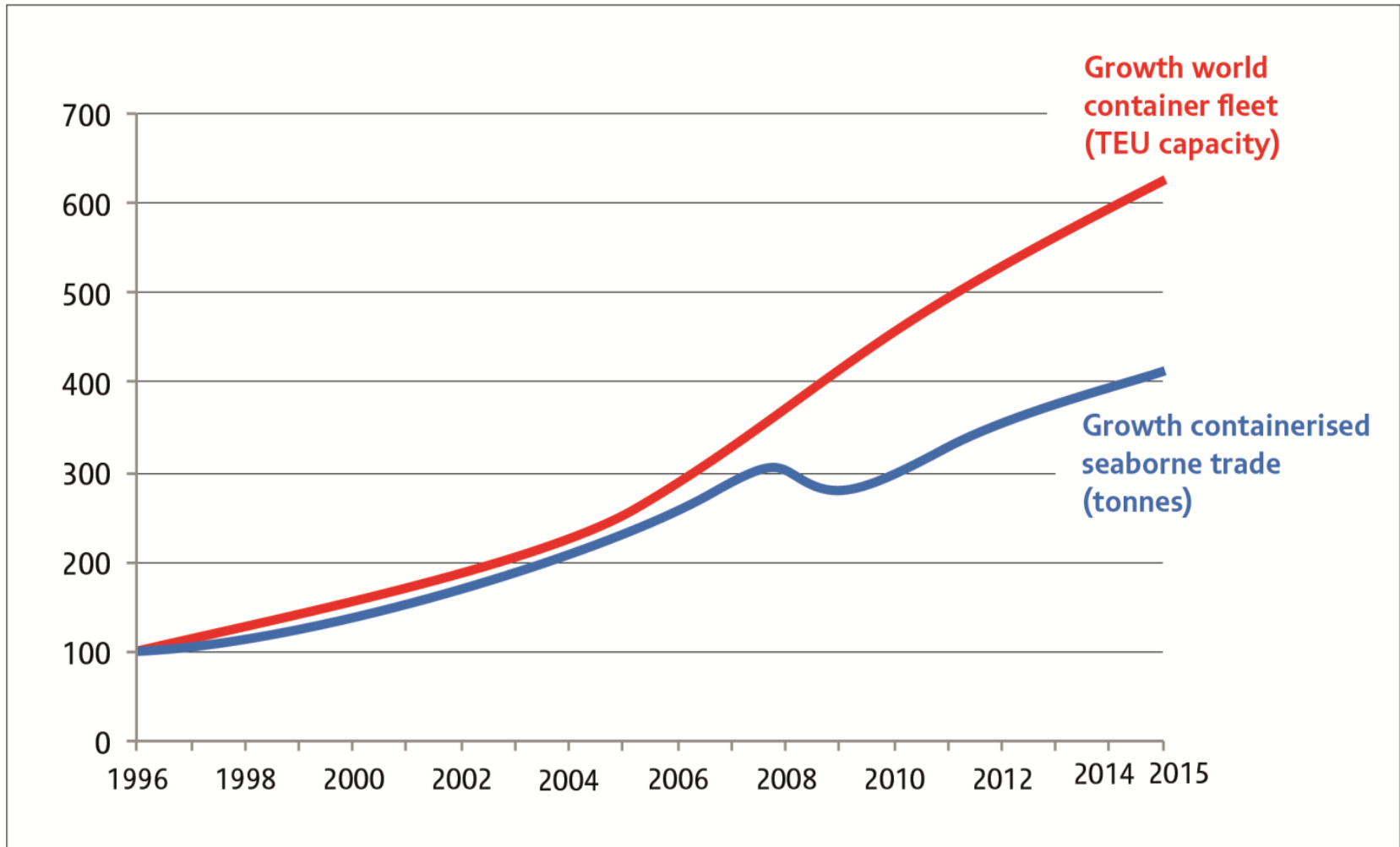
What is the issue?



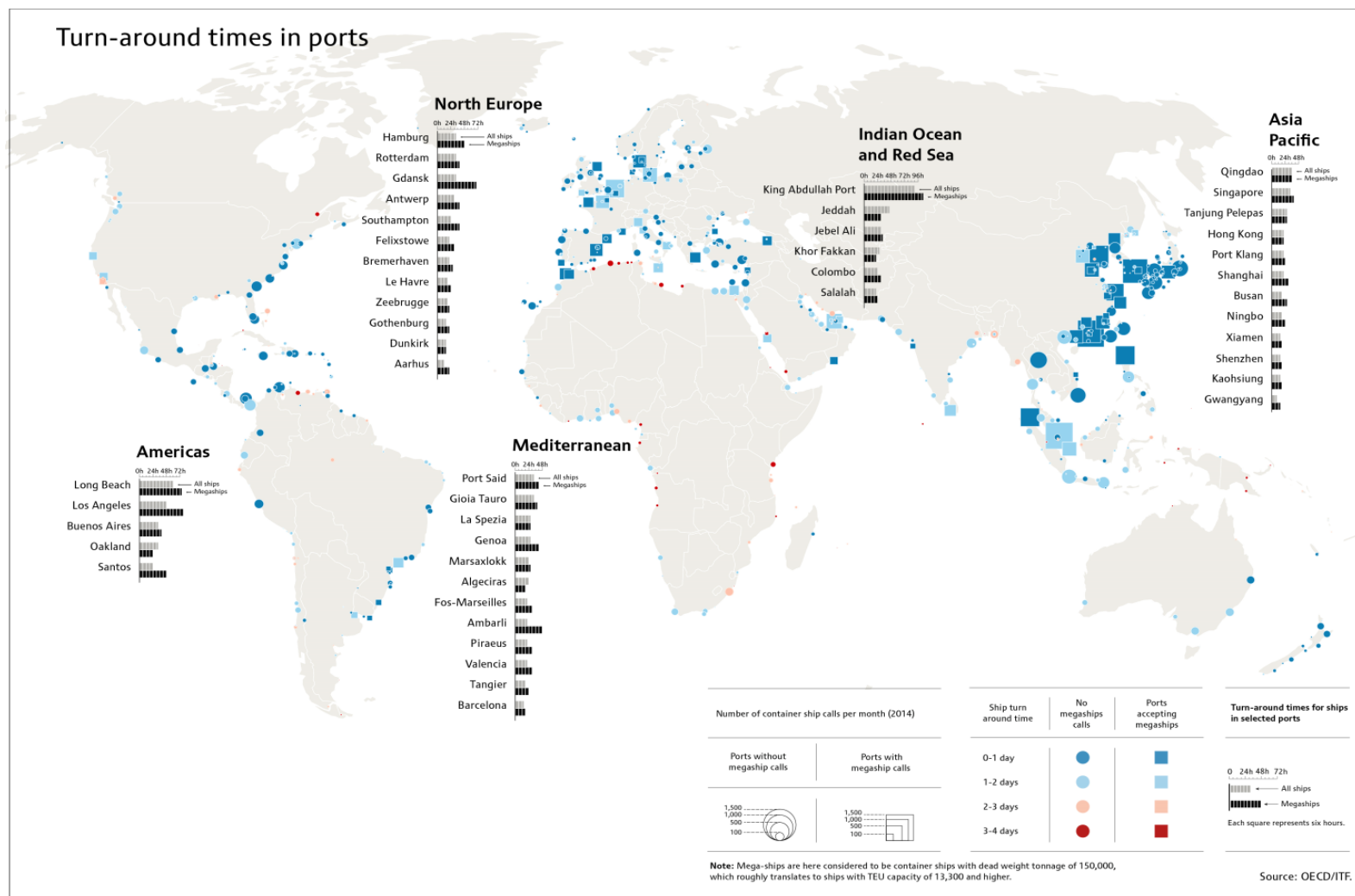
Vessel cost savings are decreasing



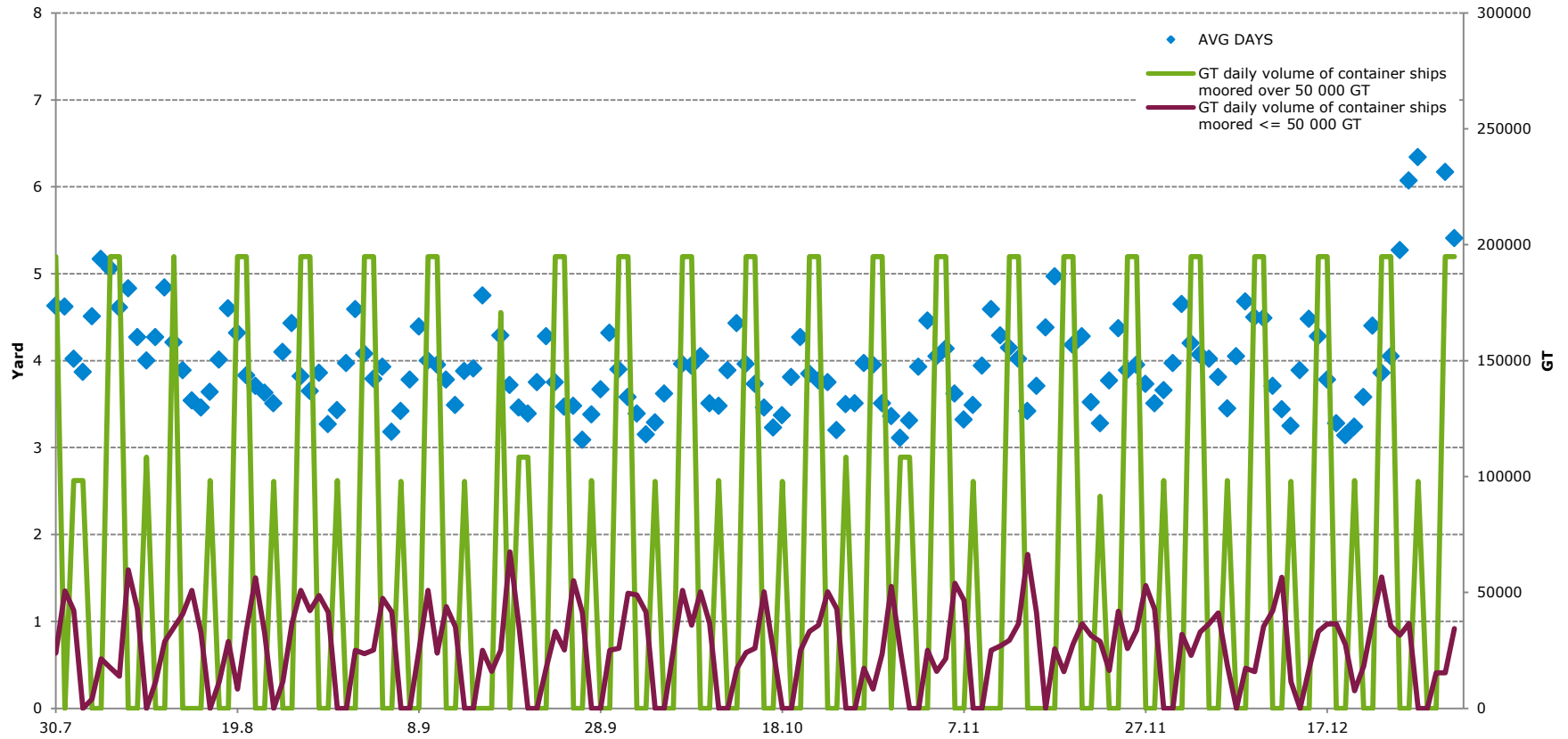
Can these ships be filled?



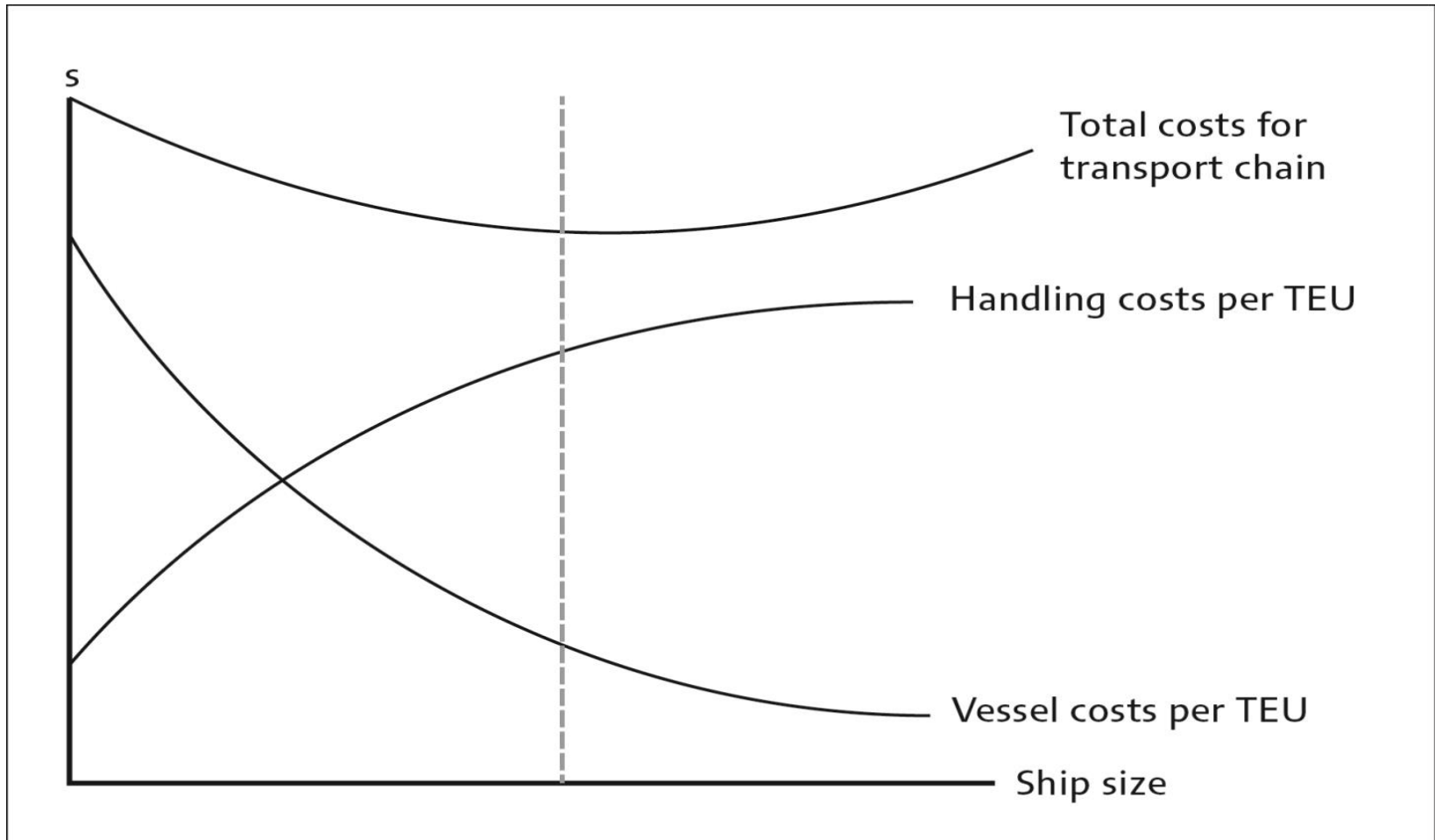
Supply chain costs and risks increasing

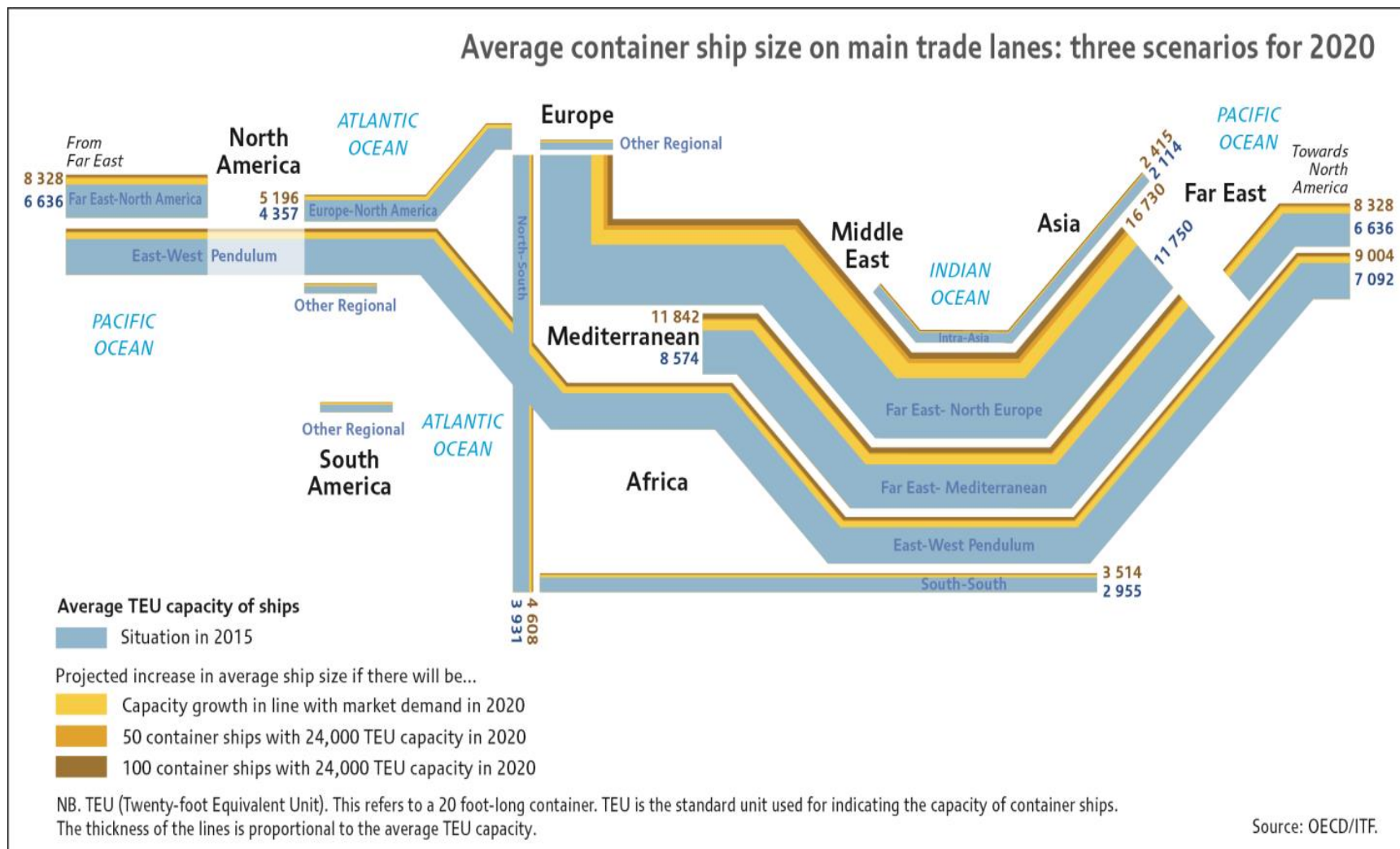


Peaks



Back to the issue





How to make this work?

- More balanced decision-making
- Align incentives & costs to public interests
- Policy support for supply chain productivity
- Collaboration at regional and port-level
- Forum for liners, terminals, ports & others

Thank you

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