

## **Associated loads Capesize Vessel in Myrtle Grove**

The surge of export coal through the U.S. Gulf continues and as a result, transloading companies like Associated Terminals have seen a significant increase in this business over the past eighteen months. New midstream cranes have been added, existing land-based terminals have announced expansions and new terminals are being built in the Lower Mississippi River corridor to handle this new opportunity.

Associated Terminals' berth in Myrtle Grove provides shippers the ability to load Capesize vessels of up to 1,150 feet in length at a location that provides significant economic advantages compared to alternative locations. The proximity of this berth to the mouth of the Mississippi River allows shippers to negotiate the best possible ocean freight rates, as all Capesize vessels come into the Mississippi River in ballast and want to load at a berth as far south on the river as possible to minimize their port costs and steaming time.

The barge shifting service for this berth is provided by Associated's sister company, Turn Services, which operates an adjacent 200 spot barge fleet. The combination of Turn's large fleet capacity and fleet boats on site allows Associated to provide expedited loading of these large vessels.

Associated loaded the capesize vessel, M/V Pacific Creation, which was completed on May 13, 2012. Using three of its high capacity Gottwald cranes—the K. ROBERTSON, the T. LANGE and the ATTITUDE—Associated was able to complete loading in excess of 120,000 metric tons in less than three days!

The ability to load capsize vessels by Associated Terminals and supported by Turn Services provides coal shippers with a competitive option to continue large scale movements of export coal through the Lower Mississippi River versus alternative locations.