

# Port of Corpus Christi:

## Bi-Monthly FTZ & CBP Stakeholder Meeting

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### **Event Summary:**

The Port of Corpus Christi's (FTZ 122) Bi-Monthly FTZ & CBP Stakeholder Meetings exemplify the spirit of the Catherine Durda Award by creating a high-impact, solution-driven forum that brings together FTZ operators, users, the grantee, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. These meetings serve as a cornerstone for meaningful networking, advocacy, and collaboration—fostering strategic relationships with regulators that enhance compliance and operational efficiency. Through open dialogue and consistent engagement, stakeholders gain valuable exposure to evolving FTZ and customs policies while working together to solve problems in real time. By uniting public and private sector stakeholders, this event series not only strengthens the FTZ community locally but sets a national example of how partnership and communication drive the success and resilience of the Foreign-Trade Zones program.

### **Who was invited:**

Local U.S. Customs and Border Protection staff, FTZ operators and users, local customs brokers, grantees from other areas of the country as observers.

### **Presenters:**

FTZ Manager (FTZ 122), CBP Port Director, CBP Port Supervisor, and guest speakers for specific topics throughout the year.

### **What was the result of this event? Include how many people attended:**

Key outcomes include:

**Improved Compliance and Communication:** Regular engagement with CBP has led to clearer interpretations of regulations and more consistent application of FTZ procedures, reducing confusion and compliance risk for operators and users.

**Faster Issue Resolution:** The collaborative format has facilitated the timely identification and resolution of operational challenges—such as admission delays, inventory reconciliation discrepancies, and documentation requirements—enhancing efficiency.

**Policy Influence and Advocacy:** By providing a unified platform for stakeholders to discuss systemic issues, the meetings have elevated regional concerns to national conversations, influencing dialogue with CBP headquarters and NAFTAZ leadership. Increased Stakeholder

**Engagement:** The meetings have strengthened relationships across the FTZ community, resulting in increased participation, knowledge sharing, and a stronger network of informed, empowered grantees, users and operators.

**Education and Professional Development:** Each session includes updates on regulatory changes, trade policy impacts, and best practices—building confidence among attendees to manage their FTZ operations more effectively.

Attendance ranges from 15 to 30 stakeholders at each meeting.

### Anything additional you'd like to add or highlight?

The bi-monthly meetings are typically held at the Port of Corpus Christi offices, with occasional sessions hosted by FTZ operators at their facilities. These operator-hosted meetings often include a tour of their FTZ operations. The attached photos are from a boat tour along the La Quinta Channel, where three of our FTZ operators are located. For each of them, it was the first opportunity to view their operations from the water side.

### Photos from the event:

