Benchmarking of ferry and RoRo transport for the development of "green corridors" for freight transport

Scandria Project – Ministry of Energy, Infrastructure and State Development Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

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Introduction

- Third party funded research project to improve the modelling of ferries (RoPax)* and RoRo-vessels in EcoTransIT World.
- Main topic: European “Green Corridors for Freight Transport”.
- The Supergreen project (http://www.supergreenproject.eu/) will evaluate a series of European “Green Corridors” 2010-2013.
- Stefan Seum Consulting (formerly Öko-Institut e.V.) and Baltic Marine Consult teamed up to conduct the research project. Stefan Seum had developed the ETW methodology for marine vessels.

* The term ferry is used for vessels primarily transporting passengers on scheduled services. Those vessels are technically RoPax vessels, vessels with carrying capacity for passage and roll-on, roll-off freight. The term RoPax is more commonly used for vessels with relevant cargo carrying capacities.
Problem statement and Project goal

- The modelling methodology for RoPax and RoRo-vessel transport in the current version of ETW is not satisfying.
- RoPax and RoRo-transport is only modelled as “hidden” sections of roads, using one generic emission factor.
- Generally, the modelling of RoPax and RoRo emissions is complex, because of the diverse range of operations and special propulsion technologies (i.e. diesel-electric propulsions).
- Project goal is to provide differentiated emission factors for RoPax and RoRo-vessels and to allow ETW users to hand-select particular RoPax and RoRo-vessels for particular transport links.
Methodology

- As for other marine vessels, a bottom-up modelling methodology was chosen.
- Technical and operational parameters, with a focus on vessels operating in the Baltic Sea Region, were analysed.
- Technical parameters provided the ground for determining the required propulsion energy.
- Operational and ship design parameters were used to solve questions of allocation.
  - Allocation between passage and freight (Ferries and RoPax).
  - Allocation to the net-freight on ferries, RoPax and RoRos.
Findings

- The strongest correlation is between the travel distance and the fuel consumed per net-tonne-kilometer. Thus, travel distance is used to select an emission factor when ferries and RoRo vessels are “hidden”, i.e. automatically selected by the ETW system.

- Three vessel types were determined to “hand build” transport strings that include particular RoPax and RoRo links. (weighted average fuel consumption in parentheses)
  
  - RoPax, passage / freight dominated (54,9 g/tkm)
  - RoPax, freight dominated (36,2 g/tkm)
  - RoRo, unaccompanied freight (21,4 g/tkm)
  - Truck >32 t, TREMOVE 2.7b (25 g/tkm)

- Thus, RoRo vessels are more fuel efficient per net-tonne-kilometer than trucks. Other RoPax and RoRo vessel links may provide benefits due to shorter routing distances.
Lessons learnt

- The study significantly improves the modelling of RoPax and RoRo vessels for purposes such as ETW, corridor assessments and environmental logistics planning.

- It provides average benchmark figures, comparable to other modes of transport. Individual vessels may differ significantly.

- However, vessel emissions and particularly RoPax and RoRo vessel emissions may be outdated more quickly than others.
  - GHG reduction potential is with 25 – 75% larger than for other modes.
  - New dedicated vessel designs can reduce emissions significantly (e.g. new Rostock – Gedser ferry projected 3-4 times more efficient).
  - Upcoming rules, e.g. new sulphur limits in SECAs.
  - Growth of transport volume on vessels would improve performance.

- Additional co-operative projects are needed, in order to keep ETW up to date and continuously maintain the ETW database.
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