ABSTRACT

This invention provides a technique for selecting ships that are most suitable for performing predetermined shipping assignments when plural ships are used for a routine transportation service.

The ship allocating device obtains a shipping route data set indicating a shipping route of a routine transportation service, a ship number data set that indicates a number of ships used for the routine transportation service, and a schedule data set that indicates a schedule of assignments of ships for the routine transportation service. The ship allocating device obtains from a ship database data sets indicating fluctuations in fuel consumption of ships. The ship allocating device calculates, in connection with each of the candidate ships, fuel consumption required for the ship to traverse the shipping route indicated by the shipping route data set in accordance with a schedule indicated by the schedule data set based on the data set obtained from the ship database. The ship allocating device selects a number of ships equal to or greater than the number indicated by the ship number data set based on the calculated fuel consumptions, and outputs data sets identifying the selected ships.