



IMPACT 2024

BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEGACY

YOUR ADVOCATE

- Successfully lobbied Transportation and Rules Committee members and House leadership to **prevent anti-Jones Act amendments** from being considered on the House floor.
- Secured **pro-Jones Act resolutions** in Illinois and Washington and through coalition efforts **defeated anti-Jones Act legislation** in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.
- Led the American Maritime Partnership in **challenging CBP rulings** that open the domestic LNG bunkering market to foreign-flag vessels.
- **Advocated for the Jones Act** at Congressional roundtables on revitalizing the U.S. fleet and improving the offshore wind permitting process.
- Developed a process to **monitor CBP rulings on the application of the Jones Act** to existing and emerging maritime operations.
- Promoted introduction of the **SHIPS for America Act** to implement a national maritime strategy that builds on the foundation of the Jones Act.
- Secured Coast Guard clarification that vessels without keyed locks are **not subject to the master key control system requirement** of the Safer Seas Act.
- Secured Coast Guard acknowledgement that the statutory requirement for **after-action reports does not apply to reports of harassment** other than SASH.
- Secured **revised Coast Guard guidance on audio and video surveillance** recording, significantly reducing data retention costs for members.
- Secured **reduced inspection user fees** for TSMS option towing vessels.
- Secured House passage of legislation **authorizing reductions in engine room crewing for ATBs** with engine room automation, positioning the issue for advancement in the 119th Congress.
- Implemented a comprehensive plan to **improve the productivity of the Coast Guard-AWO relationship**.
- Executed a Memorandum of Agreement to strengthen the foundation and **secure the future of the Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership**.
- **Met with the Coast Guard Commandant** to strengthen the Coast Guard-AWO partnership and highlight industry advocacy priorities.
- **Presented at Coast Guard Senior Leader Conference**, urging flag officers to support a service culture that prioritizes **partnership and risk-based decision making**.
- Supported funding and regulatory changes that **lay the groundwork for a new Coast Guard credential processing system** to improve efficiency, communication, and customer service.
- Initiated a plan to **mitigate impacts of mariner credential processing delays** through increased Coast Guard staffing, communication, and efficiency.
- Secured **EPA final rule** establishing vessel discharge performance standards that adopts AWO recommendations on **ballast water and graywater treatment exemptions** and **preempts state regulation of biofouling**.
- Provided early input to the Coast Guard on forthcoming VIDA implementing regulations, urging **changes to vessel discharge reporting, recordkeeping and inspection requirements** to reduce costs and administrative burdens.





There is a place here for anyone who is committed to working hard, being part of a team and having a meaningful impact on our country and its supply chain.

**- Kelly Teichman, T&T Marine
AWO Chairman of the Board**



- Advocated to ensure **continued authority to test for marijuana** if the drug is rescheduled from Schedule I to Schedule III.
- Enhanced the **use of federal advisory committees to advance industry advocacy priorities** and increase member communication and participation.
- Pushed back on Coast Guard proposal to **impose sweeping cybersecurity requirements** on towing vessel operators and urged a more risk-based approach.
- Advocated for the federal government to **streamline cybersecurity incident reporting** procedures and reduce regulatory burdens on the maritime industry.
- Worked to ensure **seamless transition** to new Coast Guard system for disseminating **vital navigation safety information** that replaces weekly Local Notice to Mariners and Light Lists.
- Orchestrated effective collaboration between industry stakeholders, the Coast Guard, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to **address operator concerns on stowaway management**.
- Raised industry **concerns about the Corps of Engineers' remote lock operations plan** to Corps leaders and Congress.
- Raised industry concerns to the White House Office of Management and Budget over **whale conservation efforts** in the Gulf of Mexico and on the Atlantic Coast **that negatively impact safety**.
- Pressed for greater collaboration between the Coast Guard and BOEM resulting in an interagency MoU guiding **placement and development of offshore energy structures**.
- Successfully advocated to **expand navigation safety fairways** to nine nautical miles along most of the Atlantic Coast to protect navigation around offshore wind structures.
- Convinced BOEM to **remove offshore wind lease areas that would have overlapped with navigation safety fairways** in the Gulf of Maine and offshore Oregon.
- Successfully advocated for **including tugs and barges** used for offshore wind operations in the 45X Advanced Manufacturing Production **tax credit**.
- Supported WCI in securing a **change in the cost-share** for inland waterways construction projects that will unlock **over \$1 billion in additional waterways project funding** over the next decade.
- Secured language in the 2024 WRDA to **allow construction of a docking facility** in Bridgeport Reach to benefit an AWO member.
- Secured Army Corps of Engineers **commitment to change the Delta Point Casting Field** flood protection project design plan to protect navigation safety.
- Ensured the Corps **kept a dredge operating in a critical area** on the Lower Mississippi River to maintain navigation during low water.
- **Improved British Columbia pilotage requirements** to make it easier to qualify for pilotage waivers, **saving members \$40,000 per trip**.
- Pressed EPA to **reject California's waiver request** to enforce the Commercial Harbor Craft Rule.
- Deepened relationships with federal agencies, shippers, and other stakeholders to establish AWO as a **respected voice of the maritime industry on sustainability** issues.
- With industry partners, successfully advocated for the Department of Energy to establish a program to accelerate the **production and availability of sustainable maritime fuels** and **match government support** provided to other modes.
- **Conveyed the carbon reduction benefits of maritime transportation** to the Department of Transportation, which then called for **increased use of barges** in a report to Congress.

- Worked with the Department of Energy to ensure its *Action Plan for Maritime Energy and Emissions Innovation* **supports maritime innovation and sustainability** without overly burdensome restrictions.
- Convened the AWO-OCIMF North American Safety Working Group and secured AWO representation on a SIRE program working group to **improve efficiency and reduce inspection costs**.
- Pressed for **changes to Illinois paid-leave legislation** to exempt maritime employees.
- Urged the Coast Guard's Judge Advocate General to **assert federal preemption** over California meal and rest break requirements.
- Developed a **cost-effective strategy to provide early warning** on problematic state bills and improve our ability to stop or shape them.
- With coalition partners, amended Hawaii legislation to **exempt AWO members** with collective bargaining agreements from additional line handling requirements.
- Executed a successful annual **Barge-In**, with **144 AWO participants** meeting **223 Congressional offices**, and organized **state Barge-Ins** in **California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Washington**.
- Through AWO PAC, delivered more than **\$551,000 in political impact** and **hosted nine political impact events** to broaden and deepen relationships with **106 key Members of Congress**.

YOUR RESOURCE

- Secured **reapproval of the AWO Alternative Security Program** and **AWO International Vessel Security Plan**, saving members thousands of dollars in compliance costs for vessel security plan requirements.
- Published the *SASH Resource and Training Materials* reference document and template signage to **help members implement SASH prevention and response** practices and support healthy workplace cultures.
- Held bi-monthly **Sustainability Tech Working Group** meetings, leveraging member expertise to **share experiences** and engaging **knowledgeable guest speakers** to educate members.
- Through the work of the **Distracted Operations Subcommittee**, published the *Sterile Wheelhouse Policy Guidance*, a *Distracted Operations Guide for New Mariners*, and a *Distracted Operations Guide for Shoreside Staff Communications*.
- Produced **16 state one-pagers** to support **advocacy and public affairs efforts**.
- Published eleven Navigating to Zero Safety Newsletters to **share topical safety updates**, including member-submitted **High-Value Near Misses** and information from the NTSB, Coast Guard, and other maritime investigations.
- Held two **Mariner Workforce Forum** webinars to help members navigate Designated Examiner, credential, and medical certificate application processes.
- Launched **Powering the Future: Sustainable Solutions for Maritime Operations** webinar series to support members in improving sustainability, efficiency, and innovation.
- Developed improvements to the Safety Statistics Reporting Program for **better comparison of member and industry data**.
- Launched the **Bridge Events Recording Program** to increase navigation safety around moveable bridges and found new pathways to engage with the Coast Guard's bridge permitting process.
- Formed the **Recreational Boater Safety Working Group** and produced QR-coded stickers linking to AWO's LifeLines boater safety pamphlet.
- Conducted a **member survey** and held **listening sessions** to gain a deeper understanding of **member needs and concerns**.
- Welcomed **23 new AWO members** and **grew participation in AWO working groups** by making it easier to access working group information online.
- Launched an updated member benefits webpage for **members and prospective members**.
- Hosted membership meetings and events offering **educational sessions, member discussions, and networking** to over 1090 members and guests, including 87 first-time attendees.
- Developed a new **Board-approved strategic plan** to guide AWO's work over the next three years.

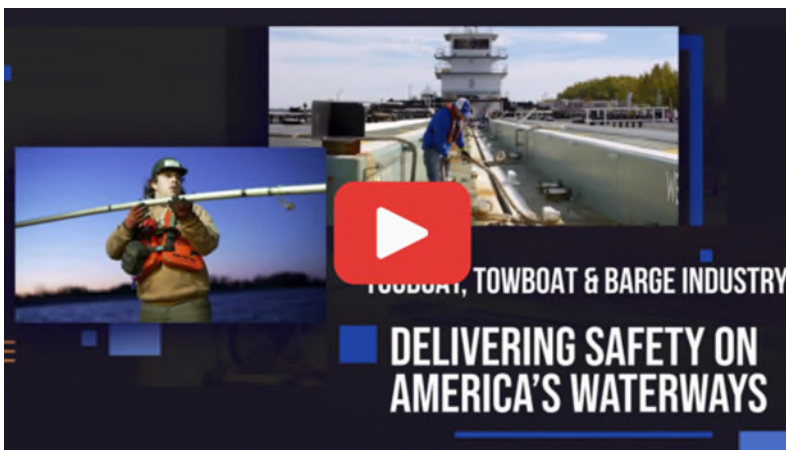
YOUR UNITED VOICE



- Produced a video highlighting the **American Waterways HERO Award** and industry's role in waterways rescues that has generated over **375,000 views** on social media.
- Produced a video highlighting our **industry's commitment to safety** and record as the **safest mode of freight transportation** that has generated nearly **200,000 views** on social media.
- Produced **nearly 100 media and public affairs appearances** to raise the industry's profile and advance AWO priorities, including:
 - Raising **public awareness and support for the Jones Act** through Letters to the Editor in Illinois and Washington state, and an opEd on the Jones Act's national security importance.
 - Focusing **media attention on the safety and supply chain concerns** created by California's Commercial Harbor Craft Rule.
 - Highlighting **AWO's 80th anniversary** through interviews and opEds discussing the association's contributions to advancement of industry priorities.
 - Discussing industry's role in the **Port of Baltimore's recovery** and ensuring our perspective on expansion of **tug escort requirements** was included in press coverage.
- Developed a **sustainability one pager** and graphics displaying the industry's **environmental benefits and commitment**.
- Led presentations at the National Safety Council's Waterborne Transportation Safety Meeting, Coast Guard National Harbor Safety Committee conference, and National Association of State Boating Law Administrator's conference to **discuss member safety priorities and concerns**.
- Strengthened coalition relationships and advanced AWO policy priorities through **speaking engagements at industry conferences and forums** including Marine Log's TTB Conference, IMX, Reuters Events Offshore Wind USA, and LNG Bunkering Summit North America.



The American Waterways HERO Award: Honoring Industry's Heroic Mariners



Connecting our industry's record as the safest mode of transportation to the public through nearly 200,000 views on social media.