



THE AMERICAN WATERWAYS OPERATORS ABOUT US

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

The American Waterways Operators is the national advocate for the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry, which serves the nation as the safest, most environmentally friendly, and most efficient mode of freight transportation. Our industry's 5,500 tugboats and towboats and 31,000 barges fuel the American economy by transporting more than 760 million tons of domestic cargo each year, including petroleum products, chemicals, food and farm products, coal, steel, aggregates and containers. The industry provides family-wage jobs and ladders of career opportunity for more than 50,000 Americans, including nearly 39,000 positions as mariners on board our vessels, and supports more than 300,000 jobs in related industries across the nation. AWO members operate on the rivers, coasts, Great Lakes, and harbors of the United States, moving economically critical cargo safely, reducing pollution and highway congestion, and protecting homeland security.

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

For more than 25 years, the tugboat, towboat and barge industry has been on a journey of continuous improvement, working with our shipper-customers and government partners to achieve the goal of zero harm to human life and the environment. This journey has been marked by strong private sector leadership, highlighted by the AWO Responsible Carrier Program and the Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership. The RCP is a set of safety standards for tugboat, towboat and barge companies with

which all AWO members must comply as a condition of association membership. The Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership is a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership to improve safety and environmental protection and strengthen the working relationship between the Coast Guard and the tugboat, towboat and barge industry.

HOMELAND AND NATIONAL SECURITY

AWO member vessels operating in the domestic commerce of the United States, owned and crewed by Americans and built in American shipyards in accordance with the Jones Act, serve as valuable "eyes and ears" for the Coast Guard on U.S. waterways. The domestic maritime industry also has the strong support of U.S. military and national security leaders for the vital role the industry plays in providing military sealift services and sustaining America's defense industrial base.

ADVOCACY AND GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT

AWO members and staff work daily to educate policymakers on the value of the tugboat, towboat and barge industry and advance its public policy priorities, including: preserving the Jones Act; reforming the vessel discharge regulatory system; maintaining federal primacy in the regulation of domestic vessel operations; ensuring a modern, well-maintained waterways infrastructure; and ensuring the continuity and reliability of navigation while preventing the movement of aquatic invasive species.

The tugboat, towboat and barge industry advocate since 1944.