



IMPACT 2022

Forward into the Future

Advocacy: Delivering Results on Issues that Matter to You

- ▶ Secured legislation **suspending user fees** for TSMS-option vessels, **saving members \$1,030 per vessel per year**.
- ▶ Secured **OSHA confirmation of Coast Guard jurisdiction** over working conditions of mariners on inspected towing vessels.
- ▶ Worked with coalition partners to pass legislation that **tightens the Jones Act waiver process** by eliminating blanket waivers and requiring national defense determinations to be made by the President.
- ▶ **Prevented movement of anti-Jones Act legislation** in the face of **intense, sustained pressure** due to natural disasters and Russian war on Ukraine.
- ▶ Engaged with Congress and the Administration to support the **domestic maritime industry's leading role in offshore wind development** and prevent unwarranted calls to breach the Jones Act.
- ▶ Led introduction and **passage of pro-Jones Act resolutions** in Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia.
- ▶ Secured legislation **authorizing reduced engine room crewing on ATBs** with automated engine rooms.
- ▶ Spearheaded passage of legislation directing the Coast Guard to study **creation of a credentialed mariner database**.
- ▶ Prevented enactment of House-passed language that would have **constrained vessel owners' options in emergency response situations**.
- ▶ Worked with coalition allies to pass legislation that:
 - **Permanently changes the cost share** for inland waterways infrastructure projects to 65% general Treasury/35% Inland Waterways Trust Fund;
 - Establishes a **regional dredging pilot program** to give the Corps of Engineers more flexibility to conduct emergency dredging;
 - Strengthens Missouri River navigation by establishing a program to **address Lower Missouri River bank erosion**; and,
 - Requires **industry vetting** of locations for pallid sturgeon Interception Rearing Complexes on the Missouri River.
- ▶ Successfully advocated for **online TWIC renewal process, saving time and money** for mariners and employers.
- ▶ Worked with allies to **exempt towing vessels** from New York Petroleum Business Tax, **saving operators \$2 million per year**.
- ▶ Repealed a Canadian pilotage regulation, **saving operators \$80,000 per roundtrip** on transits to Alaska through British Columbia waters.
- ▶ Prevented approval of **CEMUS dock permit threatening safety, operations and economics** of barging on the Lower Mississippi River pending completion of a comprehensive Navigation Safety Risk Assessment.
- ▶ Organized a **White House briefing with inland barge industry CEOs** to discuss the historic low water on the Mississippi River and actions to maintain safe navigation.

Through AWO we are far better positioned to shape our own future as an industry than if we each had to try to do that separately, on our own...

Clark Todd
Blessey Marine
AWO Chairman



Time and again, AWO has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to leading the maritime industry in marine safety, security, and environmental stewardship.

*RDML W.R. Arguin
Asst. Commandant
for Prevention Policy*



- ▶ Secured Coast Guard commitment to establish **9 nautical mile fairways** wherever possible and expand Port Access Route Studies to **protect towing vessel navigation routes** from encroachment by offshore wind farms.
- ▶ Engaged with BOEM to **ensure wind energy areas do not conflict with navigation safety fairways** and **secured a lease stipulation** requiring developers to engage with maritime stakeholders to assess navigation safety risks in California.
- ▶ Facilitated **successful completion of Subchapter M COI phase-in period**, with 4,523 towing vessels certificated by the July 19 deadline.
- ▶ Secured **robust Subchapter M enforcement policy**, promoting a level playing field and **preventing operation of 236 non-compliant vessels**.
- ▶ Urged Coast Guard to **reduce user fees** for both TSMS and Coast Guard option vessels.
- ▶ Worked with TPO partners to secure **Coast Guard policy changes** that:
 - Improve the **workability of the random audit requirement** to prevent duplicative audit costs.
 - Ensure **acceptance of standard inland vessel sidelight arrangements** to save members unnecessary hardware, maintenance and shipyard costs.
- ▶ Managed **Coast Guard-AWO Quality Action Team** to promote **consistent and practical** Subchapter M interpretation.
- ▶ Launched an action plan to **combat barriers to mariner recruitment, retention, and advancement**, including:
 - Convening AWO-NMC Industry Day to bring members and National Maritime Center leadership together to overcome obstacles to **timely credentialing, training, and course approval**.
 - Supporting proposal to add oral fluid **drug testing option** to provide better **real-time assessment of mariner fitness for duty**.
 - Exploring regulatory reforms to **improve access to hawsepipe route** for advancing marriers and **remove barriers for women** in the maritime workforce.
- ▶ Convened **CEO-level Sustainability Task Force** to develop policy agenda to support all AWO members in **navigating the decarbonization challenge**.
- ▶ Secured publication of draft EPA guidance to ensure **assessment of operational costs in state No Discharge Zone** applications.
- ▶ Raised Congressional awareness of the importance of the Coast Guard's **Waterways Commerce Cutter program** and **supported increased appropriations** for the new cutters.
- ▶ Ensured **ATB eligibility** for the Voluntary Tanker Agreement Program and **government contracting preference** for participants.
- ▶ Helped **defeat a bill** in the Illinois General Assembly that would **add costs and delays** to companies seeking permits.
- ▶ Formed broad coalition to **lobby for improvements** to problematic California **harbor craft emissions rules**.
- ▶ Educated lawmakers on the **essential role of the Snake River dams** and worked with allies to convince influential policymakers that **removing dams is not feasible**.
- ▶ Through AWO's River Industry Executive Task Force, prevented interruptions to river operations by:
 - Securing **denial of a Vicksburg permit** that would have **decreased safety** and
 - Advocating for **denial of a Natchez permit** and **improvements in the location of the Delta Point Casting Field** to ensure navigation safety, especially in high water.
- ▶ Urged Coast Guard to **take practical approach** to forthcoming **electronic chart rulemaking**.
- ▶ Hired State Advocacy Representative to **enhance state and regional advocacy effectiveness**.

In Focus: Telling Our Industry's Story

- ▶ Held first **in-person Barge-In** since 2019, in which more than **160 AWO members** met with **141 Members of Congress and staff** to educate them on industry policy priorities.
- ▶ Developed **strong working relationships with Administration and agency leaders** at the White House, Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and National Transportation Safety Board.
- ▶ Sponsored **Coast Guard Sector luncheons** and **Congressional tugboat/towboat tours** to strengthen relationships and educate policymakers nationwide.
- ▶ Created and distributed **video promoting the industry's value, impact, and career appeal**, generating more than 234,000 views.
- ▶ Launched AWO presence on Instagram Reels and TikTok to **expand social media audience**.
- ▶ Produced more than **60 media and public affairs appearances** for staff and member leaders to raise the industry's profile and elevate its public policy priorities, including:
 - Interviews with **CNN, USA Today and other publications** to explain the historic low water conditions on the Mississippi River system and the **importance of barge transportation to the economy and supply chain**;
 - An interview with the **Washington Post** on maritime decarbonization to position our industry as a **key voice in policy discussions** and AWO as a go-to resource for a major national newspaper;
 - An editorial in the *Everett (Washington) Herald* on **maritime's promising role in offshore wind development**;
 - An op-ed on the **essential role of barges in delivering petroleum products to New England** and the facts about the **Jones Act and energy transportation**;
 - Op-eds on **pro-Jones Act resolutions** in Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia to **leverage those legislative victories** into broader public awareness opportunities;
 - An op-ed in *Houston Port Bureau News* to demonstrate the **importance of the Jones Act** in the home state of a **key future leader of the Senate Commerce Committee**; and,
 - A press release on the **Subchapter M 100% COI milestone** with quotes from Members of Congress and Coast Guard, NTSB, and MARAD officials to **raise public awareness of our industry's safety leadership**.
- ▶ Hosted **eight episodes of the American Maritime Podcast** to amplify industry messaging with podcast audiences and strengthen relationships with policymakers and maritime leader guests.



Resource and United Voice: Delivering Value and Leveraging Member Engagement

- ▶ Created **searchable online resource library** housed on the AWO website.
- ▶ Launched **AWO mobile app** for easy engagement on the go.
- ▶ Welcomed **26 new members**, strengthening AWO's role as the **industry's united voice**.
- ▶ Overhauled the **onboarding process** to help new members **access AWO resources** and find their niche in AWO.
- ▶ Made **education and networking opportunities** available to all members through a year-round calendar of **in-person meetings and virtual events**.

In Focus: Safety Resources

- ▶ Hired **Safety & Sustainability Director** with **boots-on-deck industry experience** to support AWO members' safety journey.
- ▶ Refined AWO's **menu of safety and sustainability services** to provide **training and resources** to support continuous improvement and promote safety culture that drives down incidents and lowers risk exposure and costly downtime.
- ▶ Launched **re-designed Navigating to Zero**, a safety newsletter **highlighting member voices and experience**.
- ▶ Delivered **in-depth analysis of NTSB and Coast Guard incident investigations**, including recommendations for updates to onboard navigation assessments and policies.
- ▶ Refined the **Safety Statistics Reporting Program** to **improve ease of use and increased participation** in the program.
- ▶ Represented industry at **Coast Guard advisory committee meetings**, including N-TSAC, N-MERPAC, and N-MEDMAC, amplifying industry's voice in influential forums.
- ▶ Expanded **relationships with key upstream and downstream partners** in energy production and storage to support AWO's safety and sustainability work.

*The American Waterways Operators is the tugboat, towboat and barge industry's **advocate, resource and united voice** for safe, sustainable and efficient transportation on America's waterways, oceans and coasts.*



**The American
Waterways Operators**