



IMPACT 2025

YOUR ADVOCATE

- Led the American Maritime Partnership to **strengthen and leverage support for the Jones Act** in the Trump Administration and Congress.
- Secured **enactment of Coast Guard authorization act** that addresses key member concerns on **harassment reporting**.
- Secured enactment of legislation to establish **Atlantic Coast safe navigation fairways**.
- Secured enactment **of a Hudson River anchorage compromise** that preserves navigation safety.
- Through AMP, **intervened in a Constitutional challenge to the Jones Act** to bolster the federal government's defense of the law.
- Secured Coast Guard agreement to revise policy to authorize **reduced engine room crewing for ATBs** with automation endorsements.
- Created **prioritized deregulatory action agenda** and advocated with the Trump Administration and Coast Guard for regulatory and policy changes.
- Worked with Coast Guard to **maintain member access to essential services** during record federal government shutdown.
- Secured **changes to Coast Guard cybersecurity regulations** that allow AWO to support member compliance through the AWO Alternative Security Program.
- Secured restoration of the Coast Guard's **online mariner credential application status** and verification tools.
- Pressed for continued **improvement of the Coast Guard's mariner credentialing program**, with the award of a **\$50 million contract for system modernization**.
- Secured updated Coast Guard guidance to **reduce errors in crediting mariners working 12-hour days** that delay credential processing.
- Led coalition urging the Administration to promptly **publish Coast Guard VIDA implementation rulemaking** and secured **DHS commitment to prioritize it**.
- Joined American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers' **legal challenge to EPA's waiver** of the California Commercial Harbor Craft Rule, maximizing an opportunity to pursue judicial relief **at low cost to members**.
- Joined industry coalition urging the Trump Administration to consider unintended consequences of its **Chinese ship fee proposal** and **minimize supply chain disruptions** in trade negotiations.
- Secured seats on **OCIMF working groups** to provide industry input in the **SIRE and TMSA programs**.
- Secured Coast Guard policy allowing vessel operators to leverage third parties for underwater survey in lieu of drydock to **reduce costs and regulatory burdens**.
- Secured **greater operational flexibility** for vessel operators whose **ballast water treatment systems** are not performing as designed in freshwater.
- Advanced Coast Guard/NTSB rulemaking to **raise monetary threshold for major marine casualties**.
- Secured Coast Guard commitment to provide greater **flexibility in vessel inspection scheduling**.
- With coalition partners, urged Department of Health and Human Services to **speed approval of labs** to conduct **oral fluid drug testing**.
- Advocated for stronger **Coast Guard enforcement of bridge regulations** and **challenged unsafe remote bridge operation proposals**.
- Established a program to **track and influence bridge owners' response plans** after NTSB identified 68 bridges at risk for collapse from a vessel strike.

- Founded the Safe Vessel Access Coalition to improve **safety at terminal barge docks**.
- Activated working group to update **best practices to mitigate benzene emissions** and address air monitoring challenges at facilities.
- Engaged with the Department of Energy to ensure **research on alternative maritime fuels** reflects our industry's needs.
- Established relationships with new Department of Transportation and MARAD leadership to make AWO the **leading voice for our industry with the Trump Administration**.
- Joined MARAD's Center for Maritime Innovation and led Inland Waterways Working Group to **guide projects and opportunities for our industry's benefit**.
- Advocated with the Corps of Engineers for Regional Dredge Pilot Program guidance to **minimize waterway closures and reduce operational disruptions**.
- Worked with industry coalition to **repeal Missouri's mandatory paid leave program** that posed special challenges for vessel work schedules.
- Grew **momentum for exempting mariners from the Illinois paid leave law** by securing a legislative sponsor and overcoming stakeholder opposition.
- Secured Coast Guard determination that certain Great Lakes voyages do not require a pilot, **saving members \$17,000 per voyage**.
- Advocated for a **collaborative approach to aids to navigation management** and stopped the Coast Guard's **Coastal Buoy Modernization Project** from progressing without industry input.
- Through coalition efforts, **defeated anti-Jones Act legislation** in Alaska and weakened legislation in New Hampshire.
- Promoted science- and technology-based strategies to **defeat blanket operational restrictions** like the North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Speed Rule.
- Secured lifting of new tug escort requirements in Puerto Rico that would have adversely affected **port safety, efficiency, and competition**.
- Secured Coast Guard commitment to better **communication on stowaway risks** to members operating in the Caribbean.
- Joined the Louisiana Maritime Academy Board to **represent inland operators in curriculum development**.
- **Defeated proposed Washington state taxes** that would have cost individual members an estimated \$500,000.
- Initiated a strategy to **improve collaboration with California regulators and support compliance** with the Commercial Harbor Craft emissions rule.
- Supported successful coalition effort to **defeat a California emissions rule** that would have **suspended operations** at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.
- Supported successful effort to overturn a housing ordinance that **threatened maritime industrial lands** in Seattle.
- Organized the **largest Congressional Barge-In this decade** and state Barge-Ins and maritime days in Maryland, New York, and Washington.
- Through AWO PAC, delivered **\$325,000 in political impact** and supported 50 Members of Congress.

"We are living through a critical time for our industry...Staying true to our guideposts and embracing the opportunities that this changing environment affords us – that's how we'll continue to grow our critical industry and tell our story...but even with all these capabilities, AWO cannot be fully effective without maximum member engagement, and that's my challenge to all of our members."

Patrick Sutton
American Commercial Barge Line
AWO Chairman of the Board



YOUR RESOURCE

- Published the *AWO's Falls Overboard Prevention Report*, a comprehensive, data-driven **analysis addressing the leading cause of mariner fatalities**.
- Organized industry-wide **Falls Overboard Safety Stand Down Day**.
- Partnered with the National Safe Boating Council to produce a **video to educate recreational boaters** on safe interactions with commercial vessels.
- Launched **AWO Boater Safety Store** to share multi-use waterways safety resources.
- Established AWO **Cybersecurity Working Group** as the knowledge hub for distributing **timely alerts and best practices**.
- Published a **training guide** and launched development of a **towing industry cybersecurity assessment** to support member compliance with **cybersecurity regulations**.
- Engaged the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to identify **no-cost cybersecurity services** for members.
- Delivered **three-part Sustainability Webinar Series**, advancing key goals of AWO's CEO Sustainability Task Force Implementation Plan.
- Launched near **real-time Near Miss Portal** to enhance situational awareness for AWO members.
- Added **lost-time injury severity metric** to AWO Safety Statistics Reporting Program to produce more actionable insights.
- Extended **agreement with American Chemistry Council** allowing members to **use their RCP audits for credit** toward ACC Responsible Care Program audits.
- Presented American Waterways HERO Award to **108 mariners** involved in **24 lifesaving rescues**.
- Launched a training program to **prepare members to be effective advocates** when meeting with decision-makers.
- Hosted meetings and events providing **education and networking** to 1,436 members and guests, including 139 first-time attendees.
- Created new communication tools and improved meeting processes to **enhance AWO governance**.
- Revamped AWO's website to support broader **member engagement in working groups and committees**.
- Implemented self-check-in system for AWO events to better track member engagement and **modernize the member experience**.
- Rebranded and improved the **AWO mobile app**, resulting in a **219% increase in newsfeed views**.

YOUR UNITED VOICE

- Produced **over 80 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** in Washington, DC, Alaska, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Iowa.
 - Generating **media coverage of safety and supply chain concerns** created by California's Commercial Harbor Craft Rule.
 - Highlighting our **industry's role in responding to the Baltimore Key Bridge collapse** in a CBS News story on the anniversary of the accident.
 - OpEds and interviews highlighting workforce priorities including **mariner safety and credentialing reform**.
- Reinforced **positive public awareness of the Jones Act** by sponsoring a cable ad in the DC media market during Barge-In week.
- **Produced a video** educating policymakers and the public on industry's **importance to U.S. national security**.
- Strengthened relationships with the Trump Administration and Congress through public **statements of support for American maritime initiatives**.
- Raised awareness of **falls overboard prevention efforts** through media coverage and social media amplification.
- Strengthened coalition relationships and advanced AWO priorities through national and international **speaking engagements**.



The American
Waterways Operators