



IMPACT 2025

YOUR ADVOCATE

- Led the American Maritime Partnership, the pro-Jones Act industry coalition, to **leverage support for the Jones Act and U.S. maritime dominance** in the Trump Administration and Congress at a high-stakes time.
- Through AMP, secured court approval to **intervene in a Constitutional challenge to the Jones Act** to bolster the federal government's defense of the law.
- Secured **House passage of Coast Guard authorization bill** that addresses **key member concerns on harassment reporting**.
- Engaged members in **creating and prioritizing deregulatory proposals** and launched plan to **achieve those priorities** with the Trump Administration and Coast Guard.
- Joined industry coalition in urging the Trump Administration to **consider unintended consequences of its Chinese ship fee proposal** and take steps to **minimize supply chain disruptions** in trade negotiations.
- Joined the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers in a **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**.
- Secured Coast Guard leadership commitment to working with COTPs to provide **greater flexibility in vessel inspection scheduling**.
- Secured **changes to Coast Guard cybersecurity regulations** that will allow AWO to support member compliance through the AWO Alternative Security Program.
- With maritime coalition partners, urged Department of Health and Human Services to provide regulatory relief that **speeds approval of labs to conduct oral fluid drug testing**.
- Successfully advocated for restoration of the Coast Guard's **online mariner credential application status and verification tools**.
- Secured updated Coast Guard guidance and training to **reduce errors in crediting mariners working 12-hour days** that delay credential processing.
- Secured **House passage of a Hudson River anchorage compromise** to preserve navigation.
- Advocated for stronger **Coast Guard enforcement of bridge regulations** and **challenged unsafe remote bridge operation proposals**.
- Secured **greater operational flexibility** for vessel operators whose **ballast water treatment systems** are not performing as designed in freshwater.
- Secured Coast Guard policy allowing vessel operators to leverage third parties for underwater survey in lieu of drydock to **reduce costs and regulatory burdens**.
- Engaged with National Laboratories performing **research on alternative maritime fuels** to ensure our industry's needs are represented.
- Established relationships with new political appointees at the Department of Transportation and MARAD to make AWO the **leading voice for our industry within the Trump Administration**.

- Became a foundational member of MARAD's U.S. Center for Maritime Innovation and took on leadership of 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 implementation guidance that uses proactive contracting and equipment prioritization to **minimize waterway closures and reduce operational disruptions.**
- Worked with a broad 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 stakeholder-informed implementation of the Coast Guard Northeast District's Coastal Buoy Modernization Project, calling for a **more focused and collaborative approach to buoy modernization.**
- Pushed the Coast Guard to **expand Atlantic Coast Fairways** to capitalize on the pause in offshore wind leasing and development.
- Through coalition efforts, **defeated anti-Jones Act legislation** in Alaska and weakened legislation in New Hampshire.
- Promoted science- and technology-based strategies to successfully **oppose 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.**
- Joined the Louisiana Maritime Academy Board to **represent inland operators in curriculum development.**
- Led successful effort to **oppose new taxes in Washington state** that would have cost individual members an estimated \$500,000.
- Organized the **largest Congressional Barge-In of this decade** and state Barge-Ins and maritime days in Maryland, New York, and Washington.
- Through AWO PAC, delivered **\$241,000 in political impact** and supported 25 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 Falls Overboard Report*, a comprehensive, **data-driven analysis addressing the leading cause of mariner fatalities**.
- Established AWO Cybersecurity Working Group as a knowledge hub for distributing **timely alerts and best practices for AWO members**.
- Formed member working groups to **develop practical resources and support streamlined compliance** with Coast Guard cybersecurity regulations.
- Engaged the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to identify **no-cost cybersecurity services** members can use to enhance resilience and preparedness.
- 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** that enhances situational awareness for members.
- Enhanced Safety Statistics Reporting Program by adding a new metric to **track lost time injury severity** to produce more actionable insights.
- Hosted meetings and events offering **educational sessions, member discussions, and networking** to over 550 members and guests, including over 40 first-time attendees.
- Created new communication tools and improved meeting processes to **enhance AWO governance**.
- Implemented self-check-in system for AWO events to better track member engagement and **modernize the member experience**.
- Rebranded the **AWO mobile app** and **grew its value to members**, resulting in a **247% increase in newsfeed views**.

YOUR UNITED VOICE

- Produced **nearly 50 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 Connecticut, New Hampshire and Iowa.
 - Generating **media coverage of the 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.
- Strengthened relationships with the Trump Administration and Congress through public **statements of support for American maritime initiatives**.
- Strengthened coalition relationships and advanced AWO priorities through **speaking engagements** including: Marine Log TTB Conference, IMX 2025, AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department Executive Board meeting, Hudson Institute, and American Maritime Podcast.



The American
Waterways Operators