New Jersey’s waterways transportation system is a key part of the nation’s economy.

- A major stimulus to the economy, New Jersey is the fourth busiest state in waterborne commerce by tonnage.
- More than 53 million tons of domestic freight move every year on New Jersey waterways, reducing congestion on the state’s highways and railroads, and producing fewer pollutants than trucks and railcars.
- Providing family-wage jobs, 20 barge and towing companies are headquartered in New Jersey, operating over 100 towboats and tugboats and more than 650 liquid and dry cargo barges.
- The Port of New York and New Jersey is the third largest in the country. Other major New Jersey ports include Paulsboro, Camden-Gloucester, and Trenton.

The American Waterways Operators • 801 North Quincy Street, Suite 200 • Arlington, VA 22203
Energy Transportation in New Jersey

Petroleum products account for 73% of the domestic waterborne traffic in New Jersey. Tank barges, like the articulated tug-barge unit pictured here, and other vessels carry over 38 million tons of petroleum products in New Jersey waters. Tank barges transport gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel and home heating oil from terminals in New Jersey to customers throughout the East Coast.

Tank barges deliver petroleum products from terminals along the Arthur Kill and Kill Van Kull waterways to markets across the state and nationwide. The Pennsauken oil terminal on the Delaware River receives significant tank barge traffic, providing well-paying jobs in the local economy. Refineries in Elizabeth, Port Reading, Perth Amboy, Paulsboro, and Mantua also depend on tank barge services. In addition to economic growth, barge transportation supports U.S. national security interests, as the jet fuel for flights out of Fort Dix in Burlington County is moved on tank barges.

Other Vital Commodities

Other critical commodities moved on New Jersey waterways include chemical products, which account for 7% of domestic traffic, followed by foodstuffs, commercial goods, manufactured goods, and other crude materials used by the construction and manufacturing industries. Cement from Camden, for example, is transported throughout the state and country by barge. These and other products are used by both consumers and industries to facilitate economic growth in New Jersey.

Harbor Services

Small but powerful, tugboats are the last link in the supply chain that brings goods via water from U.S. and foreign suppliers to New Jersey. Tugboats provide a critical service by safely escorting and maneuvering large container ships, tankers, and freight ships in the Port of New York and New Jersey. Without these services, the ships carrying containers and bulk commodities would be unable to safely navigate the busy harbor.

Tugboats also provide “bunkering” or refueling services for ships in calling at New Jersey ports. Bunkering services attract international freight to state ports and enable New Jersey businesses to participate in global markets.

Barge docking on the Delaware River allows inland shippers in Southern New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania to transport their products to ports all along the East Coast.

Did You Know?

1. Tank barge oil spill volumes have plummeted 99.6 percent nationwide since the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) was passed.

2. Tank barges annually transport 69 billion gallons of oil on U.S. waterways, with 99.99 percent of all cargoes delivered without incident.

3. More than 90 percent of U.S. tank barges have double hulls. By 2015, all U.S. tank barges will be double hulled.