

THE TOWBOAT AND HARBOR CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Y./N.J.



October 1, 2026

TBHCA Steering Committee

Nate Hauser - Chair
Brandon Horn - Vice Chair
Robert Hughes III - Secretary
Terry DeMeo - Treasurer
James Stasinos - Steering Committee Member
Mike Paci - Steering Committee Member

EVENTS

Boatlift 25th Anniversary

September 11th - The U.S. Coast Guard 9/11 25th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony held at Fort Wadsworth Overlook, end of Tompkins St and The Towboat Harbor Carriers Association answered the call opening the event with a sounding of horns. The event will honor the lives lost, recognize the heroism displayed in response to the attacks, and reflect on the resilience and strength that continue to define our Nation. I wish to thank all the companies who participated in the event with nearly 20 member vessels participating in the event. At the September Harbor Ops meeting, CAPT McCarthy expressed her gratitude to the Towboat Harbor Carriers Association for the strong support. CAPT McCarthy and I spoke afterwards, and we intend to move the event to the Battery as an annual event.

September 22nd - The Towboat Harbor Carriers Association formed a parade of vessels led by the Tug Casey Ann pass the grand opening of new Liberty State Park landing ferry terminal and an emergency evacuation center funded in response to 9/11. The event was well attended and feature several local NJ and NY politicians as well as the NJDOT Commissioner. The tug Casey Ann led the parade of boats, and it was fitting as the Casey Ann towed the new landing from Donjons Erie Shipyard to NJ. NJDOT Maritime Resource Board and CAPT McCarthy were extremely grateful to the Towboat Harbor Carriers Association for our support during the event.

Tugboat Roundup

September 11-12, Attended the Annual Tugboat Roundup as guest of New York Marine Highway. The two-day event was well organized and attended. Day one featured a parade of tugs begins at the Port of Albany through the Federal Lock and ending at the town of Waterford greeted by a multitude of spectators congregated along the wall to welcome the tugs. Along the parade route people lined the banks of the river waving to the participating tugs. The following day was a festival with street vendors and live music as attendees walked up and down the dock viewing the tugs tied up at the wall. Additionally, attendees attended organized Tug Talks that informed the public on the daily lives of tugboats and their crews. The event continued through the evening ending with a spectacular fireworks display.

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Jones Act Support: The U.S. has been a maritime nation since its founding. As America approaches its 250th birthday a new national campaign calling on President Trump to end the 150-day unprecedented Jones Act waiver and put American workers, American businesses and American maritime strength first. Here is some information with links and a template to identify and connect with federal representatives and senators and can use [this link](#) to identify your federal representatives and senators. Please reach out to them and let them know that you oppose this and any future waivers of the Jones Act, a perfect example of America First law that has supported our industry for 100 years. All Transportation modes in the United States of America are protected by cabotage laws and yet only Maritime Jones Act cabotage law protection have been attacked. Please write to congress and senate to stop this attack on the US Flagged vessels.

1. **Road - Trucking firms** - In the U.S., a foreign truck carrier may carry qualifying **international freight** across the border, subject to its operating authority. It generally cannot pick up a domestic load at one U.S. point and deliver it to another U.S. point.
2. **Rail** - While Canadian rail can legally carry standard international freight, attempts to use token or micro-rail lines (like short-line shunts) to bypass cabotage laws—such as moving domestic U.S. cargo between two U.S. ports via a minor Canadian rail loop to evade the [Jones Act](#)—are heavily scrutinized and subject to massive federal enforcement actions and penalties.
3. **Air** - Foreign airlines can fly passengers from its home country into a foreign destination (such as Emirates flying from Dubai to New York), but it cannot pick up passengers in New York and fly them to Los Angeles
4. **Maritime** – Jones Act

You can find more information about the importance of the Jones Act by clicking [here](#).
You may use this text as your message or create your own:

Dear Member of the 119th Congress Representing My Home State and District:

I understand President Trump recently approved a 90-day extension to the Jones Act waiver originally issued on March 17, 2026. As a constituent who works in the maritime industry, I respectfully oppose this and any future waivers. The Jones Act protects maritime jobs like mine while also strengthening our national security. The Jones Act is a great example of an America First law and supports an industry that is vital to our country's supply chain. Please support my industry by letting the Administration know that you oppose any Jones Act waivers or other attempts to weaken or rescind the Jones Act.

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NYSDOS Port Study: - Paddy Loughlin provided an update on the ongoing NYSDOS Port Study. The confidential responses have been strong and the State recently provided financial support to a Great Lakes Port who demonstrated an immediate need. The goal for the survey is to capture as much information about New York ports as possible to inform an accurate Needs Assessment. Any help you can provide in encouraging operators to complete the survey would be greatly appreciated, we want to ensure our Green and Resilient Ports Initiatives are aligned with the real-world needs of port and terminal operators. Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RKPVNR6>

Padraig “Paddy” Loughlin, Ports Specialist
New York Department of State
w: (518) 486-7652 Padraig.Loughlin@dos.ny.gov

NJDOT Port Study: – Nick Brown provided a brief regarding NJDOT Port Study for New Jersey Terminals. Individual responses will remain **confidential** and will be reported only in summary form. The goal for the survey is to capture as much information about New Jersey ports as possible to inform an accurate Needs Assessment. Any help you can provide in encouraging operators to complete the survey would be greatly appreciated, we want to ensure our Green and Resilient Ports Initiatives are aligned with the real-world needs of port and terminal operators. Nick Brown, *NY/NJ Coastal Lead*, M 551.370.4850 Nick.Brown@HDRInc.com

TBHCA Storytelling is a powerful way to share information about maritime industry benefits, accomplishments, and create greater awareness. The NYSDOS has capabilities to organize the stories TBHCA collects onto an interactive map with descriptions, images, and links to learn more. It'd be very straight-forward to organize & launch and will be mapped to provide visual benefits like overlaying NY Legislative or Congressional districts that could be an important communication tool. If you wish to participate, please feel free to contact me via mobile or email.

CG Reporting System - All commercial vessels engaged in towing or pushing ahead, excluding ferry operations, are requested to report to Coast Guard Sector New York vessel traffic service at 1-718-354-4088 prior to leaving berth. The following information should be provided: vessel name, cargo type, **cargo quantity**, and destination. Mariners are advised that ice condition messages are updated on the Navigation Centers Port Status Page linked here <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/port-status?zone=NEW%20YORK>

The American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) on Wednesday announced a landmark memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Great Lakes Alliance of Shipyards (GLAS), bringing together leading organizations representing Great Lakes ports and American shipyards around shared priorities in domestic shipbuilding, commerce, workforce development, infrastructure, and federal policy. The agreement was signed July 31 during AGLPA's 2026 Annual Conference in Chicago. The MOU marks the first formal partnership between the U.S. Great Lakes port and shipyard communities. By connecting public port authorities with leading American shipyards, the organizations will work more

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closely to expand the region's industrial capacity, pursue new cargo and export opportunities, develop the next generation of skilled maritime workers, and advance national priorities to restore American shipbuilding and strengthen the maritime industrial base. The partnership also recognizes the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System's critical role in connecting American industry to domestic and global markets.

Gateway Hudson Tunnel Project -Safety Zone: The following area is a safety zone: All waters of the Hudson River from surface to bottom, encompassed by a line connecting the following points beginning at 40°45'20.32" N, 074°00'23.84" W; thence to 40°45'23.34" N, 074°00'30.60" W; thence to 40°45'24.03" N, 074°00'40.85" W; thence to 40°45'18.89" N, 074°00'48.18" W; thence to 40°45'13.80" N, 074°00'48.64" W; thence to 40°45'08.03" N, 074°00'46.44" W; thence to 40°45'07.51" N, 074°00'37.61" W; thence to 40°45'09.18" N, 074°00'36.37" W; thence to 40°45'06.70" N, 074°00'30.78" W; thence returning along the Manhattan shoreline to the beginning point. Enforcement - officer operating a Coast Guard vessel and a Federal, State, and local officer with law enforcement authority designated by or assisting the Captain of the Port New York (COTP) in the enforcement of the safety zone. Under the general safety zone regulations in subpart C of this part, you may not enter the safety zone described in paragraph (a) of this section unless authorized by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative. (2) To seek permission to enter, contact the COTP or the COTP's representative on VHF-FM channel 16 or by telephone at (718) 354-4353. Those in the safety zone must comply with all lawful orders or directions given to them by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative. Unless otherwise directed by the COTP or the COTPs designated representative the enforcement period of this section will be subject to enforcement from 12:01 a.m. on May 1, 2026, to 11:59 p.m. on January 20, 2029. If the project is completed before January 20, 2029, enforcement of the safety zone will be suspended, and notice given via Local Notice to Mariners. The Coast Guard Northeast District Local Notice to Mariners can be found at: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/maritimesafety-information>.

Coast Guard releases report on Ports and Waterways Safety Act Board of Inquiry following Key Bridge Incident - <https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/4591563/coast-guard-releases-report-on-ports-and-waterways-safety-act-board-of-inquiry/>

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Meetings/Events

SEPT 2nd – HOPS Steering Committee Meeting

Introductions and Chairman's Report

- Chair: Captain John DeCruz opened the first steering committee meeting following the summer break and previewed presentations, agency reports, and new business.
- USCG leadership: Captain Doreen McCarthy introduced new Deputy Captain of the Port Capt. Stephen Bor and Prevention Department Head Cmdr. Earle Smith. Capt. Bor summarized his prevention, waterways, legal, and environmental-enforcement background.
- Sail4th 250: Capt. McCarthy thanked port partners for coordinating a safe and successful event and noted that Sector New York is returning attention to baseline preparedness and contingency plans.
- Hurricane readiness: Members were urged to maintain vigilance, preparedness, and current contingency plans through hurricane season.
- Illegal passenger vessels: Following a recent fatal incident involving an allegedly illegal passenger-for-hire operation, Sector New York is coordinating prevention, intelligence, outreach, and response activity. Suspected unsafe operations should first be reported to the Coast Guard Command Center by VHF or telephone.
- Meeting format: Capt. McCarthy offered Sector New York meeting space. Members supported resuming periodic in-person meetings, preferably with a hybrid option. Fort Wadsworth and Sector conference space will be explored.

Presentations

- Skanska - Raritan River Railroad Bridge replacement: Daniel Nola reported that the waterway safety/no-wake zone, Neptune cable no-anchor markings, marine-equipment mobilization, and Phase 1 concrete/blockout work are complete. Four counterweight boxes are being fabricated in Buffalo and will travel by land to New Jersey, then by barge from Elizabeth to the project.
- Near-term navigation impacts: South Amboy counterweight work will leave the North Channel open. Perth Amboy erection requires two separate 24-hour channel closures, presently anticipated in October and November 2026. A seven-day closure is projected for late 2027 for upper Perth Amboy tower work. Span float-ins are projected during 2028, and existing swing-span removal is projected for Q3 2029.
- Project communications: Skanska will distribute the presentation and continues emailed local notices. Interested stakeholders may request addition to the project distribution list.
- USCG Port Security Resiliency Assessment: Brendan Dolan described a voluntary, no-fault, non-regulatory assessment program for critical port facilities. The one-day assessment may include day/night review, landside and waterside imagery, drone imagery, confidential findings, and

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documentation useful for security planning and grant justification. Three facilities have enrolled; the Coast Guard seeks two more.

Old Business

- Liberty State Park ferry terminal: NJDOT reported that the new terminal barge is in place and gangway installation is nearing completion. A Sept. 22 commemoration is being planned alongside recognition of the 9/11 all-boats call. NJDOT is also considering an open-house/landing exercise so passenger-vessel operators can test compatibility before an emergency.
- Charts and visuals: NOAA will pursue an expedited shoreline/chart update after the facility is operational and named. NJDOT will provide visuals so operators can evaluate the new landing configuration.
- Face-to-face meetings: Leadership will pursue a suitable venue and hybrid capability, with the goal of holding an in-person steering meeting by November if October is too soon.

New Business

- USACE New York District: Col. Eric R. Swensen introduced himself as the new District Commander and emphasized coordination with the Coast Guard and harbor partners. USACE reported a second series of anchor-drop tests planned by the end of September; draft analysis may be available in early 2027. Marina-setback guidance remains an issue for follow-up.
- MARAD: Kari Dahlquist introduced herself as the new North Atlantic Gateway Director and harbor operations representative, succeeding Amanda Rutherford and Tom Morkan
Kari.Dahlquist@dot.gov 202-855-4079
- 9/11 25th anniversary: Members discussed Sept. 11 remembrance activities and the Sept. 22 Liberty State Park event. Fireboat John J. Harvey indicated availability and interest in participating.

Government Agency Reports

- USCG Sector New York: Sector is participating in a Sept. 10 interagency meeting on the City of Elizabeth ferry feasibility study. An eight-week full waterway closure at the Portal Bridge is anticipated Nov. 2, 2026-Jan. 6, 2027; a schedule update will be requested in early October.]
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Ongoing dredging includes S.W. O'Kert work expected to finish by Sept. 10 and Donjon work on the Arthur Kill 35-foot reach, approximately 25% complete with mid-October completion anticipated. Sandy Hook Channel and Newark Bay 50-foot-reach awards are expected in mid-September. Bronx River dredging is expected to begin in early October. No current harbor public notices were reported; anchor-drop testing remains upcoming.
- NOAA: Ferdinand R. Hassler is expected to survey designated harbor areas from September through October. NOAA needs a nearby pier for three fuel/supply windows; NYCEDC offered to explore Homeport Pier. NOAA will also work to chart the new Liberty State Park facility.

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- NYCEDC: Homeport Pier has new/repositioned fendering. Assembly of the new Brooklyn Marine Terminal ship-to-shore crane and crane-rail strengthening are expected to align for year-end readiness. Current opportunities include the electric barge service RFEI between Brooklyn Marine Terminal and Hunts Point (due Oct. 15; site tour Sept. 17), NYCHA Maritime Career Readiness Program RFEI (due Nov. 5), and maritime-development opportunity at the 23rd Street Basin. Blue Highway Industry Day is Oct. 27-Reach out to Max with interest.
- <https://edc.nyc/manhattan-cruise-terminal-community-fund-administrator-rfp>
- <https://edc.nyc/maritime-operators-electric-barge-service-between-brooklyn-marine-terminal-and-hunts-point-marine>
- <https://edc.nyc/nycha-maritime-career-readiness-program-rfei>
- <https://edc.nyc/request-development-partner-23rd-street-basin-gowanus-rfp>
- NYSDOS: The Maritime Technical Working Group's autonomous-vessel research paper is available; a remote operating centers report is in draft review. Empire Wind 1 is accepting applications for its Navigation Enhancement and Training Program, with a similar Sunrise Wind program expected. The New York Whale Awareness Act was signed. NYSERDA Ports RFP Round 2 applications are due Jan. 7, and approximately \$50 million is expected for offshore-wind predevelopment activities.
- [M-TWG autonomous vessel study](#)
- [M-TWG Event Page](#)
- [Navigation Enhancement and Training Program](#)
- [NYSERDA Ports RFP](#)
- [NYSERDA Offshore Wind Predevelopment Program](#)
- PANYNJ: No report/representation
- MARAD: No substantive report beyond the new representative's introduction.
- MAPONY/NJ: Stephen Lyman recognized Administrative Director Tiffany Torrey for her service as she prepared to leave the Association at the end of the week. Committee members thanked her for supporting the meetings.
- SAPONYNJ: No report/representation

Maritime Planning Subcommittees

- Passenger Vessel: The subcommittee continues to track wake issues, jet-ski activity, and illegal charter operations. A full subcommittee meeting will be announced at the next full committee meeting.
- Bridge: No additional report beyond the Skanska presentation; Greg Hitch was traveling.\
- Harbor Education: Planning will begin for a fall Shared Harbor Day. City of Water Day outreach at Liberty State Park was successful, and discussion with park police highlighted continuing jet-ski launching and behavior concerns.

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- Deep Draft: Shoaling in the Arthur Kill south of Bayway led pilots to reduce project depth from 35 to 34 feet, producing a 32-foot draft limit plus rise of tide, up to 36 feet maximum. Harbor pilots and partners will visit the ERDC ship simulator in Vicksburg in February for the 55-foot harbor-deepening project.
- Energy: The subcommittee continues to await cable-routing and burial procedural guidance informed by the USACE anchor-drop research.
- Harbor Carriers: Members expressed concern about Jones Act waivers and their effects on U.S. coastwise operators. The group is also working with VTS to improve cargo-data tracking and offered to help update the Coast Guard's terminal list.
- Bulk Liquid Terminal: No substantive update.
- Container Terminal Operators: Vessel schedules remain highly erratic due to Asian typhoons and Panama Canal conditions. The AIS-transponder initiative with the Port Authority and pilots continues; technical approval through USMX/ILA is pending, and the next pilot-terminal operator meeting needs to be scheduled.

SEPT 23rd – Full Harbor Ops Committee Meeting

Chairman's Report and Coast Guard Update

- Opening: Captain John DeCruz opened the first Full Committee meeting following the summer break and noted that the meeting would focus on operational and agency updates.
- Sector leadership: Captain Doreen McCarthy addressed the Full Committee for the first time as Sector Commander and Captain of the Port. She introduced Deputy Captain of the Port Capt. Stephen Bor and Prevention Department Head Cmdr. Urdley Smith.
- Sail4th 250: Capt. McCarthy thanked the harbor community for the extensive coordination that supported a safe event without major operational incidents. She specifically noted work involving anchorages, special local regulations, pilots, tugs, and the Deep Draft Working Group.
- UN General Assembly: The Coast Guard maintained its security posture during UNGA, including established security zones and additional testing of personal watercraft on the East River. Maritime operators were thanked for accommodating routing restrictions.
- Recent waterway response: The waterway near the Brooklyn Bridge was briefly closed on Sept. 20 after a report of a possible active-shooter/person-in-the-water event; the report proved unfounded.
- Heavy weather: Capt. McCarthy advised that a Marine Safety Information Bulletin had been issued concerning possible offshore and regional heavy weather. Vessel and facility operators were urged to verify moorings, use additional lines where appropriate, and complete preparedness measures.
- 9/11 remembrance: Members recognized the Coast Guard's 25th-anniversary ceremony and the tugboat salute. Capt. McCarthy reflected on the personal importance of the anniversary and thanked the port community for its support.

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New Business

- Liberty State Park ferry terminal: NJDOT reported that the new ferry terminal barge was formally dedicated on Sept. 22. Final utility and punch-list work remains, with Statue City Cruises service targeted to begin in November.
- Emergency-response familiarization: NJDOT is developing an open-barge event with the Coast Guard, New Jersey State Police Marine Services, pilots, emergency responders, and vessel operators. The purpose is to let participants test landing, tie-up, and vessel compatibility before the facility is needed during an emergency.
- In-person meetings: Members supported restoring periodic face-to-face Full Committee meetings with hybrid capability. March and November were suggested for a twice-yearly rotation, ideally with one meeting in New York and one in New Jersey. Potential venues include Coast Guard facilities, Fort Wadsworth, and the USACE Caven Point Marine Terminal.

Old Business and Project Coordination

- Gateway Tunnel: Construction activity continues along the Manhattan shoreline of the North River. No specific commercial-navigation impact was reported.
- Macomb's Dam Bridge: NYC DOT is developing a bridge-painting project that may temporarily lower available vertical clearance to approximately 24 feet and require closures. Circle Line requested that the contractor preserve an operable draw where possible. The Bridge Subcommittee noted that extended non-opening periods may require federal rulemaking and that the project remains at least six months away.
- Procurement coordination: Members recommended that public bridge and waterfront procurements include explicit requirements for early coordination with commercial navigation stakeholders. Because the Macombs Dam project remains early in development, the committee expects an opportunity to influence the work plan.

Government Agency and Organization Reports

- USCG Sector New York: Cmdr. Smith reiterated hurricane and heavy-weather preparedness. Sector is planning for the 2026-2027 ice season under Operation RENEW and welcomes feedback on the prior season's Hudson River ice operations. VTS reported no additional updates.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Ward Point contract work has been accepted, and the current survey is available through eHydro. Arthur Kill 35-foot-reach dredging is approximately 55% complete, with about 40 days of work remaining. Newark Bay and Sandy Hook Channel dredging are expected to begin in early October, followed by Bronx River work. Favorable bids allowed the Arthur Kill work to extend farther north toward identified shoaling near the Bayway and Kinder Morgan area.
- NOAA: No report.
- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey: No agency report.

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- NJDOT: In addition to the Liberty State Park terminal update, NJDOT reported two pending state-channel dredging projects in northern Monmouth County. One is advertised and the other is expected to be advertised after final permits.
- NYCEDC and NYC Ferry: Hornblower issued an RFP for a shipyard to repower NYC Ferry K-class vessels with Tier 4 engines. NYCEDC also highlighted opportunities involving the Manhattan Cruise Terminal Community Fund administrator, the NYCHA Maritime Career Readiness Program, and a development partner for the 23rd Street Basin.
- New York Department of State: The Public Service Commission issued the Propel NY Energy Article VII certificate; federal permits remain necessary. New York also announced a multistate lawsuit challenging federal cancellation of offshore-wind leases, following earlier litigation involving another New York project.
- MAPONY/NJ: Future Harbor Operations questions, proposed presentations, and project notices should be sent to hops@nymaritime.org following Tiffany Tory's departure.
- MARAD and Shipping Association: No report.

Maritime Planning Subcommittee Reports

- Passenger Vessel: The subcommittee is seeking topics for a fall meeting. Staten Island Ferry's annual Exceptional Children boat ride was scheduled for Sept. 26, with a Hudson River route to avoid UNGA-related East River restrictions.
- Harbor Education: Representatives participated in a Coast Guard-convened national harbor safety committee discussion on shared-waterway education. The report highlighted NY/NJ's longstanding culture of collaboration and its mature public-education programs compared with many other ports.
- Energy: The subcommittee continues to seek USACE cable-routing and burial documentation and will review proposed burial depths associated with the Propel NY Energy project, with a preference for at least 15 feet where appropriate.
- Harbor Carriers: The Tugboat Roundup in Waterford was highlighted as an effective public-engagement event. The subcommittee also noted upcoming industry meetings, the approaching ice season, and concerns about continued Jones Act waivers and their effects on U.S.-flag operators.
- Bulk Liquid Terminal: The Teamster's collective bargaining agreement was set to expire Sept. 30. Negotiations were expected to succeed, but terminals were preparing for possible work-stoppage contingencies, including alternate dock persons in charge and facility access for essential personnel.
- Deep Draft: Pilots will use current eHydro survey information when evaluating operating changes at Ward Point and will monitor completion of the Arthur Kill 35-foot-reach project. The group also raised recurring concerns about safe gangways, pilot boarding, and emergency access at liquid-bulk terminals. Simulation work for the 55-foot Newark Bay project and escort-related scenarios is expected in February.

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- Container Terminal Operators: ILA and USMX approved the crane-mounted AIS-transponder concept. The project team is working with Trelleborg on what is expected to be the first installation of its kind at a U.S. port. A vendor meeting is planned for early October. Golden Week factory closures in China are expected to produce blank sailings that may affect NY/NJ volumes in November. Port Authority maintenance dredging was completed at berths 68, 70, and 72.
- Bridge: The Port Authority's Outerbridge Crossing contractor is increasing work-platform activity in coordination with pilots. Demolition of the former Portal Bridge is scheduled to begin Oct. 9; the old bridge will remain closed to navigation until it is removed from the waterway, expected by early January 2027. Rail traffic has shifted to the new bridge.

Other Matters

- Recreational-vessel incident: A rowing representative reported unsafe interactions during an August National Powerboat Association poker run, including high-speed passes near racing shells. The group will seek an association contact and report relevant safety concerns to the Coast Guard.

SEPT 25 – Center for Advance Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT). Invited to meet with program leaders to review and discuss topics to study benefiting the Maritime Industry. Over several years CAIT has done many studies on road, rail, and bridges and recently garnered substantial international funding to expand research on Maritime topics. Currently the team is working on Optimizing Bridge Investments with Predictive Analytics and suggested a second topic regarding dredging. The dredging topic was fundamental, and it was suggested that they create a pathway for the maritime industry to obtain needed maintenance and deepening dredging. The research group will layout a rough framework for review and after approval will build out the program and afterwards provide a course on Maintenance Procurement.

SEPT 25-27- DIMACS and CCICADA Workshop on AI and the Maritime Domain, Princeton University I was invited to attend the three-day event along with academics from MIT, Rutgers, George Mason, USMMA, and national/international Industry leaders to discuss Cyber threats and AI in the Maritime Domain. At the conclusion of the three-day workshop the group agreed that following the final Cyber NVIC scheduled to be published by the CG shortly they would unpack all the requirements and either stand up with a model course or provide a framework to advance Cyber training and awareness. The second topic concerned itself with AI and its impacts in the maritime domain. A national presentation provided an overview of the limited applications of AI in the United States while an international presentation demonstrated the full buildout of AI. Currently, 6 fully automated ports are operating in China and elsewhere there are several semi-automated ports around the world with none in the United States.

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SEPT 30TH General Meeting – The General Meeting at the Old Bermuda Inn was attended by over 50 attendees. Last minute cancelations by several members were due to workload including Port Captains having to man vessels due to manning issues. Those in attendance reviewed and attended to the Associations General Business and worked in groups to identify key areas for the Association to focus on in 2027. The Association plans to host several events including Tug/Barge Day, COTP Bi-Yearly Luncheons, Albany trips, and other public events. Minutes of the meeting will be forwarded when submitted.

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

NYCEDC - Maritime Operators, Electric Barge Service Between Brooklyn Marine Terminal and Hunts Point Marine Terminal RFEI - <https://edc.nyc/maritime-operators-electric-barge-service-between-brooklyn-marine-terminal-and-hunts-point-marine>

MARAD

1. PROTECT Grants - Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Competitive Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). **Closes October 9th.** You can find additional information on the NOFO, including eligibility requirements, application instructions, and deadlines, on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Applicant questions should be directed to FHWA's official program inbox: PROTECTcompetitive@dot.gov.
2. MARAD recently signed two Memorandums of Cooperation related to Small Modular Reactors (SMRs): Port of Long Beach and Core Power (US) Inc. We are seeking partners interested in exploring the implementation of SMRs for vessel propulsion or for landside power for ports. If you are interested in learning more, please email me to arrange a meeting: Amanda.Rutherford@dot.gov. [related [Press Release](#)]
3. Staffing update in case you missed my prior announcement: I am very pleased to introduce Kari Dahlquist, who will be serving as MARAD's Northeast Atlantic Gateway Director for the remainder of the year. [Link to Gateway Director website](#) with a map showing the regions. I am still covering the Mid-Atlantic region and will continue to participate in meetings with Kari for a while to provide a seamless transition on your end. Her contact information is below, and please reach out to her directly at any time. Kari Dahlquist, Maritime Standards Coordinator, U.S. Department of Transportation, [202-855-4079](tel:202-855-4079), Kari.Dahlquist@dot.gov

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OUTREACH

Mohawk Hudson Council of Yacht Clubs – A connection was made at the Tugboat Roundup and Council immediately responded and set a date for me to speak to the Mohawk Hudson Council of Yacht Club on October 7th. Turns out the Hudson River has two Clubs.... the Mohawk Club representing marinas north of Kingston and the Hudson River Boat and Yacht Club representing marinas south of Kingston. We made several attempts to engage with the HRBYC without success and look forward to this opportunity.

THE MARITIME ASSOCIATION OF THE PORT OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY WEBSITE
<https://www.nymaritime.org/uscg-sector-ny-resources/vessel-arrival-guidance>

TOWBOAT HARBOR CARRIERS ASSOC WEBSITE: I wish to thank the companies who have submitted company social media blurbs. Thank you to Rob Hughes for his efforts and look forward to updating our website.

MARINE EVENTS

Sailing Regatta Mariners are advised that a sailing regatta is scheduled to be held in the Upper Bay south of Governors Island, near Bay Ridge Flats, beginning April 29, 2026 through October 18, 2026, on every Wednesday and Thursday between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., on Saturdays between the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday October 18, 2026 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Approximately 13 sailboats, 24-26 feet in length, with multiple motorized support vessels will participate. Interested mariners may contact the Executive Director on marine band radio channel 71 VHF-FM. The race schedule between June 17, 2026, and July 11, 2026, maybe be impacted by other activities and marine events associated with Sail 4th 250 and International Naval Review 250.

Sailing Regatta Mariners are advised that a weekly reoccurring regatta is scheduled on the Upper Bay of New York Harbor, every Tuesday from May 26, 2026, until October 13, 2026, from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm. Approximately 15 sailing vessels will maneuver on various courses on the Upper Bay, between Ellis Island and Governors Island. Interested mariners may contact the race coordinator on VHF-FM Channel 68 during the scheduled regattas for further information.

Sailing Regatta From: 2026-05-27 To: 2026-10-15 Location: NY/NJ – UPPER BAY – Sailing Regatta
Details: Mariners are advised that a weekly reoccurring regatta is scheduled on the Upper Bay of New York Harbor, every Wednesday from May 27, 2026, until October 14, 2026, from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm. Approximately 15 sailing vessels will maneuver on various courses on the Upper Bay, between Ellis Island and Governors Island. Interested mariners may contact the race coordinator on VHF-FM Channel 68 during the scheduled regattas for further information

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Sailing Regatta From: 2026-05-28 To: 2026-10-17 Location: NY/NJ – UPPER BAY – Sailing Regatta
Details: Mariners are advised that a weekly reoccurring regatta is scheduled on the Upper Bay of New York Harbor, every Thursday from May 28, 2026, until October 15, 2026, at 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm. Approximately 15 sailing vessels will maneuver on various courses on the Upper Bay, between Ellis Island and Governors Island. Interested mariners may contact the race coordinator on VHF-FM Channel 68 during the scheduled regattas for further information.

DREDGING MARINE CONSTRUCTION NEWS

ATLANTIC OCEAN EMPIRE WIND – SAFETY ZONE(S) ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATION

Restriction From: 2026-09-30 To: 2026-10-08. A 500-meter Safety Zone will be enforced around Empire Wind operations from 8:00am, September 30, 2026, to 8:00am, October 07, 2026, Mariners are to avoid transiting within 500-meters of the following positions: C09: 40°20'25.307N, 073°26'50.160W; E08: 40°18'57.671N, 73°27'43.888W; D10: 40°19'34.629N, 73°25'59.594W; B05: 40°21'45.973N, 73°30'15.333W; B16: 40°19'55.714N, 73°20'48.712W; B17: 40°19'45.652N, 73°19'57.228W; D18: 40°18'14.268N, 73°19'07.766W; D17: 40°18'24.335N, 73°19'59.229W; C19: 40°18'44.853N, 73°18'15.290W; C18: 40°18'54.926N, 73°19'06.757W; C10: 40°20'15.2898N, 73°25'58.653W; C11: 40°20'05.266N, 73°25'07.150W; B14: 40°20'15.817N, 73°22'31.694W; C13: 40°19'45.200N, 73°23'24.159W; C12: 40°19'55.236N, 73°24'15.652W; B04: 40°21'55.959N, 73°31'06.870W; B03: 40°22'05.938N, 73°31'58.412W; D02: 40°21'12.870N, 73°32'51.312W; B01: 40°22'25.878N, 73°33'41.509W; B02: 40°22'15.912N, 73°32'49.958W; C01: 40°21'35.382N, 73°33'42.583W; B08: 40°21'15.978N, 73°27'40.747W; B07: 40°21'25.983N, 73°28'32.271W.

Hudson River Carver Companies will conduct maintenance dredging operations at the Port of Coeymans on the Hudson River, New York, at approximate position 42°29'01.45"N, 073°47'14.78"W (42.483737N, 73.787440W). Operations are scheduled to begin September 1, 2026, and continue through December 31, 2027, operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Vessels may contact the operation on VHF-FM channels 13 and 81A. Mariners should contact the tending tug CMT PIKE via VHF for passing arrangements and coordination to avoid impeding navigation.

Upper Bay - From: 2026-09-24 To: 2027-01-16 Location: 40-36-44.748N/074-03-35.424W Commerce Construction Corporation will conduct marine construction, diving, and dock building operations at various locations adjacent to U.S. Coast Guard Station Staten Island, Upper Bay, New York, in approximate position 40.6124335° N, 074.0598420° W, from August 10, 2026, through January 15, 2027. Operations are anticipated to occur Tuesday through Friday, from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Equipment on scene will include one 30-foot by 90-foot spudded crane barge with a Mantis 50-ton machine and one 30-foot by 90-foot or 34-foot by 120-foot support barge fastened to the hip of the crane barge. The barges will not impede the Upper Bay navigable channel and will be moored daily at the listed coordinates during working hours.

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Mariners are requested to transit at slow speed to reduce wake and swell for the safety of personnel and construction operations. Commerce Construction will monitor VHF-FM channel 16 and will check in daily with Vessel Traffic Service.

North River - Donjon Marine Co., Inc. submitted a Local Notice to Mariners information form for FY27 maintenance dredging at the Manhattan Cruise Terminal berths in New York. Work is scheduled to begin on September 14, 2026, with an estimated completion date of October 10, 2026, and will occur 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The operation will take place inside the Manhattan Cruise Terminal berths near latitude 40°45'57.9384"N and longitude 73°59'57.03"W. Equipment on scene is expected to include one dredge, either Oyster Bay or Delaware Bay, three dump scows, one tending tug, and two towing-to-sea tugs. The project will operate as a "move on demand" dredging operation, with a tending tug always maintained on site to move vessels as needed to avoid impeding navigation. Vessels may be contacted on working channel 78 and will monitor channels 13 and 16.

Arthur Kill - Trevcon Construction Company, LLC will be conducting dredging operations and wharf construction in Arthur Kill, Elizabeth, NJ, from October 2, 2024, to January 29, 2029, Monday through Friday, between 6:00am to 3:00pm. Equipment on scene will be a crane and material barges. Mariners are urged to use extreme caution and transit the area at their slowest safe speed to create minimum wake after passing arrangements have been made.

Gowanus Canal - Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting Co., will be conducting work associated with the EPA Superfund Gowanus Canal Environmental Remediation Project in Brooklyn, New York. The operation involves transferring sediment and debris from smaller hopper barges to larger hopper barges for delivery to the Clean Earth Claremont Processing Facility in Jersey City, New Jersey, or directly loading material into trucks for over-the-road transport to an offsite disposal facility. The work is planned for the Gowanus Canal approximately 100 feet south of the 659 Smith Street property, across the channel from the New York City Department of Sanitation facility. Operations are scheduled to begin August 31, 2026, and continue through November 15, 2027, with work hours from 0700 to 1800, Monday through Friday. Equipment expected on scene includes one 40-by-140-foot excavator deck barge, one 37-by-150-foot material barge, one 30-by-60-foot hopper barge, and one 600-horsepower tugboat. Vessels may be contacted on VHF channels 13 and 16. The applicant states that passing arrangements can be made within approximately 30 minutes and that the barges will have a full-time tender available to move them on demand to avoid impeding navigation. The form identifies NOAA Chart US5NYCDG/12334 for the area and includes a site layout showing the temporary dock, containment boom, hopper barges, trans loader, spill tarp, gangway, and water treatment system

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BRIDGE NEWS

Bridge Reports - Please make every effort to access for updates and report any/all bridge delays/concerns: <https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/new-york> To best document bridge performances, it is highly recommended that all bridge outages be reported via emailed via Bridge Form to Greg Hitchen, D1 Bridge Program Manager Gregory.P.Hitchen@uscg.mil

Outerbridge Crossing from June 15, 2026 – October 31, 2026, Monday-Friday, between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., a biennial bridge inspection using a combination of a bucket truck, manlift, and tethered climbing will be conducted on the Outerbridge Crossing over Arthur Kill at mile 2.0. Vertical clearance will not be reduced by more than 5 feet below low steel due to this inspection. Additionally, there will be a dive inspection of the bridge piers periodically during this period. Mariners requiring full vertical or horizontal clearance can contact VTS New York or contact the contractor via marine radio VHF-FM Ch. 13/16 or by calling Rudy Baliga (862) 345-4670. Mariners are advised to exercise caution when transiting the area

Gowanus Canal - Pedestrian bridge over the Gowanus Canal connecting two parks in Smith Street connecting to the 9th Street MTA station to the end of Bond Street. Have reported this to D-1 Bridge Branch who are unaware of the project and will reach out to the Parks Department to inform them of bridge proposal projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Johansson

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