



Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing  
39<sup>th</sup>. Conference and Membership Meeting  
January 26 – January 28, 2026

**Monday, January 26**

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	C-PORT Board of Directors Meeting (C-PORT Directors Only)
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	C-PORT Insurance Program Meeting (C-PORT Board of Directors and Insurance Program Partners Only)
10:20 AM – 12:00 PM	US Coast Guard/C-PORT Partnership Meeting (C-PORT Board of Directors, C-PORT USCG Committee Members, and USCG Partners Only)
12:00 PM – 3:30 PM	C-PORT Board of Directors Meeting (C-PORT Directors Only)
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Conference Registration Open!
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	<b>C-PORT Conference Welcome Reception</b>

**Tuesday, January 27**

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	<b>INDUSTRY VENDOR SHOWCASE OPEN</b>
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	<b>Continental Breakfast with the Vendors in the Exhibit Area</b>
8:35 AM	<b>Welcome!</b> <i>Phil LeBlanc, C-PORT Chairman</i> <i>Tina Cardone, C-PORT Executive Director</i>  <b>U.S. Coast Guard - Unity of Command</b> <i>CAPT Mathew Fine, Chief, Office of Shore Forces, USCG</i> <i>CAPT Michael “Mac” McCarthy, Chief, Office of Boat Forces, USCG</i> <i>TBD, Office of Search and Rescue, USCG</i>
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	<b>Break with our Exhibitors</b> <i>Sponsored by</i> <i>Marine Towing &amp; Salvage of SWFL-TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral</i>
10:35 AM	<b>C-PORT Reports - Government and Legislative Affairs Team</b> <i>Panel Committee Report</i> <i>Phil LeBlanc – USCG Partnership</i> <i>Terry Hill – NENA/911 Project</i> <i>Tina Cardone – Federal Advocacy</i> <i>David LaMontagne – State Advocacy</i>  <b>How to Diversify Your Towing Business</b> <i>A Panel Discussion: Keep your assets working</i>  <b>Notice to Members</b> <i>Presentation of Awards and Prizes</i> <i>Life Jacket preview- Lili Colby, Mustang Survival</i>
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	<b>C-PORT Luncheon</b> <i>Sponsored by</i> <i>Compass Marine Services</i>
1:00 PM	<b>C-PORT Reports - Programs and Education Updates</b> <i>Phil LeBlanc, C-PORT Chairman</i> <i>Tina Cardone, C-PORT Executive Director</i>

***Tuesday, January 27, cont.***

1:15 PM

**Insurance Corner**

*Panel Presentation by Starkweather & Shepley Insurance*

*Nate Oberg, Commercial Account Executive, Marine Practice Group*

*Sara Mariani, Account Manager, Marine Practice Group*

*Charlie Pugliese, Marine Consultant*

**Keynote Address**

*Mr. Jeffrey Wheeler*

*Deputy Chief Office of Boat Forces, USCG (Ret)*

*Chief Warrant Officer, USCG (Ret)*

**Risk Management Guidance - Communication**

"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place."— George Bernard Shaw. Using case information, we will delve into the importance of the exchange of information that takes place between you and your customer, before and during the job.

*(A certificate of completion will be sent to those successfully completing the course requirements.)*

3:15 PM – 3:45 PM

**Break with our Exhibitors**

*Sponsored by*

*Miller's Towing & Salvage TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook*

3:50 PM

**C-PORT Marine Assistance Company Membership Meeting – Closed**

Membership Meeting Call to Order

*Phil LeBlanc, C-PORT Chairman*

Insurance Partners Program Update

C-PORT Board of Director Elections

Membership Report

C-PORT Notices and Information

Members Open Forum- General Q&A

6:00 PM- 10:00 PM

**C-PORT Gala**

*Sponsored by*

*GEICO/BoatU.S.*

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**C-PORT Gala Reception**

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

**C-PORT Gala Awards Banquet**

Member Anniversary Celebration

John D. Andrews Founders Award

AFRAS Lifesaving Award

***Wednesday, January 28***

***Salvage Day!***

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**INDUSTRY VENDOR SHOWCASE OPEN**

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM

**Continental Breakfast with Vendors in Exhibit Area**

8:35 AM

**Notice to Members - Safe Operations**

**A Legal Perspective- Negligent Salvage. What is it? How to avoid it.**

*John Fulweiler, Esq., Fulweiler, llc*

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM

**Break with our Exhibitors**

10:20 AM

**Diving and Electrical Current**

*A discussion – Facilitated by Phil LeBlanc, Safe Sea*

**Salvage Demonstration: Join us poolside!**

*Salvage Techniques – Facilitated by Phil LeBlanc, Safe Sea*

*Life Jackets and Dual Buoyancy – Lili Colby, Mustang Survival*