



The Marine Assistance Industry Journal

A Quarterly Newsletter - CONFERENCE EDITION

Volume XXXIV- February 2020



Chairman's Address

Happy 2020! I hope each of you had a safe and prosperous 2019 and are looking forward to another successful season.

This organization started over thirty years ago as a small group of individuals, all trying to establish themselves in an untested industry, while facing an uncertain future.

As I looked out at the room at our recent Conference, I was amazed at how much we've changed. Not only has our group gotten larger, but we've gotten much louder in a far nicer hotel. That's progress!

In all seriousness, our industry has changed immeasurably over the years. While I wasn't on the firing lines in the very early, formative years, I'm constantly amazed by what has transpired in the twenty-plus years since I joined your ranks. Each year has brought new challenges, fresh successes, and numerous opportunities to learn and improve.

In that time, I've gained an awful lot of knowledge from this group. Each of us presents a unique way of doing business and solving problems, and a unique perspective on how our industry operates in their area. Meeting once each year is great, but making friends and contacts you can call for conversation and advice year-round is even better.

As we prepare for summer, I encourage our newer members to introduce themselves and get involved, and our seasoned members to reach their hands out. Not only can the newer companies benefit from the hard-won experience of others, but our long-time companies can also benefit from the fresh perspective that comes with the unbridled optimism of a new owner.

Fair winds and following seas,

Phil LeBlanc
C-PORT Chairman

SAVE THE DATE!

34th C-PORT Conference and Membership Meeting

November 15- November 16, 2020

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, FL

C-PORT Elects 2020 Board of Directors

The 2020 C-PORT Board of Directors was elected at the 33rd C-PORT Membership Meeting held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando FL. Two current board members were re-elected to the C-PORT Board of Directors.



Rob Butler, Big Bay Marine/TowBoatU.S. San Diego - Rob started as a Salvage Diver for Vessel Assist San Diego in 1988 while operating a charter boat company out of San Diego and Mexico. In 1990 Rob married his wife Brandi and soon after started Vessel Assist Tacoma in the Pacific Northwest. While in Washington, Rob started operations in Everett and Seattle. In 1999 Rob sold Vessel Assist Tacoma/Seattle and purchased Vessel Assist San Diego.

Rob has navigated on every coastal waterway in the Continental US, Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico calibrating radio towers for the Rescue 21 Project. Rob is married and has two daughters, Courtney and Hannah. Rob has been an active member of C-PORT since 1995.



Phil LeBlanc, Safe Sea/TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay - Growing up on Rhode Island’s Narragansett Bay, Phil has been a boater his entire life. He spent each summer cruising the waters around New England under both power and sail. In 1998, at the age of 18, he obtained his captain’s license and began working for Safe/Sea, TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay as a way to put himself through the University of Rhode Island. What began as a college job following his passion of being on the water has culminated in a career spanning two decades.

Phil is now co-owner of the business he began working for more than 20 years ago. He holds a 100-Ton Master for Near Coastal Waters with Commercial Assistance Towing and Radar Endorsements. As an ambassador of the commercial assistance industry, Phil looks forward to helping continue the growth of the industry through education and outreach.

After the election, Tina Cardone, executive director, introduced the 2020 C-PORT Board of Directors. “These individuals are focused on the needs and interests of the marine assistance industry, Cardone remarked. “The mission of our association is well served by this group of industry leaders.” Serving on the 2020 board are:

- Chairman - Phil LeBlanc, Safe Sea/TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay
- Vice Chairman - John Donaldson, Sentinel Marine Services/Sea Tow Sebastian
- Treasurer - Jon Gridley, Lake Tow Inc./Sea Tow Clarks Hill Lake
- Secretary - Harold “Smitty” Smith, Miller’s Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook
- Directors-

- Robert Butler, Big Bay Marine/TowBoatU.S. San Diego
- Jake Dunfee, Rescue Marine/TowBoatU.S. Port Clinton
- Anthony Noury, Hawser LLC/Sea Tow Charleston
- Richard Paul, Marine Towing & Salvage of SWFL/TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral
- Dale Plummer, Baltimore Marine Recovery/TowBoatU.S. Baltimore
- John Ward, Aquanaut Towing & Salvage/Sea Tow Pensacola-Destin.



The 33rd C-PORT Conference and Membership Meeting was held on January 20- January 22, 2020 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando FL. The conference began with a Welcome Reception, sponsored by Compass Marine Services, featuring an open bar and Spanish Tapas and the opportunity to meet old friends and colleagues and make new ones.

Vendors were on deck at 8:00 AM on Tuesday morning to welcome the attendees over coffee and pastries sponsored by Starkweather & Shepley Insurance. The exhibitors on display included: West Marine Pro; Subsolve USA; TowCoMobile Solutions; EZ Captain Hooks; Starkweather & Shepley Insurance; ConMar featuring 1st Watch, KBi, and icom; FLIR Maritime; Honda Marine; Metal Shark Boats; North River Boats; SKYDEX; Silver Ships; WING Inflatables; and Zodiac of NA. The exhibitors were available to the attendees throughout the event.

Phil LeBlanc, C-PORT chairman, opened the conference sessions at 8:30 AM, welcoming the attendees and introducing the US Coast Guard, representing our decades old partnership.

Pictured below, CDR Aurora Fleming, Chief, Policy Division, Office of Search and Rescue, opened the panel discussion honoring the 10 year anniversary of the rectification of the US Coast Guard- C-PORT Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU has encouraged and supported communication and programs to the benefit of the industry and the Coast Guard departments that oversee it.



CDR Michael Keane, Chief, Policy and Competency Division, Office of Boat Forces, was introduced to the attendees. He will be stepping in to fill the vacancy that CAPT Chris Keane will leave upon his retirement.

Engaging the members was LT Derek Wallin, Commanding Officer, USCG Station Fort Lauderdale, offering assistance in making those valuable connections with local USCG units.

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Following the USCG panel discussion, Phil LeBlanc and Tina Cardone, C-PORT executive director, welcomed those attending the conference for the first time. Prizes, sponsored by TowboatOne/TowBoatU.S. Palm Beach, were awarded to 2 first time attendees. Bob Cox, West Marine Pro, a premium exhibitor, thanked the association for the work it does on behalf of the industry and thanked everyone for the long standing relationship developed over the years. A networking break followed, sponsored by Reynolds Towing & Marine Service/TowBoatU.S. Bayshore.

Phil LeBlanc, co-owner Safe Sea and C-PORT chairman, and Rob Butler, owner Big Bay Marine Services and C-PORT director, presented "New Build or Refit? An Exercise in Acquiring a "New" Towboat". Using personal experiences, the pair compared and contrasted the costs associated and value of a new build or a refit when adding to their fleet of response and towing vessels.

Member anniversary celebrations were held at the C-PORT Awards Luncheon, sponsored by Safe Sea/TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay. Guests were treated to a buffet of southern fried chicken and meatloaf, salads, mashed potatoes, green beans, cornbread, peach cobbler, apple crumb pie and pecan pie. Cardone and LeBlanc honored members ranging from 5 years to 20 years, holding 25 year and 30 year member anniversaries until the evening banquet. A list of anniversary members follows in this publication.

Attendees returned from lunch for the 33rd C-PORT Membership Meeting. Linda Wagner and Chris Burns of Starkweather & Shepley, along with Matt Miles and Erik Swanson of Travelers Insurance, provided a brief update on the Insurance Program and announcing survey changes for policy holders.

An update of the association's work, projects, and committee reports were lead by LeBlanc. Highlights include:

- C-PORT and US Coast Guard partner meetings included discussions of a standardized MOA for training with Sectors.; closer working relationship with USCG MER, Marine Environmental Response focusing on disaster response resulting in new guidance from USCG to unified command to include local salvors.
- C-PORT participated on the USCG Merchant Mariner Exam Working Group to review and revise current license exams.
- Diligence paid off regarding RADAR Observer Endorsements. New guidance states that those operating vessels with radar no longer need attend a refresher course to renew their endorsement. Sea Time on vessels equipped with radar and use of the equipment may be used to renew the endorsement.
- C-PORT participated in meetings around the country representing members' interests including Boating Fly-ins hosted by NMMA in Florida and Michigan; ABC –American Boating Congress; and CBC – California Boating Congress
- Congress had mandated a USCG study regarding PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) and how it is affecting response to maritime situations. C-PORT has been working with our US Coast Guard partners, NENA, National Emergency Number Association, and NASBLA, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, to develop training materials for dispatch centers to adhere to MSAP, the USCG Maritime SAR Assistance Policy.
- C-PORT met a number of times with Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to develop a closer working relation with disaster recovery as well as derelict vessel removal.
- Strong relationships continue with ASA, American Salvage Association where Cardone is a member of their regulatory affairs committee; and with NASBLA, National State Boating Law Administrators. Chris Shaffner was named to represent our industry on the NASBLA Boat Advisory Board.

The afternoon networking break was sponsored by Biscayne Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Miami and Miller's Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook.

Also included during the membership meeting was the Treasurer's Report, Board of Directors elections were held, and a period of open questions and comments ended the meeting. Any C-PORT company member wanting more information on any of the topics discussed at the membership meeting are to contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or call 954-261-2012.

Tuesday ended with the C-PORT Gala Reception, sponsored by Sea Tow International. Attendees relaxed with an open bar and an artisanal cheese display, while sharing stories with fellow attendees.

The C-PORT Awards Banquet and Gala, sponsored by TowBoatU.S., followed. Guests feasted on steak, chicken, and grouper. Awards were presented and membership anniversaries were celebrated. Guests had the opportunity to sit and talk in a casual setting with CDR Keane, CDR Fleming, and LT Wallin.

AFRAS (Association For Rescue At Sea) Honors C-PORT Members with Lifesaving Award

C-PORT (Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing) and AFRAS (Association For Rescue At Sea) celebrated and presented its distinguished lifesaving award at the 33rd C-PORT Awards Banquet and Gala held on January 21, 2020 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, FL. Three captains were honored by AFRAS. Presenting the award on behalf of AFRAS was Mr. Charles "Skip" Bowen, Master Chief of the USCG (retired), to Captain Bob DiSanto of TowBoatU.S. Block Island, and to Captain Casey Canady and Captain Thomas Crossland of Sea Tow Marco Island.

This is the tenth year that AFRAS presented this prestigious award to a C-PORT member. In 2010, AFRAS had expressed a desire to establish a program, in cooperation with C-PORT, to annually recognize a deserving member of C-PORT that has shown exceptional skill and determination to save lives during a rescue incident in the maritime environment. The Award is to be conferred on an individual or group of individuals who perform exceptional acts in attempting to save life. Instances where the rescuer places their own life at risk are given highest consideration.

The rescue at Block Island, RI-



At approximately 1300 hours on August 18, 2019, Captain Bob DiSanto of TowBoatU.S. Block Island, overheard a call from the Block Island Marine Patrol to the Block Island Harbormaster. The Marine Patrol reported that they had received a call for a medical emergency and directed the Harbormaster to exit Block Island's Great Salt Pond and respond at "wide open throttle".

DiSanto, long accustomed to working with the Marine Patrol and Harbormaster, replied and offered to assist with the TowBoatU.S. towboat, which is much faster than any vessel operated by the Block Island Harbor Department. Thankful for the assistance, the Marine Patrol requested that DiSanto meet them in the center of the main entrance channel.

The two vessels met in the channel, DiSanto in the 33-foot TowboatU.S. vessel, and the Harbormaster in their Oldport launch. Two Assistant Harbormasters boarded the TowBoatU.S. vessel to quickly respond to the emergency, while a third followed behind in the slower Oldport launch.

The trio exited the harbormaster at over 35 knots, all the while, receiving updates on the description and location of the vessel, as well as the nature of the medical emergency. They arrived on scene with a 34-foot Trojan powerboat to find one individual, later identified as the grandson, driving from the flybridge, his elderly grandparents seemingly unconscious in the cabin, and his mother frantic in the cockpit, unable to open the doors to enter the cabin.

One Assistant Harbormaster jumped aboard and quickly broke through the doors to enter the cabin. As he did so, it became readily apparent that the vessel was suffering from an exhaust leak, as the noxious and polluted air began to pour out the doors.

Acting as a team, all three quickly assessed the situation and identified one victim with shallow breathing and a thready pulse. The other, bleeding from the nose and mouth, did not appear to be breathing and had no pulse at all.

Captain DiSanto immediately instructed the operator to shut down the engines and quickly placed the Trojan in a hip tow. While the Harbormasters pulled the victims from the cabin and began lifesaving measures, DiSanto motored both vessels into the harbor while managing communications, providing updates on the victim conditions, and coordinating with paramedics to transfer the patients to definitive care.

With the Block Island Marine Patrol clearing a path through the busy channel and anchorage, DiSanto brought both vessels quickly to the pier, where Advanced Life Support awaited. The victims were brought ashore and placed on awaiting aircraft for emergency transport to the mainland. Happily, due to the quick thinking, rapid action, and seamless coordination between Captain DiSanto and the Block Island Harbors Department, the lives of both victims were saved with no permanent effects or damage.

Later, in an interview for the local Block Island newspaper, Assistant Harbormaster Kate McConville said about Captain DiSanto, "Everybody did exactly what they had to save people's lives. Because of that, these people are still alive. (Bob's known as the Cardinal on the Great Salt Pond. He truly is a part of the Harbors family."

(Pictured Skip Bowen presenting Bob DiSanto the AFRAS Award. Photograph by Steven Miller Photography.)

AFRAS Honors C-PORT Members with Lifesaving Award, continued.

The rescue at Marco Island, FL -

At approximately 1600 on October 6, 2019, Sea Tow Marco Island’s Captain Thomas Crossland, while on standby at the office, overheard and responded to a distress call made by a Good Samaritan for a victim in the water near the S.S. Jolley Bridge in Marco Island, Florida. Captain Casey Canady, while off duty on his own personal boat with his 5-year-old daughter, overheard the same distress call and immediately responded to the area.

Upon arriving on scene, Captain Canady observed a male victim face down in the water with an unmanned jet ski circling around. With Captain Crossland watching his 5-year-old daughter, Canady immediately jumped onto a Good Samaritan’s boat which had just arrived on scene and pulled the victim up onto the boat. Crossland then entered the water to retrieve the circling jet ski and secure it from running into any of the responding vessels. Once the victim was aboard, Canady observed that the victim was bloated and blue from head to toe. This is when Canady’s training as a firefighter kicked in, and he immediately began hands-only CPR on the unconscious victim. Canady continued doing chest compressions for a few minutes until another Good Samaritan, who happened to be a nurse, jumped onto the boat to assist.

With the nurse now doing CPR, Canady went to the helm and piloted the vessel to shore. Upon arriving at the dock, Canady resumed chest compressions until EMS personnel arrived and took over care, transporting the victim to a nearby hospital. After spending a few days in critical condition and a medically induced coma, the victim recovered with no signs of permanent damage. There is no doubt that Captains Crossland and Canady’s fast response, dedication, and skill directly contributed to saving this man’s life.

“These individuals are a tribute to the marine assistance towing and salvage industry,” commented Tina Cardone, C-PORT executive director. “We are honored to have AFRAS recognize the lifesaving actions of our members.”



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C-PORT Honors Captain Paul Amaral



September 2, 2019 forever changed the lives of many people, including that of Captain Paul Amaral, owner of TowBoatU.S. Ventura. That was the night the 75-foot charger dive boat, *Conception*, with 39 persons onboard, was engulfed in flames. Amaral was woken at 3:35 AM to a dispatcher's call telling him of the horrific fire. He jumped out of bed, quickly dressed, and flew to his fast response boat at the dock. His only thought was to get to those people and to help them.

Amaral sped through the dark night, and arrived third on scene after a US Coast Guard vessel and a Venture County fire-fighting vessel. The dive boat was ablaze. Amaral was told only 5 of the 39 onboard had escaped the vessel, Amaral did a quick coastline search in hopes of finding additional survivors. Not finding any, Amaral returned to the blaze to see how he could help.

The anchor line burned through and the dive boat drifted towards Santa Cruz Island in water too shallow for the fire boat to reach. Amaral took his towboat close to the burning boat, throwing a grapnel and hoping it held. It did and Amaral towed the vessel to deeper water to allow the fire

fighters to continue their work.

Once the fire was out, Amaral came upon a body in the debris. He asked Coast Guard personnel and the Harbormaster to board his vessel and they searched the area, recovering the bodies that had drifted closer to shore. Amaral's vessel was the only one suitable to come that close to the island. He assisted, stating, "Initially it was horrific. Then the adrenaline kicked in and you just start doing what you need to do. The thought that at least you're bringing the remains of someone's family back to them, you don't think about anything else. You don't think about the horror of that."

Captain Carson Shevitz, one of Amaral's captains said this of Amaral's actions:

"Amaral, on his own free will, responded to the distress call and entered into a dangerous situation and attached his towboat to an unstable vessel making firefighting efforts possible. He then continued to assist in the recovery efforts and was giving peace and closure to the families who lost loved ones on board.

I have held a Merchant Mariner Credential since 2015 and have worked in the maritime industry for over 10 years in different capacities including as the Youth Sailing Program Director and Dock Operations Supervisor for Santa Barbara Sailing Center, Patrol Captain and Dispatcher for SeaTow Los Angeles and currently as a Captain for TowBoatUS Ventura.

Seeing Amaral's efforts, despite the unfortunate outcome of the situation, makes me proud to work for Amaral's company. This incident represents how our towers are prepared and ready to assist federal, state, and local agencies and how well we work together when the time counts."

Phil LeBlanc, C-PORT chairman, on behalf of the marine assistance towing and salvage industry, recognized Amaral stating, "Circumstances do not make a man, they reveal him." Later, Tina Cardone, C-PORT executive director, remarked, "Captain Paul Amaral is a humble man, and his character was revealed that fateful night."

(Pictured below Phil LeBlanc with Paul Amaral. Photographs by Steven Miller Photography.)





Do I Need a Personal Umbrella Policy?

Odds are, your auto and home insurance policies might not be enough to cover a catastrophic loss. Without adequate protection, all of your personal assets, even your future income, could be put at risk.

That's where a personal umbrella policy comes in handy. A personal umbrella provides added protection that goes above and beyond your primary policy limits.

Coverage includes liability protection for bodily injury, personal injury, or property damage. It can also provide protection for claims that might not be covered by your home, auto, or watercraft policies; protection for a loss anywhere in the world; and coverage for defense costs and attorney's fees.

Still asking yourself if you really need an umbrella policy? Instead, ask yourself if you can afford to pay a large liability verdict from your personal savings. Consider the following real life examples:

While playing with BB guns, a boy was shot by another boy at a friend's home.
Plaintiff Verdict, Compensatory Award: \$500,000

A 12-year old boy suffered lacerations to his lower legs and thigh when he walked by a neighbor's house and was bitten by her two dogs.
Plaintiff Verdict, Compensatory Award: \$500,000

A driver was rear-ended by an uninsured motorist, which forced the driver's car into another vehicle and caused injury to the occupant of the front vehicle.
Out-of-Court Settlement: \$1,250,000

A teenager driver hit a parked truck, causing his passengers to suffer serious head injuries.
Out-of-Court Settlement: \$1,875,000

A man improperly installed a pool diving board at his former home that later resulted in a serious injury to the home's new owner
Out-of-Court Settlement: \$2,500,000

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The 33rd C-PORT Conference continued on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 with general and training sessions. The morning began with a continental breakfast, sponsored by Travelers Insurance/Ocean Marine. Attendees had an additional opportunity to talk with vendors before the first session.

Phil LeBlanc, C-PORT chairman, welcomed everyone back to the conference and introduced the first speaker of the morning, Mr. Robert Milana, Esq., Travelers Ocean Marine Claims Major Case Professional. Mr. Milana spoke to the group about “How to Assemble a Successful Salvage Claim...so you don’t have to salvage your salvage claim.”

Following, were Mr. Andrew Craven, Esq. and Mr. Marcus Mafhood, Esq., Partners, The Chartwell Law Offices. With the recent boating tragedies to include the dive boat fire in CA and the duck boat sinking in MO, the attorneys discussed company owner and management liability exposures when their crew makes a bad decision, and how to help prevent them.

After the afternoon break, sponsored by Yachting Specialties/TowBoatU.S. San Francisco Bay & Delta, C-PORT presented its newest risk management course. Terry Hill, President and Instructor, Marine Emergency Response Group, and NASBLA (National Association of Boating Law Administrators) Certified Instructor, presented “Fuel and Fire-Risk Management Best Practices”. As with other risk management courses provided through C-PORT, this is a certificate course. Those interested in taking the course will find it on the C-PORT website soon. Contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or call 954-261-2012 for more information.



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C-PORT Membership Anniversary Celebration

Celebrating 30 years of C-PORT Membership:

Geoff Burrows- High Sierra Marine / TowBoatU.S. Lake Tahoe
Ryan Moore- International Towing & Salvage
Mary Gilmer- Tow Jamm Marine / TowBoatU.S. Knapps Narrow
(Accepting on behalf of the company is Adam Lawrence with Phil LeBlanc.)

Celebrating 25 years of membership:

Robert Butler- Big Bay Marine Service / TowBoatU.S. San Diego (Pictured with Phil LeBlanc.)

Celebrating 20 years of membership:

Ken Walker- Alamitos Bay Marine / TowBoatU.S. Long Beach
Patrick Lamb- Intrepid Marine Salvage & Towing / Sea Tow Clearwater / Port Richey
Mitch Kramer- North Shore Towing & Diving / TowBoatU.S. Oyster Bay
Nik Foster- Salty Marine Services / Sea Tow Daytona
Patrick O'Brien- Southwest Florida Maritime, Inc. / Sea Tow Fort Myers

Celebrating 15 years of membership:

Anthony Noury- Hawser LLC / Sea Tow Charleston
Ethan Maass- Maass Marine / Sea Tow South Shore
Richard Paul- Marine Towing & Salvage of SWFL / TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral

Celebrating 10 years of membership:

Chris Ward- Aquanaut Salvage of the Florida Keys / Sea Tow Islamorada
Bart White- Black Creek Towing & Salvage / Sea Tow Lower Chesapeake Bay
Eduardo Barreto-Cruz- Biscayne Marine Salvage / Sea Tow Key Biscayne
Donald Duck- Boat Tow Inc / TowBoatU.S. Portsmouth VA
Chris Smith- CB Marine Towing & Salvage / Sea Tow Miami
Kerry Kline- ES Florida Holdings / Sea Tow Central Florida Lakes
Noah Santos- Float Space 8W / TowBoatU.S. Provincetown
Hank Fulmer- Fulmer Marine / Sea Tow Delmarva
William Gary IV- Green Turtle Bay / TowBoatU.S. Grand Rivers
Paul Bonfiglio- RRP Recreation Limited Partnership / Sea Tow Raystown Lake
Joe Winner- Texoma Tow & Marine Services / TowBoatU.S. Lake Texoma
Brandon Upton- Third Coast Marine Services / Sea Tow Corpus Christi

Celebrating 5 years of membership:

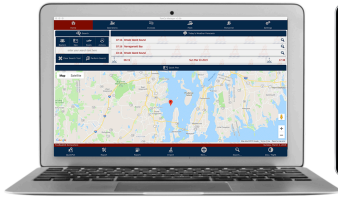
Seth Owens- Hartwell Marine Services / TowBoatU.S. Lake Hartwell
Benny Owens- Keowee Lake Services / TowBoatU.S. Lake Keowee
Michael Shaw- M&D Towing & Salvage / TowBoatU.S. Solomons
Daniel Eaton- NH Mobile Marine / TowBoatU.S. Winnepesaukee
Tim Maxam- Ontario Shores Marine Towing / TowBoatU.S. Sodus Bay
John Wooden- River Valley Power & Sport / TowBoatU.S. Red Wing
Joe McGuinness- Southeast Marine Services / Sea Tow Eastern Connecticut

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National Maritime Center

Serving Our Nation's Mariners



2020 Mariner Examination Process Updates

In an effort to provide consistent, quality customer service to all mariners, the National Maritime Center (NMC) is implementing the following changes at all Regional Examination Centers (RECs). These changes take effect Monday, April 6, 2020:

- Walk-in services for examinations will no longer be offered. All examinations must be scheduled at least 2 business days in advance. After receiving a letter from the NMC indicating you are approved to test, schedule an examination appointment by:
 1. Using the [Schedule Exam/REC Appointment](#) link on the Examinations page of the NMC Website.
 2. Calling the NMC Contact Center at 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).
 3. Contacting the NMC Contact Center by [chat](#).
- All RECs will have two examination periods daily, a 3 1/2-hour a.m. (morning) session and a 3 1/2-hour p.m. (afternoon) session with a minimum 1/2-hour break between sessions. See the [REC webpage](#) for specific hours.
- Mariners who finish a module early may take additional modules during an examination period but will not be given additional time to complete the extra modules. Requests for additional modules during a specific examination period are coordinated with the REC staff at the time of examination.
- There will be no changes to the First Class Pilot examination process.
- Appointments are highly recommended for all other services. See the [REC webpage](#) for facility access requirements.

Should you have any questions or concerns visit the [Examinations](#) or [Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpages, or contact the NMC Customer Service Center by e-mailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, by using the [NMC online chat system](#), or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

Sincerely,

/K. R. Martin/

Kirsten R. Martin
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer

Conference Banquet and Gala photographs were taken at the 33rd C-PORT Conference and Membership Meeting, January 20- January 22, 2020 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, FL. Images taken by Steven Miller Photography.



Risk Management Training Courses are available on the C-PORT website, www.cport.us. The program C-PORT administers centers on these concepts:

- Risk: “possibility of loss or injury”
- Risk Management: “The identification, analysis, assessment, control, and avoidance, minimization, or elimination of unacceptable risks.

C-PORT is committed to encouraging its member’s growth and development through education and is dedicated to establishing standards for professionalism and good business practices throughout its membership. With the increase in accidents and economic pressures facing our industry, many companies have lost sight of the importance of training and proper risk management skills. Our mission is to provide our members with programs that will enable their growth and development into the future, while minimizing the impact of looming USCG regulation in response to Congressional directive and safety records.

Contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or 954-261-2012 with any questions regarding this program.

Marine Assistance Company Operations Guideline, exclusively for C-PORT members. These guidelines promote safe operations and provide regulatory guidance. C-PORT members may obtain access to this document at the C-PORT website, www.cport.us or contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or 954-261-2012.

Insurance Program for Marine Assistance Companies - Administered by Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage, Inc. - Designed for organizations dedicated to marine assistance and towing. This Program offers an extensive portfolio of quality insurance products and services to address a wide range of marine exposures. -800-788-8225; lwagner@starshep.com.

ACAPT- Accredited for Commercial Assistance and Professional Towing- C-PORT has developed the ACAPT program to recognize the professional who is willing to adhere to standards of service, training, and equipment.

With the growth of the marine assistance towing and salvage industry has come a strong need for assurances of towing industry professionalism and expertise. The boating public, US Coast Guard, and state and local public agencies are often unsure of the qualifications of vessels offering assistance, sometimes leading to a reluctance to accept private assistance, and to a negative image of the industry being portrayed in the press. The ACAPT distinction recognizes the professional who is willing to adhere to high standards of service, training, and equipment.

Visit the C-PORT website at www.cport.us or contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or 954-261-2012 with any questions regarding this program.

BOSAR for Commercial Assistance- Created through the support of NASBLA’s BOAT program and the USCG Office of Boat Forces, is designed for the marine assistance operator, providing reinforcement of knowledge gained by virtue of their captain's license and experience. It also enhances their ability to work as a true partner with local agencies and the US Coast Guard. This course is open to any marine assistance company who wants to host the training. Instructors and course materials are provided by C-PORT. Contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or 954-261-2012 if you have an interest in hosting a class.



C-PORT was founded in 1986 to act as a liaison between the marine assistance industry and public agencies and organizations involved with boating safety, marine assistance, marine salvage and other marine-related operations. Its mission is to represent, promote, protect, and defend its member companies through communication, relationship development, and education. Our members are dedicated to providing prompt, professional and timely assistance to all boaters and to actively partner and cooperate with local law enforcement and U.S. Coast Guard. They are professionals, dedicated to the growth and development of their respective businesses and committed to furthering the advancement of our waterways and the boating community. For more information, contact C-PORT at (954) 261-2012 or visit www.cport.us.

C-PORT (Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing)
4251 NE 27th Avenue, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064

C-PORT is a 501(c)(6) organization.