



# The Marine Assistance Industry Journal

A Quarterly Newsletter - Volume 45- February 2022

## *Chairman's Address*



Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend C-PORT's 35th Conference in Savannah, GA. When I returned, I was asked what the biggest takeaway was, and I didn't even have to ponder the question.

For me, it was all the new faces. We were blessed with a number of new companies and owners, all of whom were able to ask questions and soak up the knowledge of the collective years of experience in the room.

From that, and numerous conversations during the week, came ideas on how C-PORT can facilitate the growth and involvement of new companies. In fact, we've already started taking steps to get that off the ground, so stay tuned. Exciting things are coming.

Fair winds and following seas,

Phil LeBlanc  
C-PORT Chairman

---

***C-PORT held its 35th Conference and Membership Meeting*** on January 17-19, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Savannah, GA. The event kicked off on Monday, January 17, with a welcome reception, sponsored by Compass Marine, at the hotel's River Lounge.

General sessions started on Tuesday morning after a Continental Breakfast, sponsored by Marine Towing & Salvage of SWFL/TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral. The breakfast buffet was set up in the exhibitor area providing an opportunity for guests to talk with the exhibitors, and browse the new products and services of our vendors.

The first session of the day was the C-PORT Business Meeting. Phil LeBlanc, C-PORT chairman, reported on the following:

*Conference recap continued.*

*Conference Day 1 recap continued.*

The 2021 USCG/C-PORT Partnership Meeting was held on October 15, 2021 at US Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington DC. Attending from US Coast Guard were CAPT Maurice Murphy, Chief, Office of Search and Rescue; Mr. Jeff Wheeler, Deputy Chief, Office of Boat Forces; CDR Mike McGrail, Office of Boat Forces; Mr. Chris Keane, Deputy Chief, Office of Shore Forces; and Mr. Luke Harden, Chief, Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division. Representing C-PORT at the meeting were Phil LeBlanc, Smitty Smith, Chris Day, Terry Hill, Jeff Dziedzic, and Tina Cardone. Topics discussed included introductions of new leadership; the history of the Memorandum of Understanding between C-PORT and US Coast Guard, first signed in 1999, and updated and resigned in 2010; the relationship of C-PORT-US Coast Guard-NASBLA and currency requirements for training; flood response; SAR Councils and PSAP, Public Safety Answering Points; and the challenges NMC, National Maritime Center, faced during the pandemic. The next USCG/C-PORT Partnership Meeting will be held in the Spring.

NASBLA, National Association of Boating Law Administrators, held their conference in Pittsburgh, PA, on September 26-29, 2021. Representing C-PORT were Phil LeBlanc and Tina Cardone. C-PORT and NASBLA updated and resigned their Memorandum of Understanding that was originally created in 2011. The current MOU includes NASBLA's commitment to the national recognition of C-PORT as the towing and salvor's industry's representative; mutual commitment to the development of a government affairs relationship; and C-PORT holds a permanent seat of the NASBLA BOAT Program Advisory Board. John Fettermen, NASBLA Deputy Executive Director, commented that the MOU between the parties is one of action.



During the NASBLA meeting, Phil LeBlanc, C-PORT chairman, was honored with the NASBLA Boat Operations and Training Program's Meritorious Service Award for his significant contribution to the BOAT program.

Tina Cardone, C-PORT executive director, reported on government affairs topics of interest to the industry and discussed the challenges of maintaining relationships during the past 2 years with many meetings and conferences held virtually. Work was done, but the effects of not meeting with people face to face has taken a toll on many program agendas. Cardone attended many virtual meetings including ABC, American Boating Congress; CBC, California Boating Congress; MLA, Maritime Law Association; NMERPAC, National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee; and NTSAC, National Towing Safety Advisory Committee. Reports were given at the C-PORT Marine Assistance Company Meeting on Wednesday.

The meeting continued with recognition of C-PORT Associate Members. Associate membership is designed for persons, companies, other than marine assistance, or associations that engage in a business which supplies goods and services to, or is in some way related to the support of, the marine assistance industry. Acknowledged for their long-standing Associate membership support of C-PORT were BoatU.S., Compass Marine, and NASBLA. These organizations have stood by the association, helping C-PORT meet its goals and missions. The associate member program expanded over the past year to include a number of industry vendors. Introduced as Associate members were ComMar Sales, EZ Captain Hooks, SAFE Boats International, SKYDEX, and SubSalve USA. C-PORT appreciates and thanks these members for their support.

Premium level exhibitors and the C-PORT insurance program broker, were given the stage to talk about their products and services. Attendees remarked after the presentations that they were "excited" to have these vendors on hand. Included during the Exhibitors Present! session were: SAFE Boats International; West Marine Pro; NAVICO; Fairlead; Teledyne FLIR and Raymarine. Jay Frechette, Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage, provided the insurance program update.

After the Break, sponsored by Starkweather & Shepley, the US Coast Guard leadership addressed the group virtually due to non-essential mission travel restrictions. Jeff Wheeler, Deputy Chief, Office of Boat Forces, discussed flood response and the challenges involved. CAPT Maurice "Mo" Murphy, Chief, Office of Search and Rescue, introduced himself and spoke on a number of ongoing projects including the status of the PSAP, 911-Dispatch, training program. CAPT Austin Ives, Chief, Office of Shore Forces, introduced himself and spoke on changes in his department along with SAR Councils. Q&A was held and the session ended with thanks and looking forward to meeting in person with the C-PORT membership in January 2023.

**Conference attendees enjoyed a Smoke House Buffet** during the 35th C-PORT Awards Luncheon, sponsored by Safe Sea. Shonda Kennedy, Orion Towing, Salvage, & Marine Services/TowBoatU.S. Daytona, was recognized for her perfect attendance at C-PORT conferences dating to 2010. Kennedy received a room upgrade. First Time attendees received treat bags during registration and were applauded for their interest and commitment to the betterment of their businesses through membership in C-PORT. Dominique Dillman, Marine Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Naples, received a \$100 gift card when her name was pulled from a drawing of the first time attendees. The attendee who traveled the farthest, Phil Delano, Yachting Specialties/TowBoatU.S. San Francisco & Delta, received the book "Destinations of a Lifetime". Dana Rutland, Savannah Towing & Marine Recovery/TowBoatU.S. Savannah, received a box of local treats as the winner of the person who had the least distance to travel.

C-PORT members were celebrated with membership anniversary recognition.

5 year members; joined 2017:

John Davis - Lake Harris Chain of Lakes Towing & Recovery/TowBoatU.S. Lake Harris

Jeffrey Deckelman - Deckelman Marine Group Bay Assist

Carlos Galindo - Poseidon Marine Towing/TowBoatU.S. Islamorada

Conrad Morris - Lin-Con Marine Recovery/TowBoatU.S. Bay St. Louis

Jeffrey Pidcock - Damark Marine Towing/TowBoatU.S. Detroit

10 year members; joined 2012:

Monte Ash - It's Catching/TowBoatU.S. Santa Cruz

Paul Hopkins - Port Charles Marine/TowBoatU.S. St. Charles

Mike Hutchings - Blackbeard Marine Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Key Largo

John Urbano - Casco Bay Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Portland ME

*Anniversary, continued.*

## When You're Ready, Red is Ready



- Partner with the Nation's Largest Boating Association with 800,000+ Members
- Exclusive Service Provider to the BoatU.S. and GEICO Insurance Programs
- Profit Sharing Program
- Direct Billing to BoatU.S. with Guaranteed Payment for Towing Services
- Promote Your Company With Our Free National Advertising Program
- Co-op Advertising Funds to Help Your Local Business Grow

Thank you C-PORT and Members for Years of Excellent Service!



To Join the Red Boat Team: 800-391-4869 • BoatUS.com/Towing

**Thank You, C-PORT,  
for 35 Years of  
Preserving the legacy,  
and Promoting the  
future of the Marine  
Assistance Industry.**



**- The Safe/Sea Crew**

*Anniversary, continued.*

15 year members; joined 2007:

Phyllis and Jack Black - Gulf Marine Towing/TowBoatU.S. Sarasota  
 Russell and Amy Cohoon - All Aboard Cruise & Tow/TowBoatU.S. Carabelle  
 John Deaton - Deaton Yacht Service/TowBoatU.S. Oriental  
 Kevin Miller - Absolute Marine Towing & Salvage continuity demonstrated by captains membership  
 Doug Schultz - Key North/TowBoatU.S. Brunswick

20 year members; joined 2002:


George Campanile Jr. - Towboat Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Cape May  
 Chris Conti - Pt Defiance Mobile Marine Service/TowBoatU.S. Tacoma  
 Kenn McKinney - Blue Water Charters/TowBoatU.S. Lake Havasu


25 year members; joined 1997:

Clarke Droney - Southern DE Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Indian River  
 Jim Urban - Tempest Marine Services/TowBoatU.S. Freeport TX

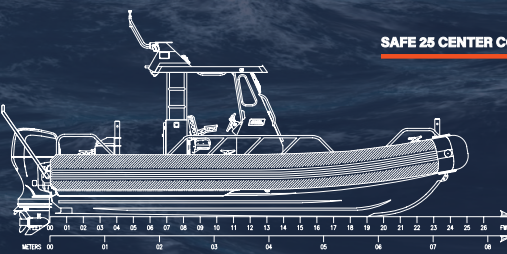
30 and 35 year member anniversaries were celebrated later at the C-PORT Awards Gala.







**SAFE 27 WAC TOW BOAT VARIANT**











**SAFE 25 CENTER CONSOLE**

We are proud to support your mission by offering a full line of center console, walk-around cabin, and full cabin models customized for the assistance towing industry.

SAFEBOATS.COM | 360.674.7161 | INFO@SAFEBOATS.COM  
 8800 SW BARNEY WHITE ROAD | BREMERTON, WASHINGTON 98312


## westmarinepro.com

Your 24/7 destination that's packed with the features you need to get the most out of your time and money.

 Fast Page Loads	 Increased Inventory Availability	 Streamlined Checkout	 Quick Order
 Multiple Account Sign-Ons	 Improved Search	 Easy Invoice Look-Up	 Requisition Lists

**All backed by the power of West Marine Pro.**

- Over 135,000 products for your business
- 28 regional distribution centers
- Free van delivery in available markets
- Over 240 stores
- The most-knowledgeable and seasoned sales representatives in the industry



1-800-621-6885 • westmarinepro.com

**John Fulweiler, Esq., Fulweiler Ilc, started** the afternoon conference sessions providing a legal perspective to salvage case handling. He discussed the importance of using what he referred to as the ABC's of salvage, pre-salvage, during, and post-salvage. Salvage discussions continued during the next topic of Salvage Contracts. Phil LeBlanc joined Fulweiler for a conversation of the various types of salvage contracts, and added some tips on how to chose the correct contract for the job.

Following the break, sponsored by Yachting Specialties/TowBoatU.S. San Francisco & Delta, Tina Cardone, C-PORT executive director, talked about the importance of establishing and using a towing safety management system. She explained what a TSMS is, and what it is not, and provided the audience with guidance on how to set up a system that will work for their company. C-PORT offers a guidance document with best practices and regulatory requirements available to C-PORT members.

The sessions concluded with Building Local Relationships-Challenges and Opportunities. Terry Hill, past C-PORT chairman, talked about building and maintaining relationships with local agencies. Through his years of experience, Hill has developed relationships with his local agencies only to see them falter over time. He explained the importance of keeping those relationships strong and relevant. Chris Day, C-PORT board member and treasurer, invited the group to get involved with their local communities. His experience suggests that successful businesses are active supporters of other local businesses, members of community chambers, and add to the development of the quality of life in the community.

**The 35th C-PORT Gala Reception and Awards Banquet**, sponsored by TowBoatU.S., was held on January 18, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Savannah Harborside Ballroom. Guests relaxed and spent time catching up with old friends and making new ones. The event was held along the Savannah River and much excitement ensued when a container ship, dwarfing its surroundings, passed by. The open bar served beverages to order and guests enjoyed a meal of steak and salmon.

The AFRAS C-PORT Lifesaving Award was presented (see page 9). Long-standing C-PORT members were honored. Celebrating 30 years of membership, joined 1992, was Tom Hurst, Budget Boat Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Manasquan.

Four members celebrated 35 years of C-PORT membership, joined 1987. John Andrews, Safe Sea, was one of the founders of C-PORT. Phil LeBlanc, co-owner, accepted the recognition on Andrews' behalf. David LaMontagne, creator of Vessel Assist, a college project that later became the established network of towing companies on the West Coast in the late 1980s, and fellow founder of C-PORT, was present to celebrate 35 years with C-PORT. Also present was Jim Reynolds, Reynolds Towing and Marine Service, one of the first to join C-PORT in 1987. Not present was Vern Meinke, Meinke Marine Emergency Service.




## THE ULTIMATE PICTURE. FROM OUR COMPLETE DOME RANGE.



**A Complete Family of HALO™ Pulse Compression Dome Radars.**

Combining unrivalled short-range performance, precise target definition and easy use modes, HALO™ Pulse Compression Dome Radars will improve your situational awareness and help you avoid collisions.

Lightweight and compact, the HALO™ range of dome radars offers the perfect solution for a wide range of smaller powerboats.


The HALO™ dome radars offer an almost real-time view, with industry-leading 60 RPM operational close range for the ultimate in collision avoidance.

VelocityTrack™ technology\* instantly identifies hazards at short-and long-range distances - up to 4.5 nautical miles. When performance on the water matters, you can count on Simrad™ HALO™ Dome Radars.

\*VelocityTrack™ not available on HALO20





Model	Price
HALO24 Pulse Compression Radar Dome	Model# 19375427 \$xx
HALO20+ Pulse Compression Radar Dome	Model# 19773696 \$xx
HALO20 Pulse Compression Radar Dome	Model# 19773704 \$xx



BUILT ON THE REVOLUTIONARY OK HULL TECHNOLOGY

## GAME-CHANGING INNOVATION AT SEA

### RAFNR 1100 WORKBOAT

**Built on the OK Hull**

**DRAMATIC REDUCTION IN SLAMMING**

Smooth and comfortable ride due to limited wave slamming, resulting in reduced risk of injury, lower passenger and crew fatigue and related medical, disability, and other costs.

**EXTREME AGILITY**

Precision, high-speed performance, resulting in immediate handling response with no sliding or hooking.

**EFFICIENCY, STABILITY, PAYLOAD**

Increased efficiency through the water due to low bow rise (minimal planing threshold). High stability and balance when sitting at idle or full throttle and high payload capacity without compromising speed.

**EXTENDED LIFE SPAN**

Reduced mechanical & equipment wear from minimal wave slamming, resulting in lower maintenance, replacement rates, and other operating expenses.

**TECHNICAL INFORMATION (BASE MODEL)**

Length Overall	Beam	Draft
36' 6"	10' 6"	1' 10"

Empty Weight	Fuel Capacity	Power
8,400 LBS	158 GAL	600 HP


Engines	Construction	Speed
Outboard	GRP	40 KN

**AVAILABLE TOPSIDE CONFIGURATIONS**


Wide Cabin (Shown Above)  
Narrow Cabin  
Center Console & T-Top

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Keith Hubble  
khubble@fairleadint.com  
757-384-1957  
Portsmouth, VA 23707  
www.fairleadint.com



**MADE IN THE USA**



*Fairlead is the exclusive manufacturer of Rafnar Boats in the USA*



### *The Doctor Says: A Prescription for Helping Salvors Survive*

The towing and salvage industry in this grand Country of ours is changing. The unprepared and ill-equipped won't survive. Salvage awards (good awards not the thin gravy spooned-out in weak acknowledgment of your service) must be hard won. And as things in our boating society become more planned and predictable, people chafe at salvage with its "awards". So what to do?

Knowledge. This term makes it sound like I'm some hemp-eating guru, but the message is true. The salvors that create a consistent revenue stream from salvage awards really know their stuff. They understand the salvage law; they stay up to speed with cases and arbitration awards; they deliver professional salvage narratives and demands that accurately capture the full value of their

efforts and they have contracts and invoices with terms and conditions that are appropriate for their business. Plus, these salvors also have a workflow that reinforces getting a salvage done right – not only on the water, but back at the desk, too.

Grit. That's one of those terms some wannabe might get tattooed on his forearm, but it works to explain that salvage awards aren't just handed over. To recover a full-value salvage award, your office needs to prepare itself for a battle and sometimes, a war. Not every salvage will require such an effort, but where the salvage was unique and a large award is sought, a salvage company needs to understand that it'll take time and some skirmishes. And don't get battle-hardened because none of it is personal and mostly (in our opinion) it's done because the person cutting the check needs to justify why such a sum was paid. So help the vessel owning interests by providing photos, videos and audio although you may want to speak with your maritime lawyer before doing so to understand how best to support your claim.

Professionalism. Oy vey, this term has been hijacked by your local law enforcement (another topic for another time) but what we mean is if your office comes across as a one-off shop, it'll be disadvantaged. In this way, avoid making salvage claims for sums that are far above the range that fits the facts; avoid having equipment that didn't work; avoid (if you can) having the captain, crew and/or passengers helping you with the salvage; avoid exaggeration; avoid getting mad with a vessel owner or insurer and avoid looking like this your first rodeo. Instead, project professionalism with a great response aboard a vessel kitted out with all the necessary and working equipment. Project professionalism with a salvage demand that your maritime lawyer has reviewed and spiffed-up. Project professionalism by having calm, business-like discussions with owners or insurers. And project professionalism by having a relationship with a maritime lawyer that can step in to assist whenever needed.

Knowledge, grit and professionalism are my prescription for a healthy salvage business. Of course, don't rely on what we're saying. Speak to your maritime lawyer and modify or develop your own prescription for success.

John K. Fulweiler, Esq. is at the helm of his own law firm representing many salvage companies across the Country. He can be reached at [www.salvageaward.com](http://www.salvageaward.com) or 1-800-383-MAYDAY (6293). John is not affiliated with C-PORT and he makes this article in response to an invitation by C-PORT to do so.



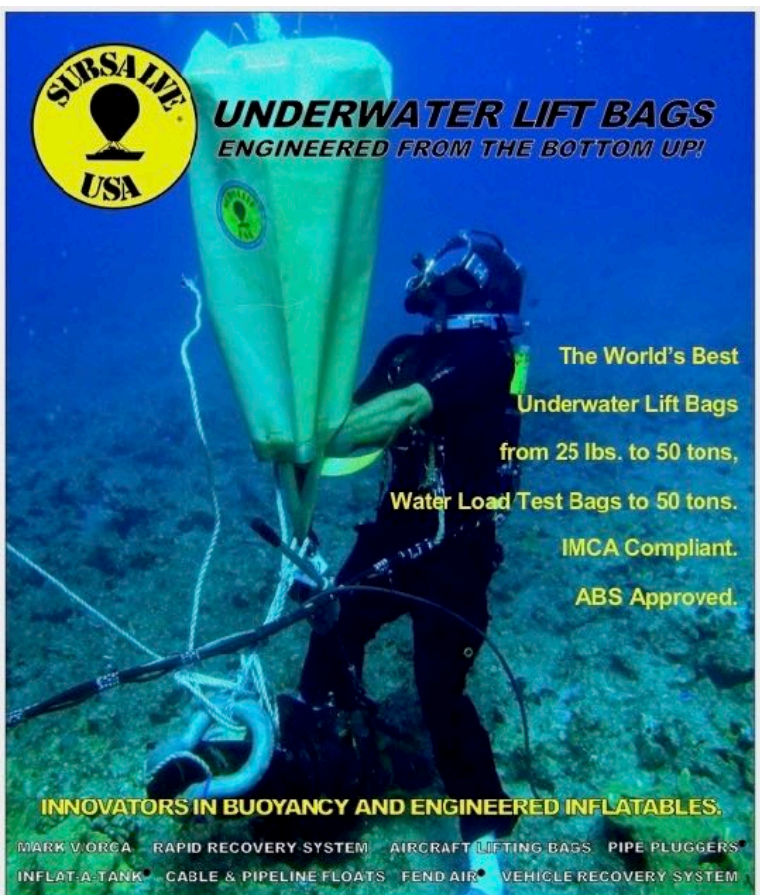
**SKYDEX®**

**IMPACT PROTECTION**  
to combat fatigue, aches, and pain  
**FROM THE DECK UP**  
**LEARN MORE NOW**

**FEEL BETTER ON THE WATER**

**HELM PADS - BOAT DECKING - SEAT CUSHIONS**

[www.SKYDEX.com](http://www.SKYDEX.com)



**SUBSALVE® USA**

**UNDERWATER LIFT BAGS**  
*ENGINEERED FROM THE BOTTOM UP!*

The World's Best  
Underwater Lift Bags  
from 25 lbs. to 50 tons,  
Water Load Test Bags to 50 tons.  
IMCA Compliant.  
ABS Approved.

**INNOVATORS IN BUOYANCY AND ENGINEERED INFLATABLES.**

MARK V. ORCA · RAPID RECOVERY SYSTEM · AIRCRAFT LIFTING BAGS · PIPE PLUGGERS  
INFLAT-A-TANK · CABLE & PIPELINE FLOATS · FEND AIR · VEHICLE RECOVERY SYSTEM

P.O. Box 2030, North Kingstown, RI 02852, USA  
Tel: +1 401 884 8801 Fax: +1 401 884 8868  
[www.subsalve.com](http://www.subsalve.com) [richard@subsalve.com](mailto:richard@subsalve.com)

**EZ Captain Hooks**  
The safe, quick, & reliable boat hook

*Conventional boat hooks put you in harms way.* *EZ Captain Hooks keeps you safe.*




**Stop putting yourself in danger!**  
**Hook your boat the Safe & Quick way.**

**Order yours today!!**  
[www.EZCaptainHooks.com](http://www.EZCaptainHooks.com)



**Made in the USA**



**NORTH RIVER**

PROUD SPONSORS OF C-PORT AND ITS MEMBERS

[www.NorthRiverBoats.com](http://www.NorthRiverBoats.com)

## COMPASS MARINE SERVICES

BOATING PEOPLE HELPING BOATING PEOPLE

At **Compass Marine Services**, our goal is to provide customized, 24/7, professional customer support for businesses in the marine industry. Whether it's marine insurance companies, boat manufacturers, towing fleets, dealerships, or security systems, our support center is all about strengthening the personal bond between marine companies and their customers. Our friendly, knowledgeable staff help act as extensions of your company to provide assistance whenever your customers need it.



**ComMar Sales, LLC**  
Manufacturers' Representatives

800-343-7979

[info@commar.com](mailto:info@commar.com)

[www.commar.com](http://www.commar.com)



For more information and to see what Compass Marine Services can do for you, visit [compassmarineservices.com](http://compassmarineservices.com) or call 866.201.5411.

*AFRAS, Association For Rescue At Sea, presented its C-PORT Lifesaving Award.* AFRAS President, CAPT Joseph Re, USCG (retired) presented the award to Captain Greg Giggi, Allwater Marine Services/TowBoatU.S. Charleston at the 35th C-PORT Awards Banquet Gala on January 18, 2022.

This award represents the decade long relationship between C-PORT and AFRAS. 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.

Joe Abeyta, co-owner of Allwater Marine Services nominated Giggi for the award. He said, "Displaying the characteristics and traits of a true lifesaver without regard for his own safety and placing himself in danger, "so that other's may live", Captain Greg Giggi has brought great credit upon himself, Allwater Marine Services, and the entire marine assistance industry." Joe Re added, "It was an added bonus to learn he [Giggi] is a former USCG Chief Boatswain's Mate!"

Captain Giggi is recognized for his leadership, acute situational awareness, keen judgement and expert seamanship skills under extreme circumstances, resulting the effective rescue of eight souls facing imminent peril that day. The full story of the rescue follows.



On June 19, 2021, Captain Greg Giggi conducted a single-handed rescue of eight people in Lake Moultrie, SC. The incident began at approximately 1530 when Giggi was dispatched to assist a disabled vessel dragging anchor approximately 100 yards from the rocks of a levee wall. On scene weather was winds west/southwest at about 15mph with a sea state of 2-3 foot and building with a very intense storm approaching from the west that would impact this call.

Upon arriving on scene, Giggi observed the vessel's anchor line fully deployed, under heavy strain and the vessel was taking water over the bow as larger waves would approach. With the impending storm front and after consultation with the master it became imperative that they needed to quickly get the people and the vessel to safety. Of most concern to the master was the safety of his minor aged deaf daughter with down syndrome.

Due to the building sea state, an alongside approach to remove the people safely was not achievable. Gravely concerned with the rapidly approaching storm front, Giggi made the decision to immediately put the vessel into a stern tow and move them to sheltered waters in the lee of a nearby peninsula. He passed the towline to the vessel without incident and began to take the vessel in tow. After a few moments, Giggi noticed the vessel taking more water over the bow and asked the master to bring some of the passengers off the bow and if the bilge pump was energized, which the master stated it was.

Keeping the vessel in-step, Giggi then lengthened the tow, improving the ride and safety of the passengers. At this point the weather was deteriorating by the minute with winds increasing to 35-40 knots as the stormfront began to impact the operation. Significantly constrained by the onslaught of the seas, now building to 6-7 feet, off his bow and the rock levee wall just 200 yards astern of the vessel in tow, Giggi faced the almost insurmountable task of making any headway to the safety of the peninsula just barely a quarter mile away. It was during this time he heard the master yell and began waving his arms saying the vessel was beginning to sink.

*Lifesaving Award, continues.*

*AFRAS C-PORT Lifesaving Award, continued.*

Within seconds the vessel's stern went under and violently rolled to port, tossing all eight people into the water. Without a second to spare, Giggi immediately came to all stop, cut the tow line, brought his tow boat about, and began recovering the victims who were now drifting towards the rocks. After recovering the second person, he returned to the helm and attempted to throttle out of the debris field. As if the weather, the sunken vessel and eight persons in the water weren't enough, the towing vessel's outboard engine became fouled with debris. Giggi and his vessel with two survivors were now in danger of being slammed into the rocks less than one hundred feet away.

Remaining calm under pressure with a disabled vessel of his own, battling 5–6-foot seas and 35 kt winds with six remaining people in the water, Giggi immediately set anchor keeping his vessel from danger. He then cleared the fouled prop but was only able to achieve 2100 rpms on the engine or it would shut off. Assessing the risks, his training, his vessel's capabilities, and the danger to the victims still in the water, Giggi de-anchored and continued to rescue the remaining six victims who would have most assuredly perished from drowning or suffered life threatening injuries from the rocks if no action had been taken. Once all personnel were accounted for and a quick assessment of potential injuries was completed, Giggi requested emergency personnel to meet him at the nearby Joint Base Charleston Recreational Facility where they were safely transferred to shore with only minor injuries.



*The final day of the 35th C-PORT Conference started* with a Continental Breakfast, sponsored by Travelers/Ocean Marine. The C-PORT Marine Assistance Company Membership Meeting convened at 8:40 AM with chairman, Phil LeBlanc, calling the meeting to order. The first agenda item was board of directors elections. Terry Hill, nominating committee chairman, nominated Jake Dunfee, Rescue Marine, to the board of directors. With no further nominations, Dunfee was elected to another term by voice vote.



Jake Dunfee began his career in the towing and salvage industry in 1992, when he was hired by one of the C-PORT founders, Neil Shrock. Neil hired Jake to be a deckhand and dispatcher at Boater's Emergency Service in Marblehead, OH. Growing up boating on Lake Erie, it was gratifying and exciting to have a job helping boaters in distress during high school and college summer breaks. After graduating from college, Jake had the opportunity to purchase Boater's Emergency Service in 2001. In 2005, he purchased two additional local towing firms creating Rescue Marine as a TowBoatUS towing company.

Over the years, Jake has seen many exciting changes and many threats to our industry. In Jake's words: "This industry has faced great challenges with potentially grave consequences. Thankfully C-PORT addressed these challenges and allowed for the birth and unimaginable growth of the towing and salvage industry. It is important that C-PORT fulfills its mission to represent, promote, protect, and defend its member companies. I am honored to serve on the C-PORT Board of Directors representing the industry in which I take a great deal of pride."

C-PORT's 2022 board of directors are:

Phil LeBlanc, Safe Sea, Chairman, Narragansett RI  
 Harold "Smitty" Smith, Miller's Towing & Salvage, Vice Chairman, Sandy Hook NJ  
 Chris Day, Georgia Boat Safety & Training, Treasurer, Dallas GA  
 Dale Plummer, Baltimore Marine Recovery, Secretary, Baltimore MD  
 Robert Butler, Big Bay Marine Services, San Diego CA  
 Jake Dunfee, Rescue Marine, Marblehead OH  
 Richard Paul, Marine Towing & Salvage of SWFL, Cape Coral FL

Are you a C-PORT member interested in serving on a C-PORT committee? Interested in serving on the C-PORT board of directors? Email Tina Cardone, executive director, at [tcardone@cport.us](mailto:tcardone@cport.us). Include your interests for committee work to be added, and if interested in a future board seat, send a brief biography and your reasons for wanting to serve. Your interest will be forwarded to the C-PORT Nominating Committee.

**C-PORT Thanks the Prize Sponsors from the 35th Conference and Membership Meeting:**

Biscayne Towing and Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Miami  
 CMTAA [Chesapeake Marine Towing and Assistance Association  
 Maryland Coast Towing/ TowBoatU.S. Ocean City  
 Reynolds Towing and Marine Service/ TowBoatU.S. Bayshore  
 Towboat One/ TowBoatU.S. Palm Beach



**800-775-6985**

**Committee reports followed** including the 2021 C-PORT Treasurer's Report, Membership Report, Programs and Education, and Government Affairs:

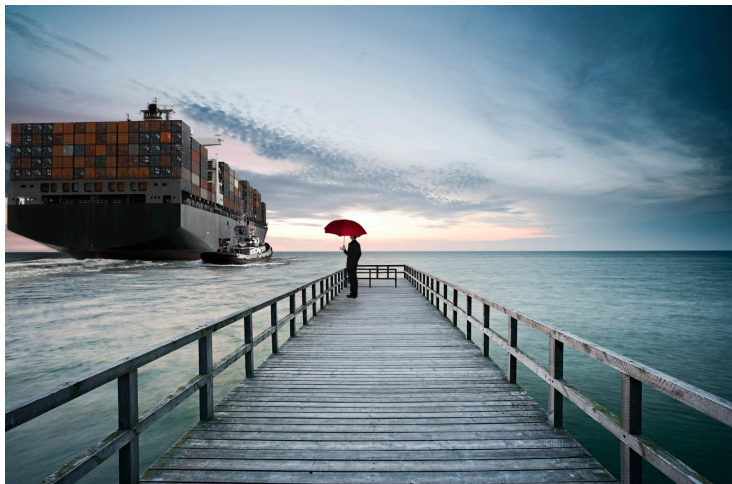
The C-PORT website migrated to a new host during the 4th Quarter 2021. Glitches still exist and we are working with our outside vendor to remedy the issues. Those who are having trouble finding the new website were asked to be sure that their cache and history on their devices have been cleared.

The purpose of Programs and Education is for the benefit of members in creating a safe and professional work environment, with an eye to avoiding future regulatory changes. The Marine Assistance Company Operations Guideline was discussed at an earlier conference session. C-PORT's risk management training course library has been evaluated and work has begun to catalog the courses, and to combine redundant course material. The core course that contains operational risk management principles updates every 3 years. Following the membership meeting, LT Peter Hutchison, EO, USCG Station Fort Lauderdale/USCG NASBLA Field Liaison spoke on the subject of Operational Risk Management Principles and maintaining currency of training. Phil LeBlanc and Terry Hill, NASBLA certified instructors, followed with a case study-lessons learned segment using a USCG investigative file that pertained to an industry operation. The course will be available on the C-PORT website soon.

ACAPT, Accredited for Commercial Assistance and Professional Towing, program, underwent updates to include new equipment lists to address areas of operation. The committee is working to address the challenges our members are facing obtaining physical audits for their vessels that is cost effective and maintains the integrity of the program.

Cardone completed the Government Affairs committee report noting that ABC, American Boating Congress, and CBC, California Boating Congress, are on the calendar as in-person events for 2022. At the time of this writing, MLA, Maritime Law Association, has announced its intention to hold its Spring meeting in-person in May. C-PORT continues to be the marine assistance industry watchdog, monitoring federal and state legislative bills, USCG regulatory tasks through our direct MOU relationship and our relationship with the advisory committees of NTSAC and NMERPAC. Information on C-PORT's many projects is distributed to members through email correspondence.

The 36th C-PORT Conference and Membership Meeting will be held in January 2023 at Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans, LA, in conjunction with TowBoatU.S. Information on that conference will be sent as details are finalized.



Maritime risks are vast. So is our team to see you through them.

Whether you provide marine services, or transport goods, people or cargo, you face countless property and liability risks. When you work with Travelers Ocean Marine, you'll be working with a team that has deep knowledge of the maritime industry – backed by the financial strength and power of the #1 commercial property writer in the U.S.\* We're dedicated to helping you understand how to protect against the unknown. But if the unfortunate should occur, you'll be ready with the power of Travelers, including a 12,000-person claim organization; a catastrophe response team, ready to be deployed at a moment's notice; and the financial strength to handle major claims. You can rest easy knowing you're not going it alone.

\*Reported by SNL Financial

**TRAVELERS**  
It's better under the umbrella®

travelers.com  
© 2014 The Travelers Indemnity Company. All rights reserved. Travelers and the Travelers Umbrella logo are registered trademarks of The Travelers Indemnity Company in the U.S. and other countries.  
14-OM-1520 New 8-14

TOWCO 5

Towco Mobile Solutions  
 401-367-4830  
 pete@towco.org

- FULLY ERPB COMPATIBLE
- NO DOUBLE ENTRY
- ONE CLICK INVOICE ENTRY TO ERPB
- DIRECT DISPATCH LOADING
- FLEET MANAGEMENT
- EMPLOYEE CREDENTIAL TRACKING
- COMMISSIONS AND GROSS PAY CALCULATIONS
- PHONE RECORDING AVAILABLE
- INBOUND CALLER ID LOOKUP AVAILABLE

Schedule a demo today! Call Pete at 401-367-4830 or see Rowan at the conferences in Savannah!



***Why Hired and Non-Owned Automobile Liability is Important – even if your company has no autos.***

Typical commercial auto policies provide coverage for your employees while they drive company owned vehicles for business related tasks. What happens when your business doesn't own any vehicles or individual employees are operating their personal vehicles on company business? Does your business still need automobile liability coverage? To answer that question, let's ask a few more:

- Do you have captains that drive their own vehicles to shore side salvage jobs?
- Do you have office staff that travel to the post office or the bank to make deposits?
- Do you have employees that occasionally run to pick up coffee, lunch or supplies?
- Have you or an employee rented a vehicle while attending an industry event?

If, under these circumstances, an employee gets into an accident, your business may still be held responsible and sued for a variety of damages. You may be shaking your head asking why, if he or she is driving their own vehicle. How can my business be held responsible? The key principle involved is called "vicarious liability." As a business owner, based on the employer-employee relationship, you are responsible for your employee's negligence. It is important to note however, the employee's negligence must occur within the scope of his or her job function.

In the event of an automobile accident involving your employee while on company business, his or her personal auto insurance will provide coverage for the employee only. It's possible the claim will exceed your employee's limits of insurance and then could be passed on to the company. Therefore, one of the most cost effective ways to deal with this risk is to purchase Hired and Non-owned Automobile Liability. Typically, coverage will respond in the event there is an accident and your company is found liable.

What are the basics of the coverage?

Hired auto liability provides coverage for the business when an employee is driving a rented, hired, or borrowed vehicle. Think about the last time you rented a vehicle while attending a C-PORT and/or industry conference/event.

Non-owned liability provides coverage when an employee drives his or her personal vehicle for business purposes. It is important to note that the vehicle cannot be owned by, registered to, or rented on behalf of your business.

If you already have a commercial auto policy, check to see if it already has Hired and Non-owned coverages included. If not, be sure to have your agent or broker add them to the policy. If you do not currently have a commercial auto policy, typically you can purchase this additional protection at a reasonable cost.

As a benefit of your C-PORT Membership, Starkweather & Shepley will provide a free consultation and review of your current insurance program to ensure completeness of coverage.

For more information, contact:

Linda J. Wagner

Assistant Vice President - Marine Program Manager

Starkweather & Shepley Insurance

P:(401) 596-2212 F:(401) 431-9661

[lwagner@starshep.com](mailto:lwagner@starshep.com)



**STARKWEATHER & SHEPLEY**  
MARINE RISK SOLUTIONS



OFFERING AN EXCLUSIVE INSURANCE PROGRAM  
FOR C - PORT MEMBERS

PROGRAM MANAGER  
LINDA WAGNER • [LWAGNER@STARSHERCOM](mailto:LWAGNER@STARSHERCOM)

***Risk Management Training Courses*** are available on the C-PORT website, <https://cport.us>. The program 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 providing 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](mailto:tcardone@cport.us) or 954-261-2012 with any questions regarding this program. Captain and crew special pricing is available.

***Marine Assistance Company Operations Guideline***, exclusively for C-PORT company members. These guidelines promote safe operations and provide regulatory guidance. C-PORT company members may obtain access to this document at the C-PORT website, <https://cport.us> or contact Tina Cardone at [tcardone@cport.us](mailto: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](http://lwagner@starshep.com).

***ACAPT- Accredited for Commercial Assistance and Professional Towing***- The ACAPT program provides best practices guidance for the marine assistance towing and salvage industry. Participants are highlighted as having taken the initiative to meet or exceed their own company qualifications against industry best practice criteria and government regulations. Visit the C-PORT website at <https://cport.us> or contact Tina Cardone at [tcardone@cport.us](mailto: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](mailto: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 <https://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.*