



# The Marine Assistance Industry Journal

A Quarterly Newsletter - Volume 52- February 2024



## *Chairman's Address*

Another year, another conference. I hope everyone had a good time in St. Pete, and you all came away with something to help improve your business through safety and profitability.

It was great to see everyone, catch up with old friends, and meet some new friends. As the years pass, and businesses change hands, I'm happy to see so many new owners and operators getting involved and taking the time to attend our industry meetings.

For those of you who operate more seasonally, congratulations on making it. It's time to take a breath, fix what's broken, upgrade your capabilities, recharge those batteries, and finally start showing up to family dinners and family events.

For those of you who operate at a high pace year round, keep up the good fight. We're cheering for you from the sidelines.

Finally, while our Mentor Sessions continue to be one of our most popular member benefits, we need your help. In order to bring you what you want, we need your direction to determine what that is. So please reach out and let us know what should be on the agenda for this year.

Fair winds and following seas,

*P. LeBlanc*

## SAVE THE DATE!



**38<sup>th</sup> C-PORT Conference and Membership Meeting**  
**January 27 – 29, 2025**  
**Horseshoe Las Vegas**

## C-PORT held its 37th Conference and Membership Meeting on November 6-8, 2023 at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, FL. The following is a brief recap of the meetings, sessions, and social events:

### *Pre-conference meetings:*

Along with the C-PORT Board of Directors meeting, the board hosted two other partner meetings:

The **2024 U.S. Coast Guard and C-PORT Partnership Meeting** was held on Monday morning, November 6, 2023. The C-PORT Board of Directors were honored to welcome CAPT Mathew Fine, Chief, Office of Shore Forces and LCDR Eduardo “Eddie” Oropeza, Commanding Officer, CG Station Miami Beach to the meeting. In addition to the C-PORT Board, Jeff Dziezdic, JDZ Marine, Mystic, CT, was in attendance representing the members of the C-PORT USCG committee. As always, the meeting was open with dialogue, questions, and brainstorming ways to build on and enhance our partnership with the US Coast Guard.

**C-PORT Board of Directors held its annual Insurance Partners meeting** on Monday, November 6, 2023. Travelers Ocean Marine underwrites the C-PORT program with Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage acting as the administrators. Attending from Travelers were Nicole Fox, account executive officer and Scott O’Connor, managing director. Linda Wagner, assistant vice president and marine program manager and Jay Frechette, vice president and marine risk solutions group at Starkweather & Shepley, introduced Nate Oberg, commercial account executive. Nate will taking point of the C-PORT program upon Linda’s retirement (see Insurance Corner). Wagner presented the yearly program report to the board. Discussions continued regarding the financial health and stability of the program under Travelers, and developing the program for future growth.

**The conference kicked off** on Monday evening with a welcome reception poolside. Attendees enjoyed connecting and reconnecting with their fellow operators, as well as conversing with U.S. Coast Guard partners, and industry sponsor supporters in a relaxed atmosphere. The evening was made complete with an open bar, bruschetta station, and perfect Florida weather.

General sessions started on Tuesday morning after a Continental Breakfast. 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 honored the visionaries of the industry. Four C-PORT member companies are still lead by original owners. Three of those members were present and reminisced about the early days and creation of the assistance towing and salvage industry: Vern Meinke, Meinke Marine Emergency Services; Jimmy Reynolds, Reynolds Towing & Marine Services; and David LaMontagne, Pacific Towing LLC, founder Vessel Assist Association of America.



Tina Cardone, executive director, called the group’s attention to the past and current C-PORT board members in the audience who were presented pins to commemorate their service.

*C-PORT presented its U.S. Coast Guard panel discussion during the conference on Tuesday morning.* CAPT Mathew Fine, Chief, Office of Shore Forces; and LCDR Eduardo “Eddie” Oropeza, Commanding Officer, Station Miami Beach spoke.



CAPT Fine wore a number of hats during his presentation, speaking briefly on behalf of the Office of Boat Forces and Office of Search and Rescue. His remarks detailed the significant workforce shortages challenging the US Coast Guard.

This is echoed throughout each department, with Boat Forces stating that CG is prioritizing its lifesaving missions, national security, and protection of the marine transportation system. He stressed that standards for search and rescue response will remain unchanged.

The impacts of the workforce shortages are consolidation of field resources across the nations, change in some station classification/staffing, and increased importance on cooperation with C-PORT members.

Shore Forces Command Centers are implementing fatigue standards to ensure watch stander readiness. He stated that local partnerships and communications with C-PORT members “has never been more important”. The use of new technology will help: i911 and RapidSOS websites provide ready access. (i911 was at the conference and provided a brief informational presentation.)

CG-SAR remains the backbone of the USCG C-PORT relationship. While there is no change to the MSAP, SAR is working on Addendum version G to incorporate 16 interim updates.

PSAPs, the 911 call center project, continues with CG-SAR support. This is a joint task with NENA, National Emergency Number Association, USCG, and C-PORT all working together to insure maritime cases are handled consistently throughout the country.

LCDR Eduardo “Eddie” Oropeza, as Commanding Officer, is responsible for search and rescue, protection of one of the largest cruise ship terminal, and the interdiction of illegal flow of narcotics and undocumented non-citizens in the South Florida area of responsibility. He is the Coast Guard field liaison both to the NASBLA BOAT Advisory Board and C-PORT. LCDR Oropeza echoed that Coast Guard is experiencing staffing shortages, and called upon the industry to build relationships with their local stations.



He broke down the Office of Boat Forces and explained its role and vision: To set the standard for safe and effective boat operations. C-PORT’s core risk management programs originated through cooperation from Boat Forces, as does the BOSAR training.

C-PORT stated its commitment to the partner relationship and is reviewing its programs to find ways to bolster its support of Coast Guard. Throughout the conference, these leaders provided thoughtful insight and comments, responding to attendees questions and concerns. C-PORT appreciates their time and support.



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and Promoting the  
future of the Marine  
Assistance Industry.**



**- The Safe/Sea Crew**

## *Prizes and awards were presented to a number of C-PORT members who attended the conference in November.*

- The Dave Delano Mentor Award is presented to a new C-PORT member. It is sponsored by the Delano family in honor of their fathers dedication to C-PORT and the assistance towing industry. The recipient receives a 2-night hotel stay during the C-PORT conference and complimentary registration. This year's winner was Mike Blunt, Wind and Sea Marine Services, TowBoatU.S. Sarasota.
- Traveler Prizes were awarded to Clayton Tieman, Tampa Bay, for traveling the shortest distance to reach the conference, essentially zero miles traveled. Phil Delano, San Francisco CA, traveled the farthest at 2396 straight line miles.
- Conference Enthusiast Award goes to the member who attended the most conferences in the past 10 years. Cory Offutt, Biscayne Towing & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Miami, received a suite room upgrade.
- The Welcome Back Award is presented to the member who attends two consecutive conferences. With names drawn, Noah Santos, Float Space 8W, TowBoatU.S. Provincetown, received a welcome gift upon his arrival at the hotel.
- First to Register! Todd and Dominique Dillman received complimentary valet parking during their stay.
- First Time Attendee Gift Card Drawing winner was Scott Alvarez, Retriever Vessel Rescue & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Stuart.

Drawing Sponsors: CMTAA: Chesapeake Marine Towing & Assistance Association; Potomac Marine / TowBoatU.S. Potomac; Pro Marine / TowBoatU.S. City Island



Hello C-PORT Members,

We are taking this first newsletter of the year to make introductions and inform you of changes being made. Anyone that was at this year's C-PORT Conference now knows that Linda Wagner will be retiring at the end of 2025. Within that time, Linda will be transitioning the C-PORT Program at Starkweather & Shepley over to Nate Oberg and another account manager to be announced. We are all thankful to Linda for her knowledge in this program and all that she has dedicated to it. Thankfully Linda will still be in the background helping as we transition over the next two years.

Many of you at the conference were able to meet Nate, but we would like to take this time to give you a background of who you will be working with.

Nate Oberg has been involved in the Marine Industry since childhood. Growing up the son of a boat builder in Rhode Island, he was put to work helping with the family boats at a young age. This childhood exposure has led to a 20+ year career in the yachting and boat repair industry. Nate has been involved in all aspects of this industry including working the docks, all areas of hands-on maintenance & repair, working in and running major refits, captaining, fleet management, hiring, logistics, offshore sailing, project management, and service management. Nate has been a licensed 100-Ton Captain running classic 12 Meter sailboats, large motor yachts, and several other sailboats up to 105' spanning from the Northeast to the Caribbean. He is a Certified Marine Service Manager, teaches part of a course for Business Development & Service Recovery with the American Boat Builders and Repairers Association, and last worked for Hinckley Yachts specializing in large yacht refits. Currently Nate is part of the marine division of Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage. He will be using his marine industry knowledge helping C-PORT Members with marine exposures and work with our long-trusted Towing & Salvage Program to develop their specific insurance needs and manage their risk.



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Contact Info below:

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*C-PORT held its 2024 Business and Membership Meetings during the 37th C-PORT Conference on November 7, 2023.* From the Government Affairs/Legislative Committee, C-PORT remains diligent in its representation of the industry through legislative review and participation.

## U.S. Coast Guard Advisory Committees

### NMERPAC

- **Communications between Stakeholders**
  - Credentials
  - Sea Service Records

### NTSAC

- **Vessel Inspection Challenges**
- **Industry Issues Report Finalized**
- **SASH**

SASH: Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment reporting is on the forefront. With recent changes to the law, the CG is providing guidance on the reporting and investigation process of sexual misconduct. C-PORT members are provided with updates as they become available. Anyone with questions are asked to contact Tina Cardone, C-PORT executive director, at [tcardone@cport.us](mailto:tcardone@cport.us) or 954-261-2012.

The PSAP- 911 Dispatch Training project is close to completion. After a few years of work, additional time stoppage due to Covid, Terry Hill, C-PORT director, reported that the project and document is at its final stages. This document will provide a standard and training provided by NENA, National Emergency Number Association, that will be pushed out to participating 911 call centers throughout the country. The purpose of this guidance to to provide for consistent prosecution of all marine cases in the US.

## PSAPs – 911 Dispatch Training

### NENA: National Emergency Number Association

- **Purpose: Provide consistent response to maritime cases**
- **USCG MSAP**
- **Standards and training provided by NENA**

## Advocacy

California Boating Congress (CBC)

American Boating Congress (ABC)

National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)

American Salvage Association (ASA)

C-PORT remains engaged in a number of advocacy programs and encourages its members to do so as well.

California Boating Congress is a state-centric event being held March 12-13, 2024 at Sacramento, CA. California members are encouraged to attend to have their voices heard on various state issues affecting the boating industry.

The American Boating Congress was highly successful in 2023 with 11 legislative meetings over 2 days attended. We spoke in support of CG needs including funding to support the credentialing program transformation, discussed workforce shortages, and expressed continued concerns over local agencies competing with our businesses on the water. ABC will be held May 8-10, 2024 at Washington DC.

The NASBLA partner relationship continues to grow. Tina Cardone attended NASBLA executive board meeting as a guest

of the NASBLA Chairman. Training and advocacy remain C-PORT's focus.

American Salvage Association remains an important industry partner with their annual meeting held in December in New Orleans.

Programs and Education and Membership committees provided their reports to the membership. The Mentor Program was highlighted as one of the most well received C-PORT member benefit.

*C-PORT recognizes membership anniversaries! Thank you for your continued support!*

5 year members; joined 2019:

Travis Coleman– First Mate Yacht Service, TowBoatU.S. Lake of the Ozarks  
Joey Daniels– Retriever Marine Towing & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Oregon Inlet  
Chris Day– Marine Demolition and Spill Response, TowBoatU.S. Neely Henry  
Rob Estrada– Estrada Marine Service, TowBoatU.S. Lake Lanier  
Charles Gorrell and Michael Mazarky– Marine Techs Unlimited, TowBoatU.S. Destin.Panama City  
James Kennedy– Towboat Marine LLC, TowBoatU.S. Sandusky  
Grant Langheinrich– Oneida Marine Group, TowBoatU.S. Rochester  
Seth Owens– Hartwell Marine Service, TowBoatU.S. Lake Hartwell  
Chris Parker- Sandy Point Marine Services, TowBoatU.S. Crisfield  
Michael Parker– Parker Marine, TowBoatU.S. Oahu  
Tim Peters– Marine Towing and Charter Services, TowBoatU.S. Boston  
Terry Russeau– Treau Water Towing and Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Lewis Smith Lake  
Robert Sanders– Froggies Towing & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Port O'Connor

10 year members; joined 2014:

Chris Denhard- Rybovich Boat Company  
Kirk Fonte- Fonte Marine Towing, TowBoatU.S. Percy Priest lake

15 year members, joined 2009:

Brooks Bridges and Matt Wild- WB Towing, TowBoatU.S. Wrightsville Beach  
Steven and Case Holm- 321 Marine Towing LLC, TowBoatU.S. Port Canaveral  
James and Sara Moore- Bay Marine Salvage & Services, TowBoatU.S. Port Austin

20 year members, joined 2004:

Glen Miller / Harold Smith- Millers Towing and Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook

25 year members, joined 1999:

Phil Delano- Yachting Specialties, TowBoatU.S. San Francisco & Delta  
Nathan Lins and Jordan Lake- Catalina Towing, TowBoatU.S. Catalina  
Chris Shaffner- Towboat One, TowBoatU.S. Palm Beach

35 year members, joined 1989:

Larry Acheson- Offshore Marine Towing, TowBoatU.S. Fort Lauderdale  
Trish Aydelotte- Marine Services and Assist, TowBoatU.S. Whidbey  
Eric Guerrin- Lakeshore Towing Services, TowBoatU.S. Lakeshore  
John Ryan- Shamrock Marine Towing, TowBoatU.S. Shamrock



*Missed the last conference? Here are a few more highlights:*

Jonathan Lester, i911 International, provided a live demonstration of their technology. The program can find people in distress within 1 meter instantly, with over 43,000 in 2023. Contact Jonathan at [jon.Lester@i911.com](mailto:jon.Lester@i911.com) for more information.

Commercial vehicle insurance- are you sure you're covered? Mike Root, GEICO/BoatU.S. and Jay Frechette, Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage, lead the panel discussion. The panel used audience scenarios to explain coverage options and potential pitfalls.

John Fulweiler, Fulweiler llc, provided his legal expertise giving guidance on supporting salvage claims. From John:

*We really enjoyed visiting with so many of you. For those of you who participated in Fulweiler llc's GoPro camera and harness giveaway, please give Brandon Meshey of Upper Bay Towing & MarineServices, LLC a big congratulation as his token # 39 was selected at random. We wish you all the very best, appreciate your good cheer and look forward to seeing you in the future.*

The salvage techniques segment was "The Heavy Lift". Rich Lenardson, Great Lakes Marine Services, spoke to the importance of using the right gear and positioning for the job. He used video and pictures to bring the subject matter to life.

Life vests and neutral buoyancy. Troy Faletra, Throw Raft LLC, invented a neutrally buoyant life vest for use primarily in law enforcement and Coast Guard applications. The vest is not a lifesaving device, but rather an additional piece of equipment for use in conditions where a life vest is not practical. The neutral vest allows the wearer to control the level of buoyancy; they may dive or they may float.

The demonstration was held at the pool, and C-PORT wants to thank our salvage games participants: Michael Tucker, Clayton Tieman, Daimin Barth, Joe Abeyta, Josh Hill, and Josh Nidzieko. Five wore traditional life vests. One wore a neutral buoyancy vest. Diving and swimming were not easily accomplished by those in traditional vests. Great fun was had by all! For more information, contact Troy at [troy@throwraft.com](mailto:troy@throwraft.com).



### *Accidents Happen - A risk management case study-*

The latest risk management case study was presented by C-PORT during the conference sessions on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. In 2012, C-PORT began developed of a risk management series of courses and practical best practices. These courses are designed for owners, captains, and crew to help them manage the risks involved with our industry operations. Our program centers on Identifying risks, and providing analysis and assessment to help operators avoid, minimization, or eliminate unacceptable risks. Case studies are used whenever possible.

This session, based on USCG investigative files, involved the tragic accident and death of an assistance towing operator. Conditions, weather, equipment, time of day, and other factors were reviewed, along with witness statements.



The death was an accident, no negligence or other nefarious notions are to be applied here. But what can we learn from it so it doesn't happen again? This is the point chairman Phil LeBlanc made while facilitating the discussion.

The case study will be available for online viewing at the C-PORT website soon. C-PORT members will be notified when it is posted.

***BOSAR - Boat Operators Search and Rescue for Commercial Assistance*** – This course is open to credentialed marine assistance professionals only. It provides reinforcement of knowledge gained by virtue of your captain's license and experience. It will also enhance your ability to work as a true partner with local agencies and the Coast Guard.



This course is certified by NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators), the keeper of the National Standard and endorsed by the US Coast Guard's Office of Boat Forces, the owner of the National Standard for this training.

The course includes home study, classroom, and on the water training. This course is taken directly from the USCG Boat Forces training manual and certified by NASBLA as part of their national standard of training. Training includes crew efficiency and risk; boat characteristics and stability; boat handling and navigation; search patterns and communication; and rescue techniques.

The in-person portion requires a 3-day commitment with boats. Companies may sponsor a course for their own crew or may join with other companies. This past April Michael Tucker and Jeremy Carter from Lake Lewisville joined together to host this training on Lake Texoma. Anyone interested in hosting a course, contact Tina Cardone at [tcardone@cport.us](mailto:tcardone@cport.us) or 954-261-2012.

The C-PORT Conference holds valuable sessions filled with information focused on the betterment of the assistance towing industry and its individual business growth. Along with those packed sessions, is time to network, relax, and enjoy time spent with fellow operators. None of that is possible without sponsors:

Welcome Reception sponsored by Big Bay marine Services/TowBoatU.S. San Diego - open bar, bruschetta station, and connecting under the stars poolside. A great way to kick off the event!

Continental breakfasts each morning in the exhibitor's area to provide time for all attendees to meet with vendors in a relaxed setting. Travelers Insurance, Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage, and Marine Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Naples.Marco sponsored.

Lunch! sponsored by Compass Marine Services - after a morning of sessions, the attendees took a break and enjoyed a Deli Lunch complete with soup, fresh cold cuts, and salads.

Breaks are as important to a successful conference as content. Cookies, donuts, brownies, protein bars, coffee and soft beverages sponsored by Marien Towing & Salvage of SWFL/TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral; Millers Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook; Reynolds Towing & Marine Service/TowBoatU.S. Bayshore; Yachting Specialties/TowBoatU.S. San Francisco & Delta; Biscayne Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Miami.

The C-PORT Gala Reception was sponsored by Safe Sea. Guests gathered in Grand Bay Foyer enjoying an open bar prior to the banquet.

The Awards Banquet Gala was sponsored by GEICO/BoatU.S. Entrees of pan-seared red snapper and NY strip steak were served, while the bar remained open. AFRAS, Association For Rescue At Sea, presented its C-PORT Lifesaving Award to two C-PORTmembers: Captain Carlos Galindo, Poseidon Marine Towing Corp, TowBoatU.S. Islamorada, and Captain Dan McClarren, JLK Marine, TowBoatU.S. Nanejomy and Cobb Island. Their stories may be read here: [AFRAS Honors C-PORT Members](#)

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C-PORT held its Board of Directors Election at the 2024 Membership Meeting on November 7, 2023. Serving on the 2024 C-PORT board of directors and executive committee are:

2024 Officers:

Phil LeBlanc, Safe/Sea, TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay; Chairman  
Harold "Smitty" Smith, Miller's Towing & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook; Vice chairman  
Richard Paul, Marine Towing & Salvage of SWFL, TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral; Treasurer  
Jake Dunfee, Rescue Marine, TowBoatU.S. Port Clinton; Secretary

2024 Directors:

David LaMontagne, Pacific Towing LLC, TowBoatU.S. Newport  
Richard Lenardson, Great Lake Marine Services, TowBoatU.S. St Joseph  
Michael Tucker, Texoma Destinations, TowBoatU.S. Lake Texoma  
Terry Hill, Potomac Marine, TowBoatU.S. Potomac; regional director, president of Chesapeake Marine Towing & Assistance Association





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C-Port 2023

## PRESS RELEASE- PERFORMANCE INFLATABLES COMPANY ACQUIRES AERÉ MARINE GROUP

Performance Inflatables Co. LLC, a portfolio company of Pinewell Capital, and AERÉ Marine Group jointly announced today the acquisition of AERÉ Marine Group by Performance Inflatables Co. AERÉ will be maintaining its location in Coral Springs, Florida to continue to service the global boating and yachting market.



AERÉ is a global leader in innovative solutions to protect and enhance the enjoyment of marine vessels with Iconic Inflatable Fenders, Fenda-Sox Covers and a variety of inflatable dock, mooring and platform products. “We are looking forward to expanding our reach in the marine inflatable product market as we join the Performance Inflatables companies. Our AERÉ team is excited about this opportunity,” said Gary Abernathy, President and Founder of AERÉ.”

Performance Inflatables is a world leading manufacturer and provider of cutting-edge solutions to Commercial and Military customers based on high performance fabric technologies, creating highly engineered and innovative inflatable products for every environment from

the Mariana Trench to Space. The key operating companies of Subsalve USA and AEF have globally recognized positions including Buoyancy Solutions, Water Load Testing, Pneumatic Lifting, Agile Liquid Logistics Solutions, and the Skirts for the US Fleet of Air Cushion Vehicles.

“We are thrilled to have AERÉ join the Performance Inflatables portfolio of companies” said Richard Heath CEO of Performance Inflatables. “The businesses have complimentary capabilities but most importantly, we share a similar culture that is dedicated to Customers, Quality, and Innovation. The addition of Gary and Vicki Abernathy along with the entire AERÉ staff to our team, with over 45 years in related businesses, will unleash further potential across the entire portfolio of innovative solutions and enhance our customers’ experiences and ability to solve difficult challenges. We will continue to invest in and grow our capabilities at our North Kingstown RI, Picayune MS, and Coral Springs FL sites.”

[Aeredomingsolutions.com](http://Aeredomingsolutions.com), [PerformanceInflatables.com](http://PerformanceInflatables.com), [Subsalve.com](http://Subsalve.com), [AEF-Performance.com](http://AEF-Performance.com)

***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 and underwritten by Travelers 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. -Contact Nate Oberg: 401.408.6877 [noberg@starkweather.com](mailto:noberg@starkweather.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.

***Mentor Program***, exclusively for C-PORT company members. Virtual roundtable discussions with guest speakers. Second Tuesday of the month. Information is emailed to all company members prior to the sessions. If you are a member and not receiving these emails, contact Tina Cardone at [tcardone@cport.us](mailto:tcardone@cport.us) or 954-261-2012

What to be more involved? Let us know! We want to hear from you! Reach out to Tina at [tcardone@cport.us](mailto:tcardone@cport.us) or call us at 954-261-2012.




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C-PORT was founded in 1985 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>.

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C-PORT (Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing  
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*C-PORT is a 501(c)(6) organization.*