



The Maritime Minute

News From The Maritime Cabotage Task Force

Latest News: Critics have recently tried to blame the Jones Act for a delay in response to the Gulf oil spill clean-up. Responding to these misleading and inaccurate claims, those leading and coordinating the response as well as independent news organizations have said that the Jones Act is not preventing or delaying foreign vessels' ability to assist with cleaning the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The Jones Act mandates the use of American vessels and American workers in U.S. domestic maritime trade. However, it does not impede foreign oil skimmers from helping – in fact, many have assisted in the clean-up effort for the past several months.

In the News: Roll Call Newspaper reported that the U.S. maritime industry is going on the offensive to defend the Jones Act and that it protects thousands of well-paying American jobs. [Click here to read more.](#) (subscription required)

Did you know? Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, leader of the American clean-up effort, said "at no time" has the Jones Act inhibited the clean up, and the National Incident Command on July 6 reported that "in no case has any offer of assistance been declined because of the Jones Act or similar laws." A U.S. Department of Transportation statement said, "to be absolutely clear ... the Jones Act has not hindered the cleanup effort." [Click here to read more.](#)

Opinion Page: The Houston Chronicle published an op-ed authored by the board of the Maritime Cabotage Task Force, "The Jones Act maritime industry annually generates 500,000 jobs, contributes \$100 billion in total economic output, adds \$46 billion to the value of U.S. economic output, provides \$29 billion in wages and contributes \$11 billion in taxes. Efforts to repeal or broadly waive the Jones Act would have a devastating impact on American jobs and American workers, especially in the Gulf of Mexico, where they are already suffering due to the oil spill and the offshore drilling moratorium. [Click here to read more.](#)

Jones Act Creates Jobs: The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported that the Jones Act is directly responsible for creating and protecting 61,956 jobs in Louisiana. [Click here to read more.](#)

The MCTF is the most broad-based coalition the U.S. maritime industry has ever assembled to promote the cabotage laws. Its 400-plus members span the United States and its territories and represent vessel owners and operators, shipboard and shoreside labor groups, shipbuilders and repair yards, marine equipment manufacturers and vendors, trade associations, dredging and marine construction contractors, pro-defense groups and companies in other modes of domestic transportation. These diverse but allied interests share a common goal: to promote the long-standing U.S. maritime cabotage laws. Upon a foundation of U.S. ownership, construction and crews, the United States has built an unsubsidized domestic fleet that is the world leader in efficiency, innovation and safety.