



**For Immediate Release
September 17, 2010**

**Contact: Ron Bonjean/Phil Singer
(202) 349-1402**

MCTF LAUNCHES SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

Twitter and Facebook Pages to Provide Timely U.S. Shipping Industry Updates

WASHINGTON – The Maritime Cabotage Task Force (MCTF) today launched Twitter and Facebook pages in an effort to provide updates about the Jones Act and the domestic maritime industry to its members, the media and the public.

“The Maritime Cabotage Task Force is constantly working to educate Americans about the economic and national security benefits of U.S. cabotage laws,” said Mark Ruge, counsel to the MCTF. “The MCTF Facebook and Twitter pages will provide timely updates on what America’s Jones Act fleet is doing to maintain efficient trade and bolster homeland security.”

The MCTF’s Twitter link can be found at http://twitter.com/MCTF_JonesAct and the Facebook page is available at <http://tinyurl.com/2dthl6m>.

The Jones Act establishes a U.S. merchant marine of skilled seafarers and U.S.-flagged ships essential for maintaining the flow of domestic and foreign waterborne commerce that is capable of serving as a naval and military auxiliary in times of war or national emergency.

Thousands of American mariners have played a critical role cleaning up oil in the Gulf of Mexico. Jones Act vessels involved in the clean-up have included scores of the world’s largest and best equipped oil spill response vessels, dozens of technologically advanced offshore supply vessels, as well as thousands of fishing boats and other vessels of opportunity.

Jones Act shipping 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.

(over)

Maritime Cabotage Task Force was founded in 1995 to promote the U.S.-flag fleet engaged in domestic waterborne commerce. With more than 400 members, MCTF is the largest coalition ever assembled to represent the domestic segment of the U.S. Merchant Marine. Nationwide, there are more than 39,000 vessels engaged in Jones Act commerce and they annually move more than 1 billion tons of cargo and 100 million passengers. The Act has been broadly supported by every Congress and Administration since its passage in 1920 and is considered a key element in the nation's defense capabilities. For additional information on the U.S. Maritime Cabotage Task Force, please visit <http://www.mctf.com>.

#