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NAWE News

August 23, 2024

The Latest with NAWE

Registration Officially Open for NAWE 2024 Annual Meeting – We are thrilled to announce registration for our [2024 Annual Meeting](#) is officially open. Join NAWE from Wednesday, November 13 through Friday, November 15 in San Juan, Puerto Rico - [click here to sign up!](#) We urge you to take advantage of our early bird discount, available to all registrants, before it expires on September 30, 2024.

Our conference will take place at the beautiful Hotel Rumbao, where we also have a room block available for meeting attendees. Rooms are available starting Tuesday, November 12 through Friday, November 15 at a rate of \$199 + 35 resort fee and tax / per night – [click here to reserve your room](#). Please contact Meg Taft at meg@megtaftevents.com if you have any issues with booking your room.

This year's Annual Meeting will cover all the latest trends, education, and information for professionals on the waterfront. We will kick off the meeting with a fabulous reception sponsored by Puerto Nuevo Terminal. We will also take a group to tour the Port of San Juan for an up-close look at their operations on the morning of Friday, November 15. New this year to NAWE Annual is our Inaugural Golf Tournament at the world-renowned Bahia Beach Resort & Golf Club.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be an amazing NAWE Annual Meeting!

Registration Rates

NAWE Member Early Bird Rate: \$895

Non-Member Early Bird Rate: \$995

Golf Tournament: \$350 per person

Port of San Juan Tour – free

[\(Click Here to Register\)](#)

NOAA Fisheries Announces More Than \$9 million in IRA Funds for North Atlantic Right Whale Recovery

– The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries last week announced more than \$9 million from [Inflation Reduction Act](#) funds to support strategic partnerships aimed at improving fishing gear and population monitoring that will help the recovery of North Atlantic right whales. These partnerships include collaborations with state agencies, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and science-based groups. [North Atlantic right whales](#) are one of the most endangered species on the planet and are approaching extinction. In its announcement, NOAA Fisheries designates entanglement in fishing gear and vessel strikes as primary threats to the species, while also noting climate change is impacting every aspect of their survival.

An estimated \$6.9 million of this funding will support further development of [on-demand \(or "ropeless"\) fishing gear technology](#) by providing funds to fishing industry partners to assess and provide feedback on technologies that prevent fishing gear entanglements, while approximately \$2.8 million will fund partner efforts to improve monitoring and modeling efforts, including long-term population monitoring. These funds are part of an \$82 million investment in North Atlantic right whale recovery efforts that NOAA Fisheries first [announced](#) in September 2023. These new partnerships build on previously announced Inflation Reduction Act funding focused on reducing the risk of vessel strikes using new technologies and approaches, including partnerships with [MITRE](#), [NASA](#) and the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#). For more information about the new funding, [read NOAA's announcement here](#).

NAWE to Hold Webinar on U.S. Presidential Race and its Impact on Congress – NAWE is excited to announce that we will be holding a webinar for NAWE members on Thursday, October 24, 2024, from 2-3 p.m. ET to discuss recent and significant developments that are unfolding in this year's presidential race. This pre-election briefing will not only address the historic developments in this year's presidential race, but how the race will impact Congress and what it means for NAWE and our legislative and regulatory interests. We will provide more information on this webinar, including a registration link for the event, soon.

Legislative Updates

House and Senate to Hold Informal Negotiations on FY 2025 NDAA in Mid-September – House and Senate Armed Services Committee staff plan to begin informal conference negotiations on the fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in mid-September. Negotiators will have limited time to come to an agreement on the annual defense policy bill before the 2024 election and to ensure the bill's passage by the end of the year. In addition, negotiators will be challenged to contend with controversial House-passed provisions that are largely omitted in the

Senate committee-approved bill.

The House passed its version of the FY 2025 NDAA ([H.R. 8070](#)) on the floor by a 217-199 vote on June 14. That bill would authorize \$895.2 billion for defense programs, which aligns with the spending cap set for national security programs under the June 2023 debt-limit deal ([Public Law 118-5](#)). It also includes controversial provisions barring reimbursement of service members for abortion-related travel and eliminating any diversity, equity, and inclusion activities at the department.

In contrast, the Senate's version of the NDAA ([S. 4638](#)) authorizes \$923.3 billion for defense programs, exceeding the agreed upon spending cap by about \$28 billion. Although the Senate Armed Services Committee advanced its legislation on June 13 by a vote of 22-3, Senate lawmakers adjourned for the August recess without considering the legislation. It is unclear whether the Senate measure will receive floor consideration when the chamber returns in September, or if the Committee-passed bill will be negotiated against the House-passed version.

Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said he "very much" expects the bill to come to the Senate floor in September and said that he has talked to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) who "understands the urgency of getting the bill done." More than 1,100 amendments have been filed to the Senate version of the NDAA, and it's important to note the Coast Guard Authorization Act (CGAA) may be among the amendments attached to the final version of the legislation.

The NAWE team will continue to monitor progress on the FY 2025 NDAA and report on any significant developments in this area.

Executive Branch Updates

CBP: Customs User Fees to Be Adjusted for Inflation in Fiscal Year 2025 – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently published a general notice stating that user fees and their corresponding limitations set forth in the notice for Fiscal Year 2025 are required as of October 1. On December 4, 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act, Pub. L. 114-94) was signed into law. Section 32201 of the FAST Act amended section 13031 of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c) by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to adjust certain customs COBRA user fees and corresponding limitations to reflect certain increases in inflation. [Click here to access the Federal Register link](#) to the announcement.

USCG Seeks Comments Regarding Heavy Weather and Disaster Risk Management in Los Angeles-Long Beach Captain of the Port Zone - On July 31, the U.S. Coast Guard posted that it is seeking comments, due by August 31, 2024, on establishing port conditions and heavy weather safety zones throughout the Los Angeles-Long Beach Captain of the Port Zone. [Click here to access Federal Register link](#) to the announcement.

FMC Chairman Maffei to Speak at IANA Intermodal Expo 2024 – On September 11, Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) Chairman Daniel Maffei will deliver a morning address to the audience attending the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA) Intermodal Expo 2024. Information about registration and costs to attend are [available online](#).

FMC Commissioner Bentzel to Speak at NCBFAA Conference – On September 23, Commissioner Carl Bentzel will address attendees of the National Custom Brokers and Forwarders Association of America's (NCBFAA) annual Government Affairs Conference. The event is open to members and non-members of NCBFAA. Information on costs and full program are [available from NCBFAA](#).

Commissioner Bentzel Delivering Keynote Address at FIATA World Congress – On September 26, FMC Commissioner Carl Bentzel will deliver the keynote address at the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) 2024 World Congress. The event takes place September 23-27, 2024. Program, registration, and cost information is [available online](#).

Chairman Maffei to Deliver Remarks at NITL – On October 7, FMC Chairman Daniel Maffei will speak to the National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) Ocean Committee at the NITL Engage 2024 transportation conference. Schedule, information, and cost information is available on the [NITL website](#).

Chairman Maffei Speaking at Maritime Security Conference – On October 10, FMC Chairman Daniel Maffei will address the audience attending the Third Annual Maritime Security Conference being held by the New York Council Navy League of the United States. The theme of this year's event is "Securing the Sealanes." More information about the conference is [available online](#).

Commissioner Sola Speaking at LNG Event in Panama – On October 18, Commissioner Louis Sola will deliver remarks at the 4th International GNL Global Forum, an event focused on liquefied natural gas projects and bunkering in Latin America and the Caribbean. Information about the conference is [available online](#).

FMC Posts July 2024 Activity Report – On August 15, the FMC posted its July 2024 Activity Report on its website. Among the statements and releases included in the report are: 1) [FMC Publishes Final Rule on Unreasonable Refusal to Deal](#); 2) [FMC to Use Investigatory Authorities When Reviewing Filed Agreements](#); 3) [FMC Issues Request for Additional Information Regarding Gemini Agreement](#); 4) [FMC Designates Chinese Company a Controlled Carrier](#); 5) [FMC Chairman Maffei and Commissioner Sola Examining Impacts from Reduced Capacity of Panama Canal](#); 6) [Statement of Commissioner Carl W. Bentzel on the Refusal to Deal Final Rule](#); and 7) [FMC Activity Report June 2024](#). For more information, [click here](#).

Grants Corner

Welcome to Grants Corner! This section of our newsletter will



feature available grant funding opportunities that are of interest to NAWE members. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the NAWE staff if you have questions about the specific grant programs included below.

Please remain on the lookout for upcoming grant webinars and training sessions hosted by NAWE.

Biden Administration Posts Open and Upcoming Infrastructure Funding Opportunities – On May 10, the Biden Administration posted an updated list of open and upcoming infrastructure funding opportunities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The document highlights funding opportunities that communities can apply for today, as well as a calendar of key upcoming funding opportunities for 2024. To view the full list of programs, their descriptions, and deadlines, please click [here](#).

FY 2024 Open Grant Opportunities – There are currently no relevant open grant opportunities.

Upcoming FY 2024 DOT Infrastructure Grant Opportunities – According to the White House's "Upcoming Infrastructure Funding Opportunities" webpage, remaining NOFOs that may be released for the remainder of 2024 are:

1. **DOT's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant** – Summer 2024
2. **DOT's Reducing Truck Emissions at Ports Program** – Fall 2024

DOT Posts List of Grant Application Resources – On May 15, DOT posted an updated list of its popular "Grants Navigator Application Resources." Below are links to the DOT's resources:

1. [Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements](#)
2. [Grant Application Checklist for a Strong Transportation Workforce and Labor Plan](#)
3. [What Is a Benefit-Cost Analysis \(BCA\)?](#)
4. [Checklist for a Strong Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience Grant Application](#)
5. [Federal Tools to Determine Disadvantaged Community Status](#)
6. [Use of DOT Funds for Public Involvement](#)

The NAWE team continues to monitor and will report any updates on the 2024 round of NOFOs for federal grant program opportunities of interest to NAWE members.

Upcoming Events

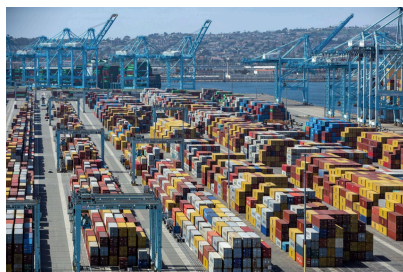
Don't forget to reserve your spot at our 2024 Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico from November 13-

15, 2024. We look forward to seeing you there!

September Committee Meetings

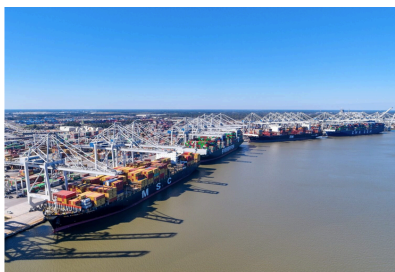
- NAWE Legislative Committee Meeting - September 10 at 4pm ET
- NAWE E3C Meeting – September 19 at 12pm ET

Articles of Interest



gCaptain (Bloomberg)
[San Pedro Ports Face Import Wave Rivaling Pandemic Frenzy](#)
 August 19, 2024

The busiest port complex in the US is churning through import volumes near the highs set during the pandemic despite worries about a cooling economy.



Reuters
[Possible US seaport strike could back up goods for months, shipping experts say](#)
 August 15, 2024

A potential strike at U.S. seaports on the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico could back up cargo there for weeks or even months, shipping experts said on Wednesday.



Journal of Commerce
[Supply chain transparency mandate looms over customs brokers' technology plans](#)
 August 22, 2024

Increased scrutiny of customs brokers by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is putting the onus on brokers to invest in technology to better understand the exposure to regulations violations their shipper clients face.



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Our mailing address is:

660 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 301A

Washington, DC 20003

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