



National Maritime Week
Revitalizing the US Maritime Industry
When Policy aligns with Possibility

0900-1300 May 21, 2025

ABS Office- 80 M St SE, Washington DC

The proposed SHIPS Act legislation has been released—a once in a lifetime opportunity to shape the future of the US Maritime Industry. Join industry, government, and maritime domain experts to address what is there, what is missing, and how do we get this done.

Registration and Coffee: 8am – 9am

0900 OVERVIEW – REVITALIZING US MARITIME

0900-Welcome - Carleen Lyden Walker, MAR

0905-Setting the Stage- RADM Jim Watson, USCG (Ret) and MAR -How the SHIPS for America Act provides the framework for revitalizing America's maritime industry.

Keynote SHIPSActand Implementation-

SHIPS Act Sponsors–

0920-Senator Mark Kellyand

0940-Congressmen John Garamendi

Keynote: The Opportunity of a Century for Maritime- Sean Duffy, Secretary of Transportation (Invited)

Event Moderators- Bruce Kimbrell, National Security Affairs and Brent Sadler, Heritage Foundation

1000 – SHIPS ACT – A DEEP DIVE-

- **A Whole of Government Approach** – Ian Bennitt, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director, National Security Council, The White House
 - o Establishment of the Maritime and Industrial Capacity Directorate
 - o Executive Order on Restoring America's Maritime Dominance and Creation of the Maritime Action Plan (MAP)
- **Maritime Trust Fund** – Carl Bentzel, President National Association of Waterfront Employers
- **Sealift Capacity** – Joe Russell, Legislative Assistant, US Senate
- **US international vessels** – Mike Roberts, Hudson Institute
- **Shipbuilding** – – Matt Paxton- Shipbuilders Council of America
- **Tax Provisions** – – Jim Patti, MIRAID

1100-Coffee Break

1130 – THE PLANS

Panel 1 –Innovative Approaches- Shipbuilding/Shipyards/ Industrial base

- **Shipyard Capacity-** Craig Hooper/California Forever
- **New designs-** Carleen Lyden Walker, CEO SeaTrain Technology
George Kochanowski, CEO/CTO STAXXON
- **U.S. Flagging- – RADM Wayne Arguin, USCG** Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy
- **Innovation/SMRs-** Tony Huston, Quadrant Nuclear Industries

Panel 2 – Tools- U.S. Flag Ships/Cargo/Ports/Defense –

- **Dual Usefor Defense**Bob Bowers- Vice President, US Marine Management Inc.
- **Public Private Partnerships / Industry engagement–** David Walker, ABS and Center Maritime Innovation
- **Ports/Cargo-** John Bressler, VP Government Relations, AAPA

1230-Q&A / Discussion / Next Steps by MAR– 20 mins

1250- Closing remarks and acknowledgements – Carleen + Sponsors (MAR)

Event and luncheon sponsored by Navaya Maritime

Sandwich Lunch

1400- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT(NAMEPA)