

**NATIONAL TOWING SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NTSAC)
TASK STATEMENT**

TASK #21-03

I. TASK TITLE:

Report On the Anticipated Challenges Expected to Impact the Towing Vessel Industry
(Short Title: Towing Vessel Industry Forecast)

II. BACKGROUND:

The towing vessel industry is continuously evolving and adapting to change. This evolution is often catalyzed by external forces to include technological advancements, novel U.S. and International policy, turbulent economic cycles, natural environmental phenomenon, and shifting political and social dynamics.

While change is inevitable, the above mentioned influences can create an unpredictable operating environment that can cause both public, private, and governmental institutions to take on a reactionary posture. In an effort to mitigate this uncertainty and to advance the strategic position of both the towing vessel industry and U.S. Coast Guard this task statement seeks to identify and forecast the challenges towing vessel fleets will confront in both the near term and long term.

III. DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this task statement is to baseline the current status of the towing vessel industry and forecast anticipated shifts and challenges the industry is expected to undergo in the years to come. This assessment of the towing vessel industry will set the foundation for subsequent NTSAC tasking. The analysis and final report associated with this task is not limited in scope and should seek to identify both broad far reaching industry challenges as well as granular operational specific impediments.

IV. TASKING:

NTSAC will prepare a final report for the U.S. Coast Guard that provides analysis and discussion on the following topics:

1. A 1-10 year forecast predicting the near term challenges facing the towing vessel industry. The analysis and discussion should account for unique circumstances that differentiate and impact brown water and blue water towing vessel operations respectively.
2. A 10-20 year forecast predicting the long term challenges facing the towing vessel industry. The analysis and discussion should account for unique circumstances that differentiate and impact brown water and blue water towing vessel operations respectively.
3. Identify and assess potential sources of change that are predicted to directly impact the towing vessel industry. Focus areas may include but are not limited to such topics as vessel automation, alternative fuel sources, workforce retention, merchant mariner licensing, impacts of regulatory compliance, geographic specific challenges, etc.

V. ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK

NTSAC will provide a Draft Final Report to the Coast Guard at its fall 2022 meeting.

VII. COAST GUARD TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE:

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VIII. NTSAC CONTACT

TBD

VIII. ENCLOSURES: