

4th Annual Marine Finance Forum – New Orleans

Tuesday, December 2, 2025
Four Seasons Hotel, New Orleans, USA

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Unprecedented Opportunities Abound in the US Maritime Markets

8:15 Registration opens with coffee and breakfast

9:15 Welcome

Matt and Mike McCleery, Marine Money

Kirk Phillips, President & CEO, Wintrust Asset Finance

9:25 Macro Economic Outlook

After a year filled with non-stop news, fast-changing tariff policies, surprising economic data, and sweeping policy changes, it may be hard to decipher the most impactful factors and the outlook beyond this year. Jason Turner, Chief Investment Strategist for Wintrust Wealth Management, will provide key insights on what transpired in 2025 and where the economy might head in 2026 and beyond.

9:45 1:1 with Sang H. Yi, Acting Administrator, Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S. DOT

In discussion with: Susanne M. Burstein, Partner, Seward & Kissel LLP

10:00 M&A Activity in the Jones Act, US Flag & US Shipyard Sectors

The pace of corporate maritime dealmaking is unprecedented – and accelerating!

Chris Weyers, Managing Director, AMA Capital Partners, LLC

10:15 Investing in the Inland Marine Dry & Liquids Sectors

The inland marine market is critical to the US and global economy, but there are more variables than ever. From the impact of tariffs to persistent inflation, from waterways infrastructure and navigability to workforce development and more, leaders in the inland marine sectors share their views on the opportunities and challenges in 2026.

Austin Golding, President & CEO, Golding Barge Line

John Hallmark, CCO, Kirby Marine

Andrew Holthaus, Executive Vice President, Heartland Companies, Inc.

Chipper Rabbit, Chief Financial Officer, Parker Towing Company, Inc.

Moderator: Capt. Casey M. Herschler, ASA, President, North American Marine Consultants, LLC

10:45 Networking Coffee Break

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11:25 The Changing Landscape of Maritime Asset Finance

- Market Check: Today's Credit Terms, Conditions and Pricing
- Finding the Right Fit: Discover the Alternative Sources for your Refi
- Structuring around Market Volatility
- Today's High Valuations - Optimizing for Borrowers & Lenders
- Senior debt, Mezzanine & Leasing Products

Keith Tornichia, Vice President & East Region Manager, Wintrust Commercial Finance

Andy Longhurst, Managing Director, CSG Investments, Inc

Kyle Parks, Managing Director, Eldridge Capital Management

Speaker TBA

Moderator: Nicholas Kaasik, Senior Counsel, Holland & Knight LLP

11:50 Mushroom Clouds and the Fallout from Nuclear Verdicts

Nuclear verdicts (awards over \$10 million) are increasingly influencing modern litigation, including in the marine industry. The trend impacts marine insurance costs, risk management, and challenges fairness and predictability in the legal system.

Claire E. B. Garza, Senior Vice President Marine Claims Counsel, Lockton

Jack Jowers, AVP Senior Marine Claims Counsel, Lockton Global Marine

12:05 In Focus: Matt Godden, President and CEO, Centerline Logistics

Centerline operates one of the larger fleets of Jones Act-qualified liquid petroleum barges and has steadily grown in recent years to expand its fleet and service offerings. In August, 2025, a new chapter began for Centerline when it was acquired by Maritime Partners.

In discussion with: Alan S. Ginsberg, CFO, McAllister Towing & Transportation, Inc.

12:25 US Government Initiatives, Programs and Policies to Bolster the Maritime Industries – Let's Go!

The proposed "SHIPS for America Act" aims to expand the U.S.-flagged international fleet by 250 ships over ten years. The Tanker Security Program is projected to expand from 10 to 15 or 20 ships. \$6 Billion in small vessel awards in the next 6 months will require investment in shipyards. Here active market players share their impressions and discuss the opportunities and the capital those opportunities will require..

Jeff Vogel, Vice President Legal, Tote Services

Ryan Pereyda, Principal & CEO, Patriot Maritime

Tim DiPietropolo, President & COO, Overseas Shipholding Group

Joe Rella, President, St Johns Shipbuilding

Moderator: John Imhof, Shareholder, Vedder Price

12:55 Luncheon

2:15 Company Spotlight: Hanwha *Expanding the U.S. Jones Act Fleet*

At the end of August, Hanwha Group announced a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure plan for Hanwha Philly Shipyard. At the same time, Hanwha Shipping announced it had ordered 10 medium range (MR) oil and chemical tankers from the shipyard, the largest U.S. commercial vessel order in more than 20 years. It also exercised an option to order a second liquified natural gas (LNG) carrier, providing a key element in the U.S. expansion of LNG exports.

Tom Anderson, President, U.S. Shipbuilding, Hanwha Defense USA, Inc.

Charles Salmon, Director of Business Development, Hanwha Shipping LLC

In discussion with: Christopher Belisle, Partner, Watson Farley & Williams LLP



2:40 What Institutional Debt & Equity is Looking for Today

From Rand Logistics' recent acquisition of Andrie and Carr's Hill's acquisition of Matthews Brothers Dredging to Redwood's acquisition of Canal Barge, and an impressive number of investments by Maritime Partners, among others, not to mention recent investments in ports, shipyards and across the supply chain, opportunities to deploy capital into the US Maritime space are abundant and attractive. Here active dealmakers discuss what they are seeing, and doing, in today's market.

James Burchetta, Managing Director, Duration Capital Partners

Matthew Thomson, Managing Director, RBC Capital Markets

Nikola Simic, Managing Director, Infrastructure Credit, The Carlyle Group

David De Laoreal, Managing Partner, Carr's Hill Partners

Moderator: James Mercadante, Partner, Reed Smith LLP

3:10 The Dredging & Marine Construction Market

- Market update and what's to come
- Long lived assets, fleet renewal and the needed access to capital
- Cyclicity and the importance of good lending partners

Frederick Paup, Chairman & EVP, Manson Construction Co.

Martin Curtin, President, Curtin Maritime

Harry Stewart, President & CEO, The Dutra Group

Moderator: Brett Hewitt, Executive Director - Specialty Marine Industries, Wells Fargo Equipment Finance

3:45 Offshore Support Vessel Owners Summit

- Opportunities through acquisitions and consolidation in the industry
- The Jones Act Market
 - Newbuilds on the horizon? Or retrofit opportunities?
 - Access to capital in the current market
- Opportunities within the Americas and beyond

J. Peter Laborde, Jr., Managing Member, Laborde Marine Management, LLC

Shane J. Guidry, Chairman & CEO, Harvey Gulf International Marine

Frithiof A. Wilhelmsen, Managing Director Shipping, Macquarie Group

Moderator: William C. Baldwin, Partner, Jones Walker LLP

4:20 Closing Remarks

**Post Conference Networking Cocktail Reception
Immediately Following in the Four Seasons Garden
Graciously Hosted by:**

