

BUILD TUG AND BARGE CREWS THAT KEEP COMMERCE MOVING

Marine Workforce Solutions for Tug and Barge Operations

Waterway-Ready Crews



Rotation Continuity



Compliance & Safety



THE CHALLENGE

Tug and barge operations move bulk cargo through rivers, canals, and harbors where schedules are tight and conditions shift constantly. Crews work rotating hitches, adapting to river levels, lock procedures, and vessel traffic while maintaining the watchkeeping and cargo handling standards.

Staffing these roles requires mariners with direct towing experience, credential alignment, and the ability to live and work aboard over multi-day rotations.

THE REAL IMPACT

When tug and barge crews are understaffed or placed without verified inland waterway experience, the gaps surface across safety, schedule, and crew reliability.

Credential and Endorsement Gaps

Captains, pilots, and tankermen without the correct USCG documents and endorsements create regulatory exposure.

Slower Turnarounds and Transit Delays

Crew unfamiliar with lock procedures, tow configurations, and barge handling slow loading, transit, and delivery cycles across the route.

Elevated On-Water Safety Risk

River conditions require situational awareness that only comes from time spent operating in those environments, not from general maritime experience.

Turnover Between Hitches

Crew who do not return after rotations create last-minute gaps that put pressure on a small group of reliable mariners and disrupt operational tempo.

WHY IT MATTERS

Inland waterway operations run on crew continuity and a structured approach to tug and barge staffing keeps voyages moving on time and vessels crewed with people who fit the environment from day one.

THE SOLUTION

Reliable dredging operations require a staffing strategy built around marine equipment experience, safety readiness, and crew continuity.

Key Focus Areas:

- Screen for inland towing experience, not just general marine backgrounds
- Verify USCG licenses, endorsements, medicals, and training before placement
- Build a qualified bench to support hitch cycles and short-notice crewing needs

HOW NSC MARINE SUPPORTS YOU

NSC connects dredging contractors and marine construction employers with vetted, verified operators and marine trades personnel in regulated coastal environments.

- Captains, mates, deckhands, and engineers sourced for inland and harbor tow operations
- USCG credential verification, training records, medicals, and compliance managed end to end
- 25+ years placing marine personnel across inland waterway, port, and coastal operations