



Acquisition Directorate

Assistant Commandant for Acquisition

Recapitalizing the Coast Guard's Inland Tender Fleet: Waterways Commerce Cutter (WCC) Program Update

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Sea-Air-Space Exposition | 7 May 2019



Agenda

- **Current Status**
- **Missions/Impacts**
- **Recent Progress/
Path Forward**
- **Q&A**



Primary Mission: Aids to Navigation (ATON)

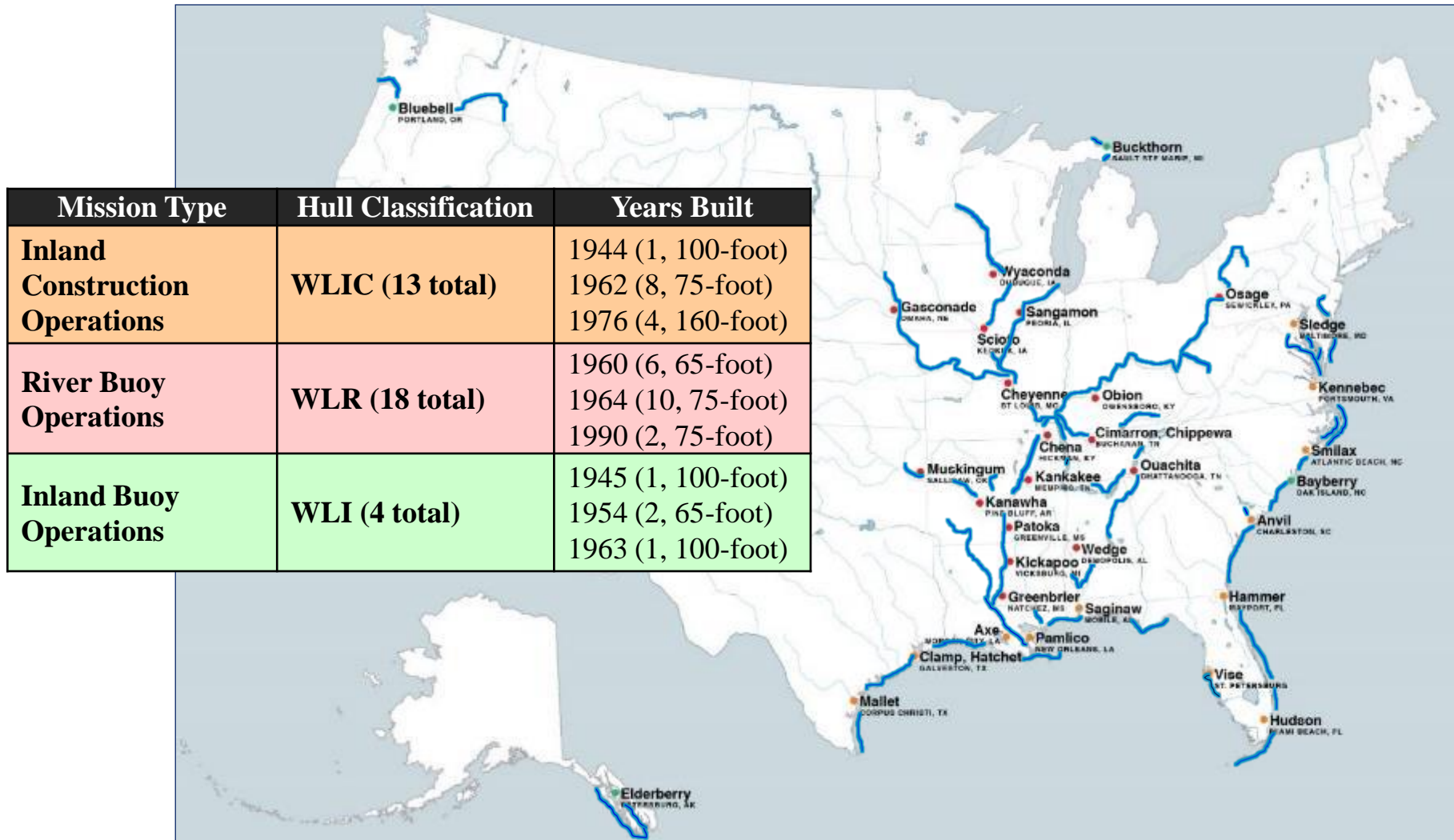
“The Coast Guard shall— ...

(4) develop, establish, maintain, and operate, with due regard to the requirements of national defense, aids to maritime navigation, icebreaking facilities, and rescue facilities for the promotion of safety on, under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States”



**– 14 U.S. Code § 102
Coast Guard
Primary Duties**

U.S. Inland Tender Fleet



Current State of the Inland Tender Fleet

- **35 tenders in nine subclasses perform the three inland aids to navigation (ATON) mission types**
- **The average age of the fleet is more than 55 years old**
 - The inland construction tender Smilax was commissioned in 1944
- **Issues:**
 - Increasing maintenance costs
 - Decreased operational availability
 - Habitability concerns



ATON Mission Types

Inland Construction (WLIC)



River Buoy Tending (WLR)



Inland Buoy Tending (WLI)



Non-ATON Missions

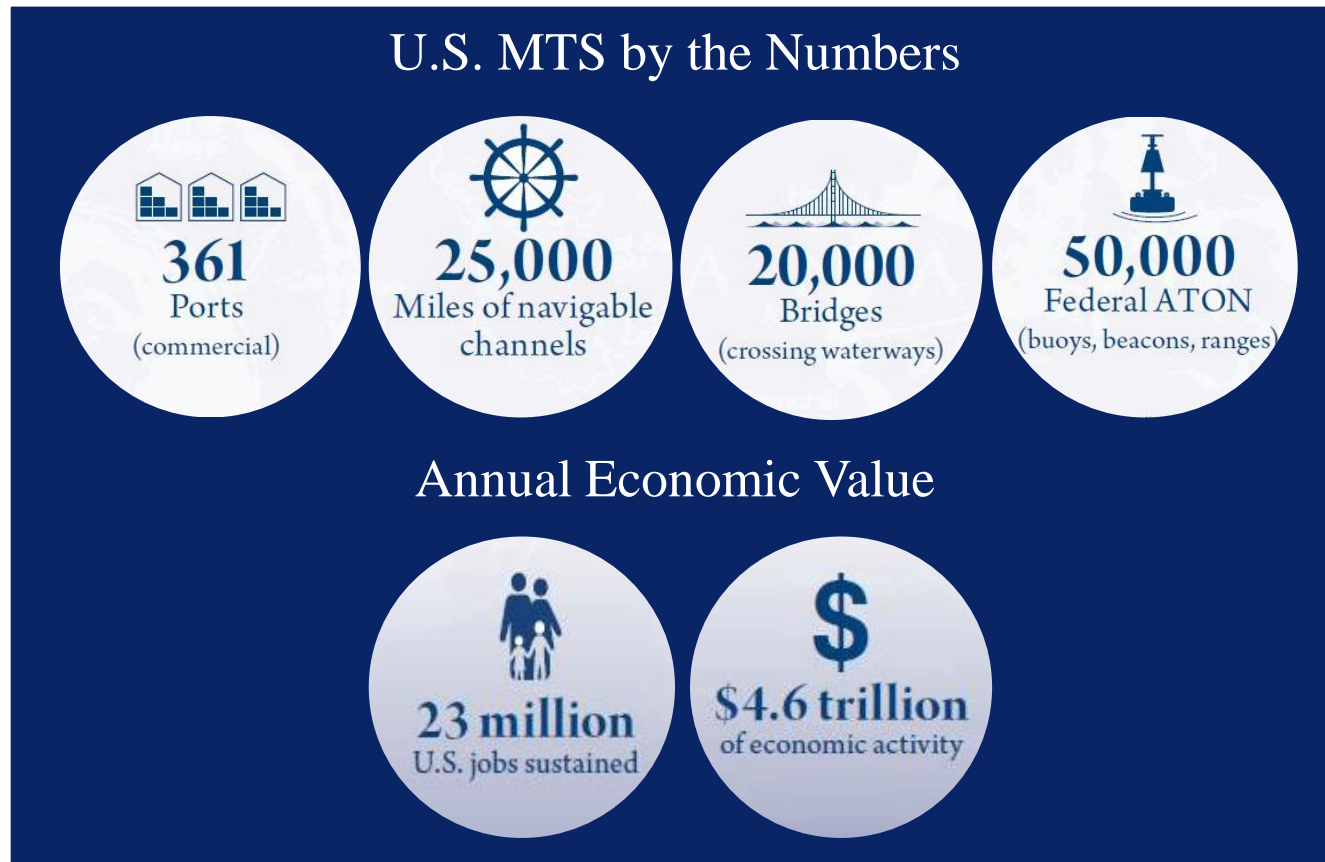
Inland tenders also provide a federal presence on the inland waterways for the following missions:

- Ports, waterways, and coastal security
- Search and rescue
- Marine environmental protection
- Marine safety



Inland Tenders and the U.S. Marine Transportation System

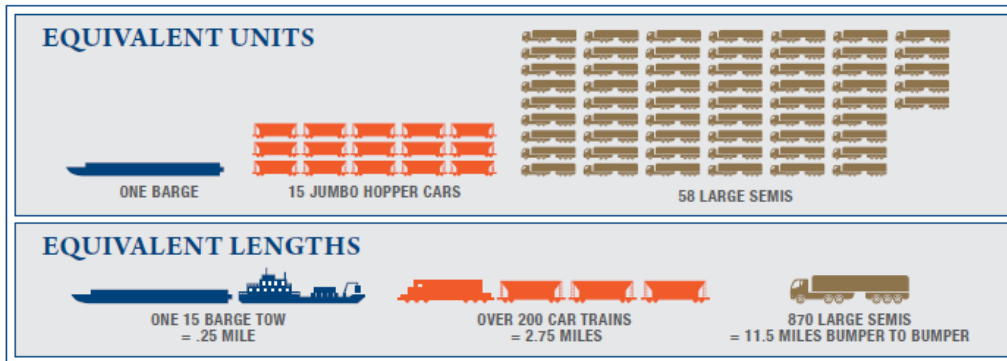
The inland tenders play a key role in the Coast Guard's support of the U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS).



Source: United States Coast Guard Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook, 2018

Impact to U.S. Commerce

- 14 percent of domestic freight travels on rivers each year.¹
 - 60% of grain exports moved by barge.²
- A single closure of a waterway can have catastrophic effects on imports and exports.³
- Organic capability is crucial to quickly restoring waterways following natural disasters and maritime accidents.
 - Following Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008, WLICs surged to restore the Port of Houston-Galveston in just four days. A single day of closure costs the economy \$322 million.



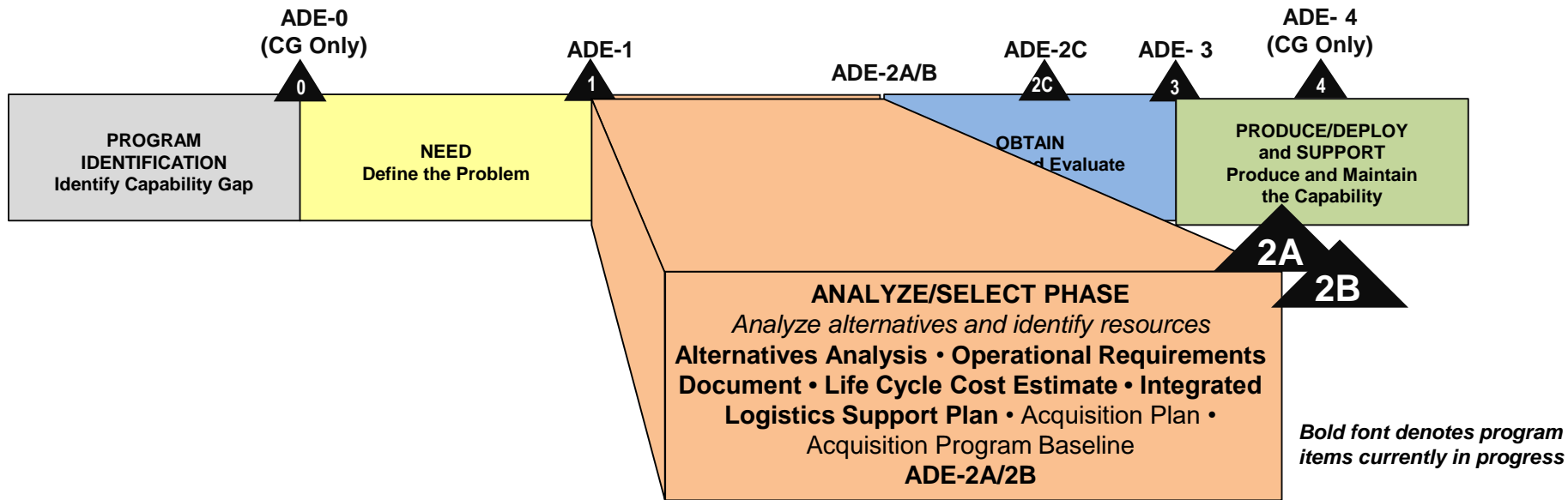
Source: Iowa Department of Transportation

1: The Economist, *Take Me to the River*, October 12, 2017.

2: American Society of Civil Engineers' 2017 Infrastructure Report Card

3: Reuters, *Ohio River closed to shipping after lock failure*, October 2, 2017.

WCC in the Acquisition Process



- Department of Homeland Security designated Level 1 major system acquisition
- The WCC Program is in the Analyze/Select phase of the acquisition

Recent Progress

- **Partnered with the Navy to conduct an independent Alternatives Analysis (AA) to identify viable solutions to meet the mission need**
- **Released fourth request for information on 14 February 2019**
- **Conducted industry engagement (booth and presentation) at the International WorkBoat Show in November 2018**
- **Conducting design analyses to better inform RFP development**
 - Conducted user jury in March 2019 to gather feedback on working deck arrangements

Desired Fielding Schedule

- **FY24: Initial operational capability**
 - Achieved after the first WCC has successfully completed operational test and evaluation; all crewmembers are trained; and the WCC has been delivered to its homeport, ready for missions
- **FY30: Full operational capability**
 - Achieved when the capability has been fully fielded

Questions?

Visit our website for updates:
<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/Surface-Programs/WCC/>



Statutory ATON Mission Basis

Additional statutes regarding the Coast Guard ATON mission can be found within:

14 U.S.C. § 541 Aids to navigation authorized

14 U.S.C. § 542 Unauthorized aids to maritime navigation; penalty

14 U.S.C. § 543 Interference with aids to navigation; penalty

14 U.S.C. § 544 Aids to maritime navigation; penalty