

“I’m not surprised”

Says the Captain of the Port, Captain Steven Hudson.

The comments of the Captain of the Port referred to the outstanding compliance rate of commercial operations evaluated during the Coast Guard Atlantic Area’s Operation Big Tow. Captain Hudson, Sector Upper Mississippi River Commander and the Captain of the Port, commented he was not surprised at the high rate of professionalism, cooperation and compliance with federal regulations demonstrated by the commercial towing industry operating upon the waters in the Midwest.

During “Operation Big Tow” a no-notice regulatory examination of the commercial towing industry, the Coast Guard and Industry worked closely together and found no major safety or regulatory violations. Those items identified as needing attention amounted to less than 1% of those operations and mariners examined.

This operation truly offered another outstanding opportunity for the Coast Guard and its industry partners to support the confidence the general public has for the maritime operations in the Midwest.

During Operation Big Tow, industry took the opportunity to submit nearly 400 employee records to the Coast Guard for review while the Coast Guard conducted over 70 examinations aboard all types of vessels that fall under the towing vessel regulations. Between corporate audits and actual examinations aboard vessels, more than 500 individuals were evaluated.

While the operation purpose was primarily to identify the rate of compliance with mariner licensing regulations, Coast Guard inspectors examined major safety items such as life saving, fire fighting, engineering, navigation safety, and required documents.

Sector Upper Mississippi River’s Area of Operation, includes 11 states and the major maritime thoroughfares such as the Upper Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers.