

Our Mission

The Offshore Marine Service Association strives to be the leading association of and spokesman for the offshore marine transportation service industry worldwide.

To that end, OMSA proactively fosters, develops and supports ideas and positions to promote the common good and protect the interests of its members with governmental and regulatory bodies across the globe.

OMSA also seeks to encourage and advance the highest standards of safety training and environmental protection among its member companies.

Energy and persistence conquer all things.

— Benjamin Franklin



The history



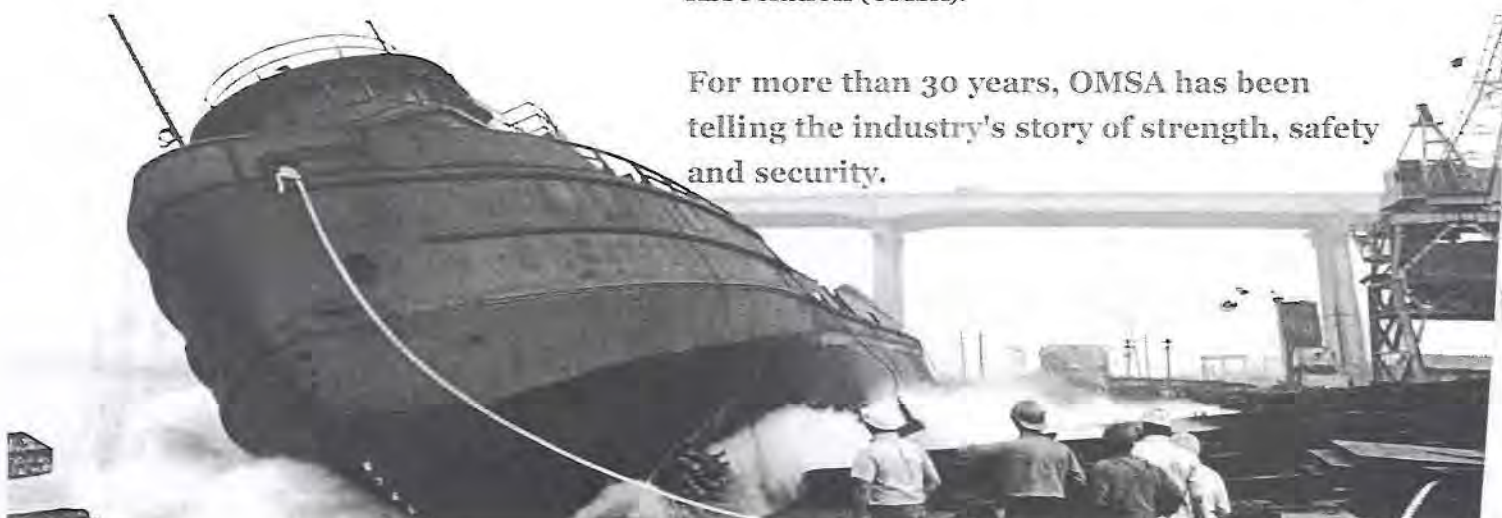
The Ebb Tide was the first vessel designed to service the offshore energy industry.

of the oil and gas industry marked a milestone in 1947 with drilling of the first true offshore well. It happened in the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico, 45 miles off the Louisiana coast. And with that innovation, a new need was created for vessels to work in the sometimes harsh offshore environment.

Initially, fishing boats and retired World War II military vessels were pressed into service delivering the tons of equipment, men and supplies needed to support offshore facilities. Then in 1955, the first dedicated offshore supply boat was launched.

Two years later, leaders of the evolving offshore vessel industry came together to form an informal organization to promote their common interests and represent them in Washington. By 1973, with the industry focusing more of its efforts both nationally and internationally, the group formally incorporated as the **Offshore Marine Service Association (OMSA)**.

For more than 30 years, OMSA has been telling the industry's story of strength, safety and security.





The **Offshore Marine Service Association** represents more than 250 member companies, including about 100 firms that own and operate marine service vessels.

OMSA is the industry trade association not only for offshore marine operators but also for related companies that sell equipment and supplies or provide professional services to the operators. Associate members include shipyards, surveyors, vessel equipment manufacturers and distributors, even financial institutions, attorneys, and accountants.

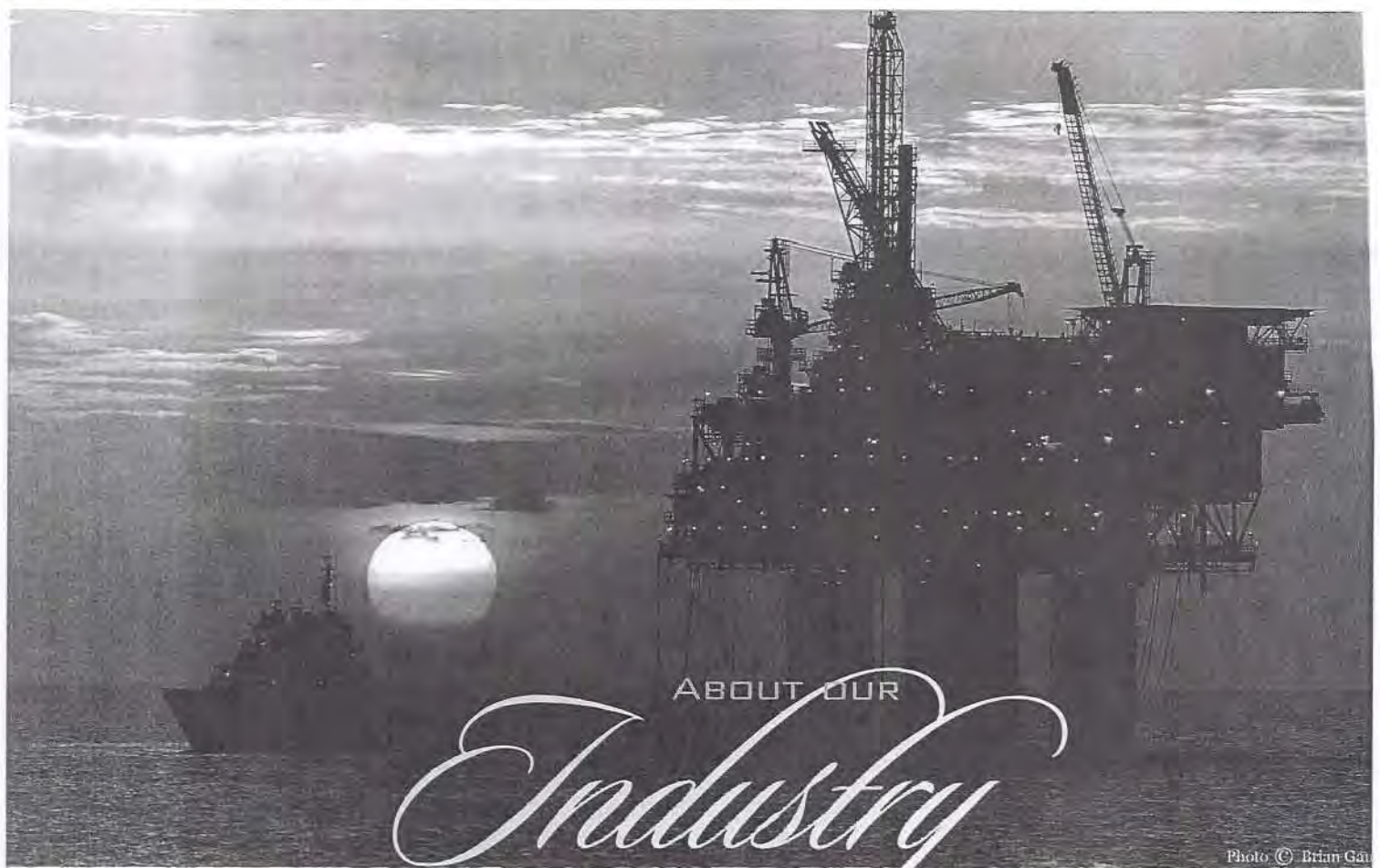
*Who
are we?*

OMSA's members understand that the industry is strongest when it speaks with one voice. Through the association, they tell the industry's story to Congress, the Coast Guard, and federal, state and local officials. Throughout its history, OMSA has successfully represented the industry on regulatory and legislative issues including vessel inspections, crewing, licensing, and international safety treaties.

Today more than 1200 sophisticated vessels support America's offshore energy sector, providing every pipe, wrench, computer, barrel of fuel and gallon of drinking water to rigs and platforms, as well as transporting tens of thousands of workers to and from the facilities. This critical flow of supplies keeps the heart of America's energy industry pumping around the clock.

OMSA works to ensure the vitality and stability of this essential industry.





ABOUT OUR
Industry

Photo © Brian Gau

Since the first offshore well was drilled in 1947, the offshore sector of the oil and gas industry has grown to supply more than a quarter of all domestic gas production and more than 30% of total American oil production. A study by the Louisiana Midcontinent Oil and Gas Association estimates that more than 21,000 jobs exist as a direct result of oil and gas activities offshore. Those jobs generate an estimated payroll of \$1.2 billion. In addition, some 6,000 companies support the offshore industry, hiring thousands of additional employees. **And all of that is made possible by the safe, secure, and dependable transportation supplied by OMSA's members.**

OMSA members are themselves an important part of the economy of the Gulf Coast. Their boats account for a significant portion of the local tax base in coastal areas, and they supply local revenue from vessel construction, repairs and supplies.

Vessel operators employ roughly 12,000 crewmembers, who live and contribute in their local communities as well as paying taxes.

As America looks to its future, the availability of affordable energy is a major concern. The importance of offshore energy sources is critical. Experts believe that almost two-thirds of the as yet untapped oil and gas reserves in the U.S. are located offshore. Soon, offshore facilities may also be a source of wind-generated electricity. And OMSA members will continue to be America's lifeline to offshore energy.



How do we power the world?



JONES ACT

The Jones Act and related laws ensure that vessels used to transport cargo and passengers between U.S. ports are U.S. built, owned and crewed. The roots of this law date back to the founding of the nation. The airline industry and other critical industries have similar protections, and 30 other nations have laws to protect their domestic maritime companies. OMSA believes strongly that the protections provided under the Jones Act are important to the defense of our economy and our nation.

SECURITY

In as much as U.S. offshore vessels must be crewed by U.S. citizens, it is no wonder that the Coast Guard has called the industry the "eyes and ears" of our nation's offshore energy sector. Following the September 11th attacks, OMSA took the lead in developing Coast Guard-approved security plans for vessels operating in offshore oil and gas producing areas. In addition, more than 2800 mariners have been through the OMSA Security Training Program to make sure they are prepared to stand watch over these vital energy resources.

SAFETY

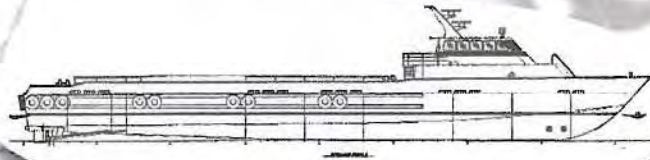
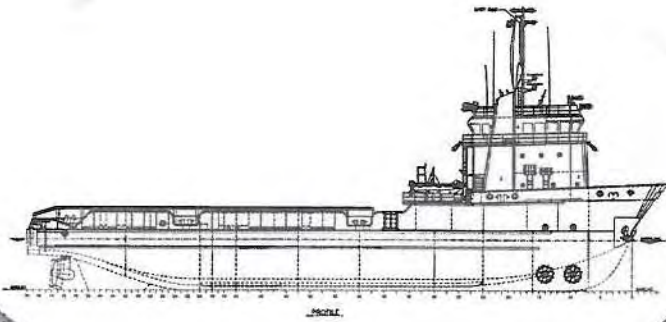
OMSA's members have taken the lead in continuously improving offshore safety. Today offshore vessels have annual workplace injury rates that are well below the national average for all jobs. One key to this impressive record has been OMSA's work to offer safety training for all vessel crewmembers. To date, more than 17,000 mariners have gone through this program.

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

American companies invented the workboat industry and used that expertise to develop offshore oil and gas fields around the world. OMSA works hard to protect the ability of its members to continue to compete internationally. Over the years, OMSA has been a strong voice for common sense, objecting to unnecessary overregulation and pushing for the ability of American companies and American crewmembers to work overseas.

OFFSHORE SUPPLY BOATS

THE DELIVERY TRUCKS OF THE OFFSHORE WORLD, THESE VESSELS CAN TRANSPORT ALMOST ANYTHING NEEDED BY AN OFFSHORE FACILITY. THEY COMMONLY CARRY SUPPLIES UP TO 200 MILES FROM SHORE AND ARE BUILT TO WORK IN ALL BUT THE WORST WEATHER CONDITIONS.



CREWBOATS

THESE ARE THE BUSES OF THE OFFSHORE INDUSTRY, FERRYING WORKERS TO AND FROM OFFSHORE PLATFORMS. CREWBOATS ARE ALSO DESIGNED TO CARRY LIMITED AMOUNTS OF CARGO ON A "JUST-IN-TIME" BASIS.

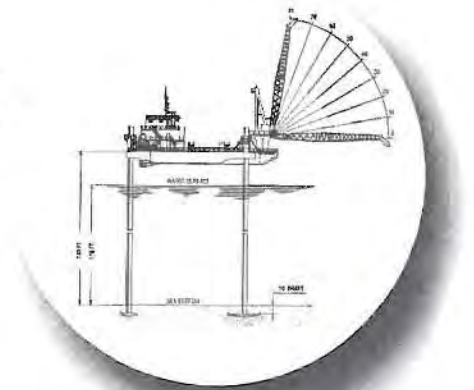
UTILITY BOATS

UTILITY BOATS ARE THE WORKHORSES OF THE INDUSTRY. SMALLER THAN SUPPLY BOATS, UTILITY BOATS CARRY CARGO TO AND FROM FACILITIES THAT ARE CLOSER TO SHORE.



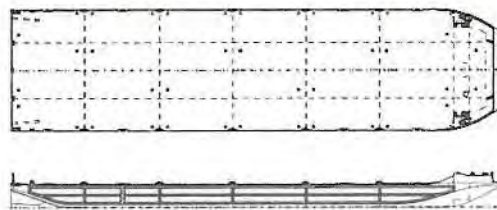
LIFTBOATS

LIFTBOATS ARE SELF-PROPELLED, SELF-ELEVATING VESSELS UNIQUELY SUITED TO WORK IN RELATIVELY SHALLOW WATER. ONCE THE LEGS ARE LOWERED AND THE HULL JACKED UP OUT OF THE WATER, THE LIFTBOATS SERVE AS STABLE PLATFORMS TO PERFORM A VARIETY OF OFFSHORE TASKS.



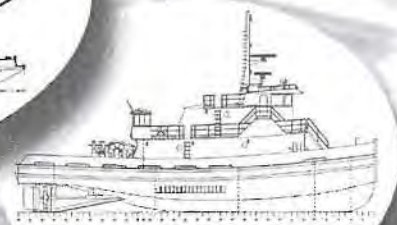
The vessels

Offshore exploration, development and production are supported by a variety of sophisticated and technically advanced vessels, designed to meet the challenges of the offshore world. Offshore vessels are instrumental in making sure that the people employed in the offshore energy sector make it to work and back home again safely.



BARGES & TUGS

BARGES UP TO 800 FEET LONG ARE USED TO HAUL MASSIVE STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT OFFSHORE. OFFSHORE TUGS ARE HIGH HORSEPOWER VESSELS DESIGNED TO TOW DRILLING RIGS AND LARGE OFFSHORE DECKS OR WORK BARGES.





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