

**PORTAL USE EXAMPLE: CHARTING A COURSE FOR TUG & BARGE INDUSTRY**

**Project Details**

Over the last century, the tug and barge industry enjoyed relative freedom and autonomy in choosing the most convenient, economical and safest navigation routes for shuttling commodities and cargo up and down the Mid-Atlantic coast. But as the ocean has become busier, obstacles to barging goods from port to port are surfacing.

The American Waterway Operators (AWO), a national trade association representing the industry, has been particularly interested in the coming offshore wind farms, some of which could obstruct some of the nation’s most heavily trafficked tug and

barge routes. The AWO has taken a proactive approach to the situation with the aid of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. Officials from the AWO are using the Portal to plan new routes that will steer safely clear of turbines while also avoiding other obstacles identified by the site’s maps.

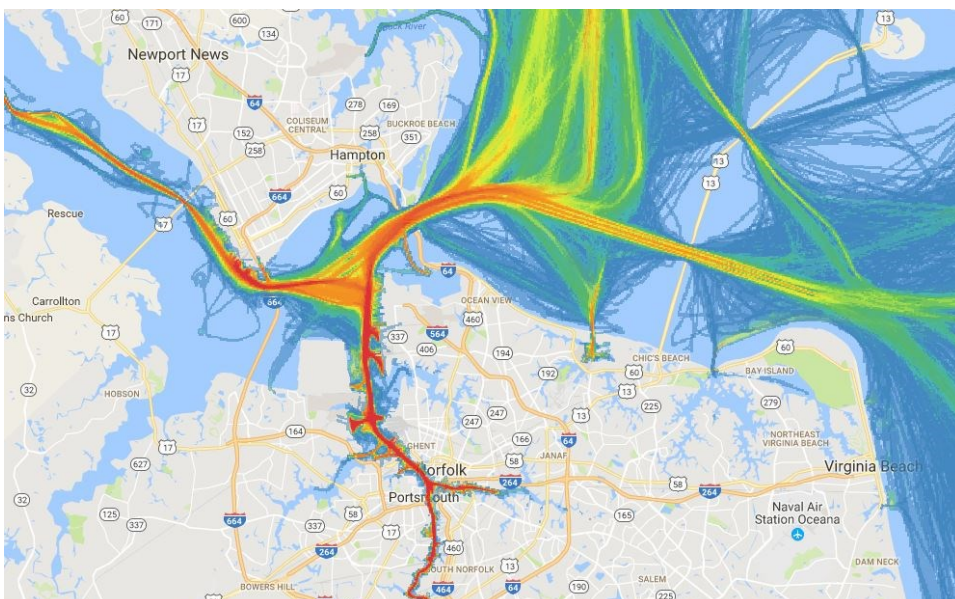
The Mid-Atlantic is home to three of the busiest ports in the nation at Hampton Roads/Norfolk, New York/Newark and Philadelphia. The Portal will continue to add to its maritime industry map library to help users like tug and barge operators perform their work safely and efficiently.

**USER**

The American Waterway Operators

**LOCATION**

New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia



Map: Tug and tow vessel traffic concentrations at the Port of Virginia.

