



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sea Tow® Franchisees Gather for 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
*U.S. Coast Guard's Vice Commandant Presents Service Above & Beyond Awards*

**Southold, N.Y., Dec. 16, 2009** – Sea Tow Services International Inc., the world's largest professional marine assistance organization, gathered for its 27th annual meeting at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Md., from December 1-4. The meeting's theme – "Fulfill the Mission<sup>2</sup>" – was chosen as a follow-up to last year's theme. Sea Tow franchise owners nationwide were challenged to focus on Sea Tow's mission and strive for growth despite ongoing economic challenges facing the marine industry and the nation at large. Unlike many sectors of the marine industry, Sea Tow's membership roster experienced growth over the past 12 months.

**Vice Adm. David Pecoske**, Vice Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, and **Capt. David McBride**, Chief of Search and Rescue, were guests of honor at the company's annual awards ceremony and presented awards for "Service Efforts Above and Beyond" the call of duty to fourteen Sea Tow captains. Honorees included: **Capt. John Duryea** of Sea Tow Freeport, N.Y.; **Capt. Cody Catapano** of Sea Tow Lower New York; **Capt. Paul Maslow** of Sea Tow Atlantic City, N.J.; **Capt. Tyler Nance** of Sea Tow Charleston, S.C.; **Capt. Paul Savia & Capt. Robert Albina** of Sea Tow Daytona, Fla.; **Capt. Phil Tollman** of Sea Tow Palm Beach, Fla.; **Capt. Tim Morgan** and **Capt. John See** of Sea Tow Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; **Capt. Brian Hawthorne**, **Capt. Miguel Villaverde** and **Capt. Jeremiah Major** of Sea Tow Miami; **Capt. John Bennett** of Sea Tow Key Biscayne and **Capt. Robert Cardin** of Sea Tow Mobile, Ala.

Led by Capt. John Ward, **Sea Tow Destin** and **Sea Tow Pensacola** (Fla.) received the coveted Franchise of the Year award. Vice Adm. Pecoske and Capt. Joe Frohnhoefer, founder and CEO of Sea Tow, presented the award, recognizing the many accomplishments of one the network's most driven franchise owners. Ward, a former U.S. Coast Guardsman, was recognized for combining the on-water skills he acquired as a Coastie with strong business acumen to lead his team in providing stellar service and becoming two of Sea Tow's most successful franchises.

Additionally, Capt. Kerry Kline, owner of **Sea Tow Central Florida Lakes**, was recognized as Sea Tow's Rookie of the Year. Having owned the franchise for just 10 months, he has demonstrated excellent operational skills, membership growth and consummate professionalism. Capt. Kline was also recognized as Educator of the Year by the Sea Tow Foundation for Boating Safety and Education to recognize his efforts to promote boating safety and education within the communities he serves.

**About Sea Tow:**

Sea Tow Services International, Inc. is the nation's leading marine assistance provider. Founded in 1983 by Chairman & CEO Capt. Joe Frohnhoefer, Sea Tow now serves over 165,000 members in approximately 110 locations throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, the Bahamas and Puerto Rico. For a full list of membership benefits, or to inquire about becoming a Sea Tow franchisee, please visit [seatow.com/about/franchise.asp](http://seatow.com/about/franchise.asp).

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