

## Tug Boat Usage

Clean Oceans' barge, Chickasaw, will be escorted by a support and tow vessel (Tug) at all times during operations. The Chickasaw is classified by The U.S. Coast Guard and the American Bureau of Shipping as a non-propelled vessel and must have a dedicated support and tow vessel within telescopic eye range at all times.

Clean Ocean, will use a Jones Act; compliant Tug to escort the cable retrieval operations.

Clean Ocean will issue a Request for Proposal (herein, "RFP") to qualified Tug operators for annual contracts. Clean Ocean will choose its Tug operator on a point basis system, with a scale of 1 thru 10.

		<u>Point Scale System</u>
1. Type, horsepower and condition of the Tug.	⇒	10
2. Experience of the Tug operator with specific knowledge of the Caribbean waters.	⇒	9
3. American flagged vessels.	⇒	8
4. Crew experience.	⇒	7
5. Financial condition of the operator.	⇒	6
6. Daily pricing of crew and vessel.	⇒	5
7. Fuel economy of vessel.	⇒	4
8. Availability of additional vessels for mechanical breakdowns and or emergencies at sea.	⇒	3
9. Puerto Rico based operations.	⇒	2

The Request for Proposal (RFP) will have a maximum point system as stated after each item in the proposal. The points will be added and the bidder with the highest point total will be awarded the contract. In the event of a tie a Puerto Rico domiciled company will be awarded the contract. Clean Ocean will notify the Army Corp of the Tug Operator prior to operations.

We respectfully ask to please notify Clean Ocean if any Tug companies in this region which are not in compliance with Federal Regulations so we can eliminate the company from the bid process

In closing, from a practical standpoint protecting the active cables is a function of having the proper supervision, vessel, up to date mapping programs and equipment to carry out Clean Ocean's project, coupled with a strong commitment not to damage installed and operable submarine cables. Clean Ocean will maintain a research vessel with an experienced crew and equipment required to video and cut the potential recovered cables. All active cables will be surveyed and video prior to the retrieval operation. The ROV will in turn cut the recovered submarine cables to avoid any damage during operation. The fiber optic cables currently in use have very accurate maps locating position and have been designed for easy recognition by video. Clean Ocean will have a substantial investment and a dedicated research vessel, crew, mapping system, sonar, and a ROV for the specific purpose of protecting the active cables and the ocean ecosystem.