

# Deep Water Port *notes*

The News Portfolio of The Connecticut Deep Water Port Community  
*New London . New Haven . Bridgeport*

## Underwater Construction Corporation

**UCC Nears 50 Years of Innovation and Job Creation in Connecticut, the USA, and Abroad**



*Ludington Pumped Storage Plant on Lake Michigan. 2.4 Mile fish barrier net installed annually in April and removed in Oct by UCC Divers.*

Underwater Construction Corporation (UCC) was founded in 1969 by John Chiangi Sr. and Stuart Leech. Both men had previously worked for a Connecticut based company called Marine Contracting, Inc. where they gained their respective knowledge in commercial diving. It was here in the 1960's where they performed the first "Saturation Dives" at Smith Mountain Dam in Virginia. Although very little commercial diving had been performed at Power Plants in the past, this mode of service was rapidly growing in the industry. The founders took this experience and shaped their vision to expand UCC's diving services to the Fossil, Nuclear and Hydro-Electric Power markets.

One of the most significant milestones occurred in the mid-to-late 1970's when UCC pioneered Radiological Diving and made the first of these dives at the Yankee Rowe Nuclear Plant in Rowe, Massachusetts. This inventive approach although new, caught on quickly. By the early 1980's the company's Radiological Diving was being performed in several Nuclear Plants throughout the domestic United States. UCC's unique ability to offer such a specialized service helped the company expand its Marine Diving applications. By the late 1980's, UCC had numerous service contracts with customers in the power industry, as well as with owners of all other types of water dependent facilities.

In 1986 the founders decided it was time to leave the company when it was purchased by a publicly owned Asbestos Abatement company named The Brand Companies. At this time UCC was still relatively small with annual revenues of less than 5 million and roughly 30 employees. During the next ten years, UCC navigated through name and ownership changes when The Brand Companies were in-turn purchased. Despite these disruptions, UCC continued to grow in both the specialized Radiological Diving and Marine Diving services. In 1989, a decision was made to expand to the Great Lakes

Region where the company established its second office located in St. Joseph Michigan and then later to Stevensville Michigan where it is today.

By 1996 the company had grown to roughly 10 million in annual revenues, and after a decade of public ownership the company was once again purchased. But this time it was privately purchased by three employees that had worked for the company for many years. They were William Feeley, Michael Pellini and John Lawton. The purchase was successful due in part to the assistance it received from Connecticut State Agencies like the Department of Economic Community Development (DECD) and the Connecticut Development Authority (CDA). These two agencies in combination with Webster Bank, helped the three new owners accomplish the transaction and reclaim the company's original name that is synonymous with Commercial Diving. In that same year UCC opened its third office in Chattanooga, Tennessee to service the network of power producing facilities along the Tennessee Valley River System.

Over the past 20 years, and still under private ownership, the company has grown substantially in all respects. In 2011, UCC expanded its Marine Diving operations further West to Wisconsin. And in 2014 and 2015, UCC acquired three commercial diving companies in the Great Lakes Region. 2015 also marked another major milestone when UCC established its first international office located in England, and in 2016, UCC pioneered the first Radiological Dives in that country. Today UCC's Corporate headquarters along with its three regional offices, provide Marine Diving and Radiological Diving to many of the largest utility owners in the power industry. In addition, UCC provides a variety of services to many clients and other industries including, Port Authorities, Private waterfront owners, Government and Municipal owners, Utility owners, the DOE, Manufacturing owners, General Contractors and many more. The company's Radiological Diving has afforded UCC the



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UCC Diver wearing a Kirby Morgan, Superlite 27 with a Bailout bottle.

opportunity to work with some of the largest companies in the power industry, while providing services worldwide. UCC has performed highly specialized Radiological Diving throughout the domestic United States and in over 22 countries including, Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Brazil, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and England to name a few. The company presently has in excess of 200 employees and its Marine Diving operations support customers throughout Connecticut, New England and the domestic United States. All the company's International services are performed from its corporate office located in Essex, Connecticut, where roughly one-half of its workforces are located. UCC has been an active member in the Long Island Marine community for many years and is a proud member of the Connecticut Maritime Coalition.

The company would like to acknowledge our dedicated and hardworking employees as well as the assistance we received some 20 years ago from the Connecticut agencies and Webster Bank. This in combination with organizations like the Connecticut Maritime Coalition has helped the company to create and maintain jobs in Connecticut as well as in those states where UCC has regional office locations. UCC looks to continue its successful growth as we near close to our 50-year anniversary.

*just add water !*

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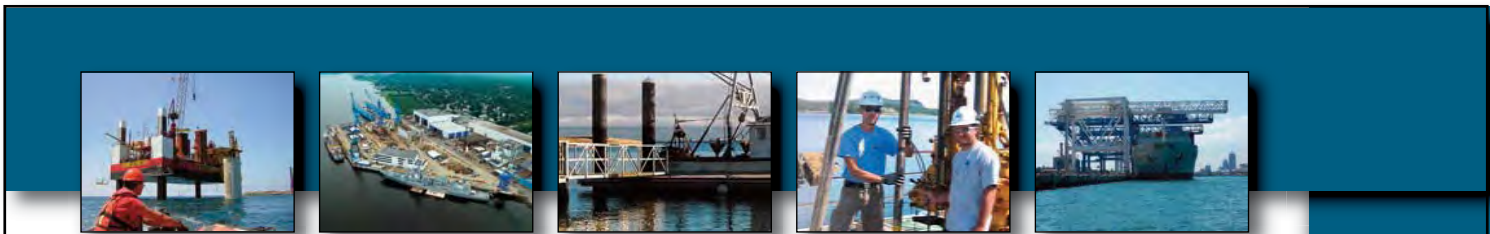
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Organized in 2000, the Connecticut Maritime Coalition is a non-profit trade association advocating for Connecticut's Maritime Industry.

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## CONNECTICUT MARITIME COALITION



The Connecticut Maritime Coalition is a non-profit trade association facilitating the competitiveness of Connecticut's maritime industries. Our member network is mostly composed of small and medium-sized businesses.

To join the Connecticut Maritime Coalition or to advertise your business in **Deep Water Port notes**, please contact:

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