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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Nichols Brothers Boat Builders begins construction on second Tractor Tug for Harley Marine Services**

SEATTLE, WA (September 6, 2012) – Harley Marine Services has partnered with Nichols Brothers Boat Builders of Freeland, WA to construct two new 100' x 40' Z-drive ship assist tractor tugs. The tugs will be built with the most technically and environmentally advanced equipment available to meet the specific needs of our customers and expanding business markets. In selecting a shipyard, Harley Marine chose Nichols Brothers based on their combined expertise and quality of product. "We look forward to working with Nichols Brothers through these projects and more in the future, their workmanship and superiority are superb and closely match our corporate vision" Harley Franco, Chairman and CEO.

Construction of the first tug began in May 2012 and is well underway, with the pilothouse, bow, and both port and starboard wing tanks nearing completion. Prefabrication of the second tug began earlier this month at the Nichols Brothers shipyard in Freeland, Washington. Building the two tugs simultaneously will increase productivity, efficiency and overall quality while shortening the material handling process making it cost-efficient for both the shipyard and vessel owner.

The vessels were designed by Jensen Maritime of Seattle, Washington and will be ABS load line certified. Both tugs are 100' x 40' each consisting of a complete propulsion system with two Caterpillar 3516C diesel engines coupled to the Rolls Royce z-drive system. The vessels are also equipped with two Cat C9 generators. The propulsion package will produce over 90 tons of bollard pull with a combined horsepower of 6,770, giving the tugs exceptional pulling power and maneuverability. Both vessels are outfitted with Mackay Marine Electronics, Technicold by Northern Lights HVAC system, two Markey winches, one forward for ship assist and one aft for towing and a Smith Berger tow pin aft.

Harley Marine Services will name the two tugs after the Harley and Lela Franco's two children, Ahbra and Robert Franco. The first tug, M/V ROBERT FRANCO is scheduled for delivery in Spring 2013 while the second tug, M/V AHBRA FRANCO is scheduled for delivery in mid-summer 2013. The tugs will enter service on the U.S. West Coast and will enhance Harley Marine's current fleet of tractor tugs operating in the Tanker Escort and Ship Assist markets.

**Nichols Brothers Boat Builders** (NBBB) invests over 45 years experience on Whidbey Island in Washington State into the construction of an astonishing variety of vessels. NBBB specializes in steel and aluminum new construction, repair, and major conversions. We lead the shipbuilding industry by adopting innovative marine technologies to serve our customers needs. Our portfolio expresses our quality, attention to detail and our passion for boat building. When you are ready to build your next marine investment, Nichols Brothers has the equipment, facility and experienced work force to get the job done with your mission and objectives in mind.

**Harley Marine Services** is a leading provider of marine transportation services in the United States. Harley Marine operates on the United States West Coast (including Alaska), New York Harbor and the US Gulf Coast. Services provided include the transportation and storage of petroleum products, ship assist and escort, the transportation of general cargo and rescue towing. Harley Marine is dedicated to providing excellent customer service and maintaining our obligations to employees, shareholders, our community and the environment.