



Joseph W. Gontarski - Senior Director and Special Assistant to the Executive Director

Considered by many to be the dean of Tampa Bay's maritime community, Mr. Gontarski is Senior Director and Special Assistant to Executive Director. He came to Tampa in 1976 when he was hired by the Tampa Port Authority to serve as port director for the Port of Tampa. After launching a maritime consulting firm in 1981, he began a relationship with Port Manatee that evolved into a 20-year staff position, where he continues to serve today.

Mr. Gontarski is a licensed practitioner before the Federal Maritime Commission. He serves on the executive board of the Tampa Bay Harbor Safety and Security Committee and is a former chairman of the Florida Ports Council.

He is a graduate of Fordham University with a Bachelor of Science and holds a Master of Science in Transportation from the University of Tennessee.