USCG career was spent patrolling, working in the WATF-166 and was redesignated Medium Endurance Cutter WMEC-166 in 1966. The bulk of her activity was part of the rescue effort documented in the film *The Perfect Storm*. Tamaroa started out life as a Navajo-class Fleet Tug laid down on 5 May 1943 at the Commercial Iron Works in Portland, Oregon. Launched on 31 July, she was commissioned USS Zuni (ATF-95) on 9 October 1943. On 15 May 1944, she was redesignated a Fleet Ocean Tug (ATF-95) and assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and participated in the capture and occupation of Saipan, the Palau Islands, and Guam. During October 1944, she received urgent orders to rendezvous with the USS Houston after the light cruiser had been hit by two Japanese torpedoes during an aerial blitz as an answer to Task Force 38's raids on Okinawa and Formosa. She relieved Phouc of the Houston and towed her into Ulithi lagoon on 27 October. Soon, another set of urgent orders sent her to aid another light cruiser, USS Reno, which had been torpedoed in the Philippines off the San Bernardino Strait on 3 November by the submarine I-41. Though the cruiser nearly capsized, the ships' companies of Zuni and Reno combined efforts to meet the threat and the tug succeeded in towing the cruiser some 1500-mi back to Ulithi. During the invasion of Iwo Jima, she found herself stranded on Yellow Beach when a broken towline fouled her anchor and propeller. She lost two crewmen in this incident. She was towed to Pearl Harbor where she arrived at the end of May. During the more than 14 weeks of repairs she underwent there, WWll ended. She earned four Battle Stars.

The ship was decommissioned and transferred to the Coast Guard on 29 June 1946, becoming the USCGC Tamaroa (WMEC-166). In 1956 she became WATF-166 and was redesignated Medium Endurance Cutter WMEC-166 in 1966. The bulk of her USCG career was spent patrolling, working in the waters of the harbor when a drunk and disorderly crew member opened the port side valves of Tamaroa's dry dock. Tamaroa had every sea cock cut out of her, the stem tube packing was also out at the time so she quickly sank.

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