

STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS

BPC Mission: to ensure against the loss of lives, loss of or damage to property and vessels, and to protect the marine environment by maintaining efficient and competent pilotage service on our State's inland waters.



THE BPC PILOTAGE QUARTERLY

Announcements

40 Under 40

BPC Marine Environment Representative Dr. Eleanor Kirtley has been named one of Puget Sound Business Journal's 40 Under 40 for 2020! Dr. Kirtley is a Senior Program Manager for Green Marine.



Congratulations Commissioner Kirtley!

Seattle REC Reopens

The Regional Examination Center (REC) reopened for limited services, by appointment only, on September 14, 2020.

Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum

This virtual conference is October 14th and 15th. Visit the website for more details [here](#).

September 1st Tug Escort Implementation

September 1, 2020 marked the start of new laws in Washington state for tug escorts on oil-laden tank, articulated tug barge, and waterborne vessels and barges between 5,000 and 40,000 deadweight tons per the requirements of [RCW 88.16.190](#) and as directed by the 2019 Washington State Legislature via [ESHB 1578](#), the *Reducing threats to southern resident killer whales by improving oil transportation safety* Act. Compliance was observed immediately. The BPC commends industry on the implementation of the new laws into their operations.



AIS data shows tug escort implementation on September 1, 2020. Image source: Dept. of Ecology.

At the June 18, 2020 regular public meeting, the Board adopted an [Interpretive Statement](#) to help clarify ESHB 1578 terms in preparation for the September 1st tug escort implementation. At the September 17, 2020 meeting, the Board adopted an update to the Interpretive Statement providing additional clarity regarding the definition of "biological oils". You can find the update on our website at www.pilotage.wa.gov. The Board's Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC) will meet in October to review implementation and address questions received, possibly making additional recommendations to the Board for increased clarity in the Interpretive Statement.

The BPC looks forward to being a part of the 2020 Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum where we will provide additional updates regarding the tug escort implementation process.

BPC Staff Highlight

We celebrated BPC Training Program Coordinator Jolene Hamel's three-year anniversary on September 1, 2020. Jolene started her career with us as the Administrative Coordinator. She transitioned to Training Program Coordinator in 2019. Jolene provides excellent support to pilot trainees and aspirants, as well as the Board, committees, and staff. We are very fortunate to have her as a part of our pilotage team.



Before the pandemic, Jolene and her husband were regulars on cruise ships. Here she is on the EMERALD PRINCESS.

New Pilot Boat in Grays Harbor



The Port of Grays Harbor has acquired a new pilot boat. The VEGA arrived from Long Beach, CA at Westport Marina in early September. According to the Port, staff will be working through repairs and modifications before putting the vessel into service.

Congratulations to the Port of Grays Harbor!

New pilot boat VEGA (foreground left) at Westport Marina. The current GH pilot boat, the CHEHALIS, can be seen on the far right. Photo courtesy of the Port of Grays Harbor.

2021 Pilot Exam & Aspirant Webinar

Work is underway for the next Washington State Marine Pilot Exam, scheduled for April 6, 2021. In preparation for the exam, the BPC will be hosting a webinar on October 21, 2020 at 1:30 PST. The purpose of the webinar is to provide an overview of the BPC, exam qualifications, Puget Sound Pilots, Port of Grays Harbor, the written exam, the simulator evaluation, and the training program, concluding with a Q&A session.

If you'd like to be added to the distribution list for information about the webinar and/or the marine pilot exam, please contact Training Program Coordinator Jolene Hamel at PilotageInfo@wsdot.wa.gov or (206) 515-3904. For more information about the exam, please visit us at <https://pilotage.wa.gov/exam-information.html>.

District Snapshots

Puget Sound



Retirements:

Captain Eric Lichty
Captain John Harris

Thank you for your service to the State of Washington!

License Upgrades to Unlimited:

Captain Brad Lowe
Captain Jim Carstensen

Congratulations!

Training Program:

Currently training are Captains Joe Siddell, Matt Hannuksela, Neil McGourty, Severin Knutsen, Ryan Gartner, Eric Michael, Nick Moore, Robert Ekemann, and Andrew Stewart. In addition, Captains Mark Bostick and Peter Mann began their training programs on October 1st.

Grays Harbor



Training Program:

Currently in training is Captain Forest McMullen.

Save the Date and Achieve the Dream

2021 WA Marine Pilot Exam
Target Date: April 6, 2021



<https://pilotage.wa.gov/exam-information.html>

