The Board’s Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC) has completed its first phase of work, which was to recommend definitions for ESHB 1578 terms via an Interpretive Statement and to identify geographic zones to inform the Department of Ecology’s risk model per the directives of the 2019 legislation, ESHB 1578 Reducing the risks to southern resident killer whales by improving the safety of oil transportation (The Act). The Board adopted the Interpretive Statement at the June 18, 2020 regular meeting. At the upcoming July 16, 2020 regular meeting, the Board will consider the recommended geographic zones. Information about that meeting, including materials, can be found on our website at https://pilotage.wa.gov/meetings.html.

As of September 1, 2020, tug escorts will be required on tank vessels between 5,000 and 40,000 deadweight tons in Rosario Strait and connected waterways east. The Board will be hosting a webinar to explain the Interpretive Statement, provide information regarding next steps for ESHB 1578, concluding with a Q&A session. If you are interested in attending one of the two webinar sessions being offered, please register here.

Vessels identified in ESHB 1578. From left, a 17,000 DWT oil tanker (photo by M.L. Jacobs), a Crowley ATB (photo courtesy of Crowley.com), and a towed oil barge (photo courtesy of Sause.com)
BPC Operations

The staff of the BPC continues to work remotely, taking turns to be in the office periodically. Public meetings of the Board and BPC committee meetings continue to occur virtually, per the Governor’s orders. Despite the disruption, agency operations continue to run smoothly. Though a state agency, BPC is not one of the Governor’s Cabinet nor Executive agencies and therefore is not required at this time to furlough under the Governor’s recent orders.

If you need to come in to the office, please contact BPC staff at (206) 515-3904 or PilotageInfo@wsdot.wa.gov to schedule a time.

Piloting During a Pandemic

Puget Sound pilot, Captain Chris Rounds (right) and the crew of the PSARA I demonstrate safety precautions as they depart Port Angeles on their way to Cherry Point. Captain Rounds wears a mask representing the white and red of the pilot flag. Photo courtesy of Puget Sound Pilots.

PS Pilotage District Data Analysis

At the June 18, 2020 BPC meeting, the Board reviewed data regarding moves by vessel type prepared by BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki. The data below will be updated to include 2nd Quarter numbers, which will indicate the impacts of the pandemic on the cruise industry.

DISTRICT SNAPSHOTs

Puget Sound

Retirements:
Captain Don Mayer — May 2020
Thank you for your outstanding service to the BPC, its committees, and to the state of Washington!

License Upgrades to Unlimited:
No pilots upgraded to Unlimited during April, May, or June.

Licenses
Captain J. Matt Miller
Captain Pete Velarde
Congratulations!

Training Program:
Currently in training are Captains Joe Siddell, Matt Hannuksela, Neil McGourty, Severin Knutsen, Ryan Gartner, Eric Michael, Nick Moore, Robert Ekelmann, and Andrew Stewart.

Captain Knutsen is transitioning to the Evaluation Phase of his program.
Keep up the great work!

Grays Harbor

Training Program:
Currently in training is Captain Forest McMullen.

PS Pilotage District Data Analysis

At the June 18, 2020 BPC meeting, the Board reviewed data regarding moves by vessel type prepared by BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki. The data below will be updated to include 2nd Quarter numbers, which will indicate the impacts of the pandemic on the cruise industry.