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

COVID-19 Impacts on Pilotage

In addition to many other industries, the maritime industry has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. From cargo to passenger vessels, the effects of the pandemic are fierce and unimaginable. Washington State licensed pilots are considered Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers, per Governor Inslee’s March 23, 2020 Stay Home-Stay Healthy Proclamation 20-25. Puget Sound Pilots President, Captain Eric vonBrandenfels, recently spoke to KIRO Radio about how pilots are currently operating. To read/hear, click below:

Puget Sound Pilots keep cargo and passengers moving during pandemic

Puget Sound Pilots were founded in 1935, but official “pilotage” of vessels in Washington dates to the 1860s; this is the steamship “Santa Rosa” arriving on the Seattle waterfront on December 18...

The Board continues to operate with staff mostly working remotely. At a special public phone meeting on March 20, 2020, the Board adopted Emergency WAC language to address COVID-19 effects on the Pilot Training Program. Information regarding the adopted language can be found on our website here. Our website also contains additional information regarding safety procedures, Personal Health Declarations for both pilots and pilot trainees, as well as USCG updates regarding procedures and credentialing. Be safe, be well, and rest assured that pilots are working hard to keep vessels moving to and from Washington’s waters.

The Board has issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the 2021 Marine Pilot Exam. The RFP can be found here.
**OTSC Update**

The Board’s Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC) has had two meetings now, and is making good progress toward implementing the directives of ESHB 1578 *Reducing threats to southern resident killer whales by improving the safety of oil transportation*. Information about OTSC membership and Meeting Minutes can be found on our website [here](#).

**Puget Sound**

**Retirements:**
There were no retirements in January, February, or March of 2020.

**License Upgrades to Unlimited:**
There were no license upgrades in January, February, or March of 2020.

**Licensure**

*Captain Trevor Bozina*

*Congratulations!*

**Training Program:**

*Captain McGourty 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.

*Chair Tonn describes the pathway to pilotage to a Cal Maritime cadet.*

**BPC on Social Media**

The BPC is now on Instagram! Our social media accounts are a great way to stay connected with cadets, aspiring pilots, organizations, and the maritime community. We plan to use these accounts to provide information about the 2021 marine pilot exam as well as other BPC initiatives, news about pilotage, and our Board. Follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn, and now Instagram.

*The BPC Pilotage Quarterly is a publication of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners.
It is available online at Pilotage.wa.gov. To join our distribution list, email PilotageInfo@wsdot.wa.gov or call (206) 515-3904.*