

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
June 26, 2025

REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn in the Agate Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA and online via Microsoft Teams. Chair Tonn welcomed new BPC Commissioner Tom Buroker, Department of Ecology Northwest Region Regional Director, who then introduced himself.

Present In person:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Severin Knutsen (Pilot), Tom Buroker (Ecology)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Ken Grieser, Matt Hannuksela, Scott Brewen

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public), Andrew Drennen (U.S.-Flag Shipping)

AAG: Albert Wang

Port of Grays Harbor: Ryan Leo

Puget Sound Pilot Trainee or List Candidate: Drew Butterfield, Sam Anderson

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Jordan Royer

Oil Transportation Safety Committee: Fred Felleman

Public: John Harris, Kris Faucett, Steve Kennedy, Liam Hastings, Terry Hall, Mason Reed, Lauren Jaech, Robin Stewart

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

Northwest Marine Trade Association: Jay Jennings

BPC Staff Report.

- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever reported that the BPC audit team has nearly wrapped up work on the 2025 audit, and hope to have the findings by the next meeting. BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki has been the point person on the audit, answering their in-depth questions and providing documentation and information. This is a routine audit that is scheduled by the state every four years.
- Jaimie reminded the Board that BPC staff is working on the 2024 Annual Report. A draft will be provided to the Board and stakeholders in July, as per usual practice. The final report will be on the agenda in August for Board action. The report is due to the Legislature by September 1.
- In July, the BPC Regular Meeting will begin with an Oil Transportation Tug Escort Rulemaking Hearing which will take approximately an hour and will add to the length of the July meeting. The hearing will have both a presentation from the rulemaking team as well as a formal public comment period.
- The August 21 Board Meeting will take place at the Port of Grays Harbor in Aberdeen, WA. A tour of Terminal 4 is scheduled to begin immediately after the meeting. Staff will be looking for an in-person head count next month. For those unable to attend in person, there will be a remote option on Teams.

BPC Chair Report.

- BPC Chair Sheri Tonn reported that the three new Board members who joined in 2025, Commissioners Knutsen, Tyler, and Buroker, attended an orientation presented by Chair Tonn and E. D. Bever earlier in the month.

Activity Reports. Jordan Royer representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), Lindsay Wolpa representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), Ken Grieser representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), and Ryan Leo representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH) offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime issues and activities.

BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki shared the pilotage activity dashboard and was available for questions. PSP Captain Matt Hannuksela shared the results of the International Maritime Pilots Association (IMPA) safety campaign and took the opportunity to thank the USCG and the BPC for helping PSP to become a

leader in transfer safety reporting. Information on the safety campaign will be sent to the BPC staff for inclusion on the BPC website.

NEW BUSINESS

Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *SEASPAN BAKER*, 05/15/2025

Underway in the outbound traffic lane N of SE buoy	This vessel had Z drive propulsion with bow thruster, no actual steering wheel. As the pilot made turn at SE buoy, the auto pilot function failed and put the vessel into a spin. Pilot was able to disengage auto pilot and safely arrive at Pilot Station using hand steering.	<u>Motion</u> : Knutsen/Farrell – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *YM PLUM*, 05/24/2025

Underway in Commencement Bay	Vessel experienced engine starting malfunction and eventually had to go to anchor.	<u>Motion</u> : Farrell/Anthony – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MARIA*, 06/06/2025

Underway in the Strait of Juan de Fuca	About 1.5 miles east of Ediz Hook, the main engine failed to increase to half ahead order and a heavy exhaust gas was visible. Vessel turned around to re-anchor in Port Angeles Harbor for repairs. Anchoring was done without incident.	<u>Motion</u> : Knutsen/Drennen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MV EURODAM*, 06/14/2025

Underway from Port Angeles to Seattle Pier 91	Pre-voyage, pilot informed that the vessel was operating under only one azipod and confirmed tugs to assist in Seattle with berthing. On MPX, pilot learned azipod inoperable and that speed would be reduced for transit. Tug <i>LINDSAY FOSS</i> met ship prior to final berthing and berthing was uneventful.	<u>Motion</u> : Farrell/Drennen – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Drennen/Hamilton – approve the May 15, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes as drafted – Carried.

Motion: Kirtley/Drennen – approve the June 5, 2025 Special Meeting minutes as drafted – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Trainee Stipend Increase Request.** TEC Chair Knutsen advised that the TEC met yesterday. Given that the Board approved sending the request to the UTC for an increased Puget Sound Tariff Training Surcharge in November 2024, which was approved and in effect in January, and that the TEC agreed with the staff documentation showing the cost of living and inflation, the TEC recommended increasing the training stipend from \$8,000/month to \$9,500/month starting July 1, 2025.
Motion: Knutsen/Farrell – approve the stipend increase as recommended by the TEC – Carried.
- **Recommendation to issue Training Invitations to Puget Sound District.** TEC Chair Knutsen explained that the TEC has reviewed the current training capacity and reviewed a new chart BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki put together showing potential retirements within the next 5-10 years. Bettina shared details of the chart and there was further discussion amongst the Board regarding the potential impacts on the pilot corps. Commissioner Farrell thanked Bettina for this data, stating that it became clear that this level of data was needed for maintaining the balance of trainee versus retirement ratio. Given the numbers, the TEC recommends three new trainees be invited to start in Puget Sound on September 1, 2025.
Motion: Knutsen/Farrell – approve invitations to Captains Ahrens, Anderson, and Rogers for a September 1 start date in Puget Sound – Carried.
- **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CR102) for WAC 363-116-080 Licensing of Pilots.** The Board reviewed the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CR102) to modify existing licensure requirements by adding the following requirement to WAC 363-116-080(3): a certificate representing competency in electronic chart display and information systems (ECDIS) that

complies with International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards and International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) regulations. This proposed rule revision is necessary due to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) sunset of traditional paper and raster nautical charts to focus solely on electronic navigational chart data, the more common navigation information source worldwide. Additionally, Puget Sound Pilots added that they have modified their training to add a pilot specific ECDIS class to ensure that all pilots will also receive this training.

Motion: Knutsen/Kirtley – approve and file the CR102 as written – Carried.

- Commissioner and TEC Chair Knutsen stated that the TEC has sent 3 lift letters since last month and there are 11 upgrading pilots. Yesterday the TEC met with Captain Michelson for his 6-month check-in as well as Captain Butterfield who is about to move into the Training portion of his training program. In Puget Sound there are currently 4 trainees in Training, 2 trainees in Evaluation and 2 trainees in Observation, with 1 on the cusp of training. There is 1 trainee in Grays Harbor in Training.
- Commissioner Knutsen discussed the great feedback from the Trainees regarding their current experience with the USCG Regional Exam Center (REC) at May's meeting. It was mentioned that the BPC should send a letter of appreciation to the REC, which was done and both the letter and the response from the REC were provided to the Board, specifically saying that they would share that feedback with both the REC staff as well as the National Maritime Center (NMC).
- Commissioner Knutsen talked about the continuous improvements that the TEC is making or considering. BPC Chair Tonn also reminded the Board that the TEC has two vacancies, one from industry and one general position.

Pilotage Act Advisory Committee (PAAC)

- **Membership.** BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever shared the committee roster as it currently stands for the newly formed PAAC. Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the tight timeline this committee has been given, as the work needs to be completed by September 2026. She advised that the first meeting should happen in July and that the focus would be on the timeline.

Motion: Farrell/Drennen – approve the membership as drafted – Carried.

Presentation Regarding PSP 2024 Audited Financial Statement – Puget Sound Pilots. Jessica Norris of Shannon & Associates, auditors for Puget Sound Pilots for the past 9 years, gave a high-level overview of the 2024 audited financials. A short Q&A followed.

Exemptions from Pilotage.

Motor Yacht *TESS* – 120', 244gt, Grand Cayman registry, Captain Orlando Milla.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – concur with Chair Tonn's granting of the interim annual exemption with the condition of no Deception Pass – Carried.

Motor Yacht *ST. EVAL* – 114', 217gt, Great Britain registry, Captain Orlando Milla.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – concur with Chair Tonn's granting of the interim annual exemption with the condition of no Deception Pass – Carried.

Sailing Yacht *MELTEMI* – 66', 46gt, United Kingdom registry, Captains William and Lisa Caswell.

Motion: Farrell/Knutsen – concur with Chair Tonn's granting of the interim annual exemption with no conditions – Carried.

Sailing Yacht *TAMSEN* – 172', 463gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captain Richard Catlett.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – grant an annual exemption with the condition of no Deception Pass – Carried.

Motor Yacht *21.12* – 196', 853gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captains Daniel Gulley and Erwin Craig.

Motion: Anthony/Knutsen – grant an annual exemption with the condition of a pilot orientation and no special exemption areas – Carried.

Motor Yacht *JUST B* – 193', 969gt, Marshall Islands registry, Captains Tim Dempers & Gabriel Sayles.

Motion: Anthony/Knutsen – grant an annual exemption with the condition of a pilot orientation and no special exemption areas – Carried.

Motor Yacht *DANZANTE BAY* – 164', 499gt, Cayman Islands registry, Captains Alejandro Hernandez Vera and Robert Henderson.

Motion: Anthony/Farrell – concur with Chair Tonn's granting of the interim annual exemption with the conditions of a pilot orientation and no special exemption areas – Carried.

Motor Yacht *STEP ONE* – 180', 672gt, Marshall Islands registry, Captains Chris Brunton and Garrett Smith.

Motion: Anthony/Drennen – grant an annual exemption with the condition of a pilot orientation and no special exemption areas – Carried.

Motor Yacht *MIRA TWO*– 110', 219gt, Jamaica registry, Captains Firat Oral and Ugur Aslim.

Motion: Anthony/Knutsen – grant an annual exemption with the conditions that Captain Oral has the conn in either Deception Pass or the Locks and no Duwamish Waterway – Carried.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Knutsen/Kirtley – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains P.L. Velarde, D. W. Grobschmit, P. P. Mann, I. J. Carlson, A. B. Seamans, G. G. Fleischfresser, and E.P. Ninburg for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

BPC Data Analyst Bettina Maki shared that the two Pilot Board members reviewed the new Physical form and were satisfied with the changes. The form will be included in the July agenda for a Board vote.

2026 Agency Request Legislation – RCW 88.16.190 Oil tankers – Restricted waters – Requirements: Addressing tug escort requirements for oil tankers 40,000 deadweight tons to 125,000 deadweight tons. BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever explained that during the work on tug escort rulemaking it came to the team's attention while developing recommendations for escort tug horsepower requirements, that the recommendation would result in a discrepancy between the rule language and the statute for tanker vessels 40,000 deadweight tons and higher. The Board had previously approved a minimum horsepower of 2,000 for vessels up to the 18,000 deadweight tons and 3,000 horsepower for 18,000 – 40,000 deadweight tons. However, the current RCW requirement is "an aggregate shaft horsepower equivalent to at least 5% of a 40,000 deadweight tons tanker. There is a group of the larger vessels between 40,000 and 60,000 deadweight tons where if one uses that 5% as a minimum requirement, it will result in the smaller tugs being allowed in statute to escort the larger vessels undermining the safety regime being proposed in the tug escort rulemaking. Jaimie shared draft language, which was basically a technical fix, and explained that the Board would have a very short amount of time to get Agency Request Legislation (ARL) filed for the next legislative session. However, the bulk of the stakeholder work through the Oil Transportation Safety Committee has already been completed. She also reminded the Board that the discrepancy had been presented to the Board during the discussions of the functional and operational requirements for tug escorts. Board discussion followed.

Commissioner Drennen inquired about the definition of "deadweight tons" and whether that referred to capacity of the vessel or current load weight. Jaimie answered that it was based on the summer deadweight tons of the vessel but would confirm for the July Board meeting.

Committee Updates.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- Jaimie shared that the CR102 was filed on June 11 as planned, which started the official public comment period. Work continues with 3 hearings scheduled for next month.

Pilot Exam Committee (PEC)

- Jaimie announced that the BPC will be under contract with the exam consultant by the next meeting with the work kicking off in July.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- The PSC will be meeting again on August 12. Bettina Maki shared the results of the ads and social media with WDFW regarding clearing the lanes.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- Jaimie reported on attending the one-day Women Offshore Leadership Summit in Houston, TX last month.

Terminal Operations Work Group (TOWG)

- The TOWG is working on scheduling the next meeting. Commissioner Tyler will be joining this committee and will help in setting priorities and next steps.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting dates. BPC Regular Meetings continue to be hybrid, and all are invited and encouraged to attend in person or online. She also again reminded everyone that our August Board meeting will be held in Grays Harbor, with a remote option available.

Public Comment. Chair Tonn asked for public comment and there was none.

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

Commissioner Lee Tyler

Commissioner Severin Knutsen

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Tom Buroker