



# 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

Fall 2024



### Announcements

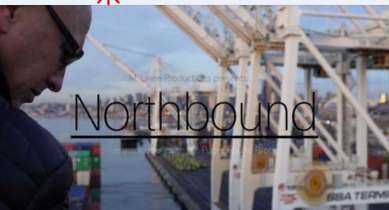
 **Podcast Alert!**



Courtesy of Marine Exchange

The [Marine Exchange of Puget Sound](#) has launched a daily [podcast](#) to provide “essential information you need to start your day”. Check it out for updates on vessel movements, weather conditions, and more.

 **Video Alert!**

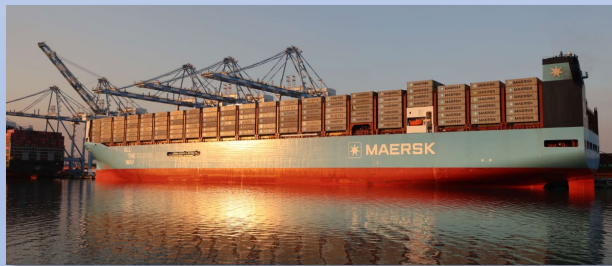


Courtesy of and thanks to M. Leine Productions

Join Puget Sound pilot Captain Pat Ninburg on a transit from Seattle to Port Angeles. Hear about his pilotage journey and get a first-hand look at piloting in the Pacific NW.

## A Record Setting Arrival

Puget Sound pilots Captains Brusco and Bouma had the honor of piloting the Maersk *ALETTE* to and from Husky Terminal in Tacoma, WA. The *ALETTE* is the largest ship to call the South Harbor with a capacity for 16,592 TEUs. In addition to that record, the “*ALETTE* is the first dual-fuel vessel capable of sailing on green methanol to have called the gateway”, according to The NWSA.



Puget Sound Pilots undergo specialized Ultra Large Container Vessel (ULCV) simulator training to prepare to safely pilot these large ships in and out of the Puget Sound Pilotage District.

Learn more about this event at the link below. Image courtesy of The NWSA.  
<https://www.nwseaportalliance.com/newsroom/northwest-seaport-alliance-welcomes-largest-ship-tacoma-harbor-which-also-operates-green>

## Voluntary Commercial Vessel Slowdown

The Admiralty Inlet and North Puget Sound Voluntary Commercial Vessel Slowdown began October 6, 2024, as the Southern Resident Killer Whales were spotted in Puget Sound on October 5, 2024. According to Quiet Sound, the “Quiet Sound Program was created with the goal of reducing the acoustic impacts of large commercial vessels”. Find out more at <https://quietsound.org/admiralty-inlet-slowdown>.

# QUIET SOUND 2024-2025

## ADMIRALTY INLET & NORTH PUGET SOUND VOLUNTARY COMMERCIAL VESSEL SLOWDOWN

for the protection of endangered Southern Resident killer whales

**DATES IN EFFECT**  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 - January 12th, 2025  
*“The slowdown began when the orcas are confirmed in the slowdown zone.”*

**LOCATION**  
Admiralty Inlet and north Puget Sound.  
*The slowdown does not include Hood Canal.*

**SUGGESTED SPEED TARGETS**  
*Speed through water when safe and feasible:*  
**14.5 knots** - vehicle carriers, cruise ships, container vessels  
**11.0 knots** - bulkers, tankers, general cargo  
**10.0 knots** - tugs running lite (not towing, pushing, or responding to emergency)  
*The slowdown does not include fishing or recreational vessels.*



Map: Quiet Sound, NOAA and other contributors. This map is for general reference only.

# Train-the-Trainer

In September, the BPC offered a session of the specially designed Train-the-Trainer course. Both current pilots and pilot trainees attended, as well as BPC Chair Sheri Tonn and BPC Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel. The course was developed and taught by Captain Jeff Slesinger, Delphi Maritime. The purpose of the course was to provide participants with knowledge and understanding of the training program as specified in WAC 363-116-078, using training program documents, and methods and techniques in on-the-job training and evaluation.



*Pilots and Pilot Trainees attend a Train-the-Trainer session led by Captain Jeff Slesinger, Delphi Maritime (standing). BPC Chair Sheri Tonn in attendance as well (far right).*

Washington state-licensed pilots are required to take Train-the-Trainer to qualify to train or evaluate pilot trainees. Once they have taken the course, they are considered Supervising Pilots. Pilot Trainees are also asked to take the course as it is helpful during the training program and starting out in their first year of piloting. Supervising pilots are considered volunteers of the BPC.

## BPC Out and About

At the end of August, BPC Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel had the opportunity to accompany BPC Commissioner and Puget Sound pilot Captain Sandy Bendixen on a ride-along to bring car ship *GLOVIS COUGAR* down the Blair Waterway to berth in the Seattle Harbor.



*Left: BPC Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel with GLOVIS COUGAR. Right: BPC Commissioner Eleanor Kirtley on a ride along with BPC Commissioner and Puget Sound pilot Captain Mike Anthony at the Port of Tacoma.*



Then, in early October, the BPC's Marine Environment Representative Dr. Eleanor Kirtley, Green Marine, rode with BPC Pilot Representative Captain Mike Anthony on the transit of a container ship at the Port of Tacoma.

Ride-alongs are excellent opportunities for BPC board members and staff to get an up-close and in-depth view of work Washington State's pilots do every day. We thank Puget Sound Pilots for arranging these invaluable experiences!

## New Executive Director at PSP

On October 1, 2024, Captain Scott Brewen took the helm at Puget Sound Pilots as their new Executive Director. Scott brings to this role a wealth of knowledge as a USCG Academy graduate, retired Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and experienced leader in state government.

The BPC welcomes Scott! We look forward to working with him and to our future collaborations.



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

## District Snapshots

### Puget Sound



#### Retirements:

*There were no retirements in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2024*

#### License Upgrades to Unlimited:

Captain D. Melin – September  
Captain K. Kridler - September  
*Congratulations, Captains!*

#### Training Program:

Currently training are Captains Michelson, Wood, Sabbath, Shuler, Britton, Boullion, and Woodworth.



*View from the bridge on Captain Billy Sturgell's first job as a licensed Puget Sound Pilot. Captain Sturgell was licensed in July.*

### Grays Harbor



#### Training Program:

Captain Ryan Campbell will begin training in Grays Harbor by May 1, 2025.

