



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

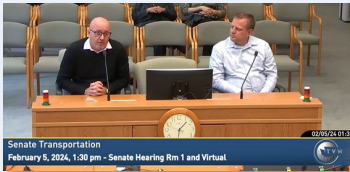
Spring 2024



Announcements

Commissioner Confirmations

On February 5, the Board's industry representatives Commissioners Richard Firth (left) and Andrew Drennen (right) attended a confirmation hearing in front of the Senate Transportation Committee.



Puget Sound Licensures

CONGRATULATIONS

to Captains Mike Mancini and Will Kelly, who were licensed at the March 21 Board Meeting!



From left:

BPC Chair Sheri Tomm and Captain Mike Mancini.

Tug Escort Rulemaking Update



The BPC and Department of Ecology rulemaking team, as well as the BPC's Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC), have been hard at work advancing 2019 legislation per ESHB 1578 to establish rules for tug escorts of laden oil tankers, Articulated Tug Barges (ATBs), and towed oil barges between 5,000 and 40,000 deadweight tons in certain areas of the Puget Sound pilotage waters.

During the first quarter of 2024, the OTSC met several times to develop a recommendation for the Board's consideration regarding Tug Escort Ideas and Environmental Elements for the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process. The Board took action at the [March 21 Regular Public Meeting](#) for the ideas to be included in the SEPA analysis. You can find the list of adopted ideas and elements on our website [here](#).

Our 7th rulemaking workshop is coming up on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 1:00pm – 3:00pm** via webinar **AND** in-person at the Ecology Northwest Regional Office (15700 Dayton Ave N, Shoreline, WA). Here are some options to join us:

Virtual Option: Please register in advance at https://waecy-wa.gov/zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpcuyhpjgiE9d2-L1jCcDF_706I-Bpd0Og

In-Person Option: Please email Haley Kennard at haley.kennard@ecy.wa.gov so that we have an accurate headcount.

Changes in WSF Leadership

Toward the end of December 2023, Washington State Ferries Assistant Secretary Patty Rubstello announced that she would be stepping down from her position in early spring 2024. After a nation-wide search, WSF's Director of Marine Operations Captain Steve Nevey was announced as the next Assistant Secretary in the Ferries Division of WSDOT. Steve brings to the role extensive maritime experience. Prior to working at WSF, Steve worked on oil tankers, a Scottish ferry system, smaller private vessels in the Caribbean, and served as Holland America Group's Director of Operations.



From left: Patty Rubstello and Steve Nevey. Images courtesy of WSDOT.

As Director of Marine Operations at WSF, Steve oversaw the development and implementation of the 'Mate in Training' program. The program is focused on addressing the shortage of qualified Mates that WSF is currently experiencing.

While in the program, 'Mates in Training' focus solely on "riding for pilotage, studying to take USCG pilotage exams, and gaining knowledge and experience on vessels and routes where individuals will most likely be sailing". This 'Mate in Training' designation is a full time, paid position. WSF is a direct pipeline to a becoming a Washington state licensed pilot. Find more information about employment at WSF at

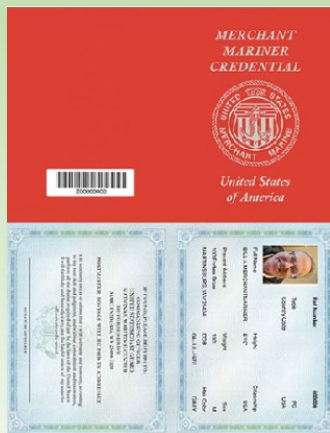
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/washington-state-ferries/about-us/employment-washington-state-ferries>.



Image courtesy of WSDOT.

The Board thanks Patty for her support of pilotage and wishes her all the best in her retirement. We look forward to working with Steve and our continued partnership with WSF!

New Master Mariner Credentials



Example of the new MMC courtesy of the USCG.

The National Maritime Center announced, effective March 1, 2024, a change to the format of Master Mariner Credentials (MMCs). According to [the announcement](#) issued by the USCG on February 21, "the new mariner credential is formatted on 8.5" x 11" waterproof and tear-resistant synthetic paper". The announcement further explains that mariners will "no longer receive separate endorsement labels (i.e. stickers), but rather a new MMC document with the endorsements incorporated". The BPC keeps MMCs on file for all State-licensed pilots.

A brochure further describing the changes can be found [here](#) or at the [National Maritime Center \(CG-NMC\) Home Page \(uscg.mil\)](#).

District Snapshots

Puget Sound



Retirements:

There were no retirements in the first quarter of 2024.

License Upgrades to Unlimited:

Captain K. Grieser
Captain T. McGrath
Well done, Captains!

Training Program:

Currently training are Captains Fleischfresser, Sturgell, Michelson, Wood, and Sabbath.



PS Trainee Captain Harlow Wood docking the bulker KEN SPIRIT at Whatcom Terminal in Bellingham, WA. Image courtesy of Puget Sound Pilots.

Find out more about Puget Sound Pilots at <https://www.pspilots.org/>.



Conference Outreach



BPC Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel with the sponsorship board at the Women on the Water Conference.

The first quarter of 2024 was a busy time for outreach! Kicking off the 2024 conference season was the return of MARAD's Women on the Water annual conference, which had been on hiatus since the pandemic. The conference was held at Massachusetts Maritime Academy in early February. BPC Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel attended to represent the BPC and Washington State pilotage. We were proud to sponsor this conference and are happy to see it return.

Next up was Cal Maritime's Women in Maritime Leadership conference March 15-16. This was another sponsorship opportunity for the BPC. BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever, Commissioner Eleanor Kirtley, and Puget Sound pilot Captain Severin Knutsen were in attendance.



From left: Jaimie Bever, Severin Knutsen, and Eleanor Kirtley.

Gary Nelson Recognized by AAPA

Prior to his official retirement on March 31, 2024, Port of Grays Harbor Executive Director Gary Nelson was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) at the AAPA's Legislative Summit in Washington D.C. Gary had been an active member of the organization since 2000 and also served as the Chairman of the AAPA Board from 2019-2020.

From left: NWSA CEO John Wolfe, Port of Grays Harbor Executive Director Gary Nelson, and AAPA President and CEO Cary Davis. Image courtesy of the Port of Grays Harbor.



The Port of Grays Harbor held a retirement party for Gary on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at the Rotary Log Pavilion in Aberdeen, WA. BPC Chair Sheri Tonn was able to attend representing the BPC. Sheri reported at the March 21 meeting that it was a wonderful celebration of Gary and his work.

Congratulations Gary!

Gary Nelson receives a ship bell in honor of his retirement from the Port of Grays Harbor.



District Snapshots

Grays Harbor



Training Program:

There are no trainees currently.

USCG Joint Training

In February, Grays Harbor pilots participated in a joint training session with the USCG Station Grays Harbor and a USCG helicopter from Air Station Astoria.



Find out more about the Port of Grays Harbor at <https://www.portofgraysharbor.com/>.