



## CONSIDER A CAREER IN MARITIME PILOTAGE!

**The Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners, Puget Sound Pilots, and the Port of Grays Harbor invite you to take a closer look at the world of maritime pilotage in Washington State. There is no higher aspiration in the maritime industry than to become a member of this elite group of professional mariners. As a pilot in Washington State, you will have a stimulating career in one of the most beautiful regions in the country!**

### **What does a pilot do?**

*Working with the captain on the ship's navigating bridge, pilots direct vessels into and out of harbors, straits, rivers, and bays using specialized local knowledge of local weather, tides, and currents as well as handling characteristics of the wide variety of ships that call there.*

### **Where does a Washington State pilot work?**

*There are two districts in Washington State; Puget Sound Pilotage District and Grays Harbor Pilotage District. Descriptions of these districts can be found in the Pilotage Act, [RCW 88.16.050](#)*

### **Why become a pilot in Washington State?**

- *Geographic anchoring*
- *Shiphandling 100% of the time*
- *Varied routes and vessel types*
- *Reasonable shift rotations/good work-life balance*
- *First-rate \*Training Program with stipend*
- *Economic security*
- *Excellent pay and benefits*

**Next Marine Pilot Exam in Puget Sound and Grays Harbor:**

**TBD**



Photo Credit: Puget Sound Pilots

*\*Pilots are selected through a non-discriminatory, open application exam process*



### What are the qualifications to become a pilot in Washington State?

*It's important to note that local knowledge or federal pilotage are not necessary to be qualified to apply. The application requirements set forth by the State of Washington are as follows:*

- 1. Applicants must meet the Washington State pre-examination requirements set forth in [RCW.88.16.090](#)*
- 2. Applicants must meet one of the following services requirements as Master while holding a Master's License for steam or motor vessels of at least 1600 GRT. \*See [WAC 363-116-0751](#) for additional details.*

Vessel Type	Minimum Size	Waters	Minimum Time
Cargo or Tank	5000 GRT or 10,000 GT (ITC)	Ocean or near coastal	1 year
Cargo or Tank	700 GRT or 1400 GT (ITC)	Ocean or near coastal	2 years
Cargo or Tank	1600 GRT or 3,000 GT (ITC)	Inland	2 years
Passenger or Ferry	1600 GRT or 3,000 GT (ITC)	Ocean, near coastal or inland	2 years
Towing	150 GRT or 300 GT (ITC)	Ocean, near coastal or inland	2 years
Articulated Tug Barge (ATB)	Combined 10,000 GT (ITC)	Ocean, or near coastal	4 years sailing as a mate/ master with a minimum of 1 year as master
Active Member of Pilot Assoc. or Government Employed Pilot	1600 GRT or 3,000 (ITC)	Ocean, near coastal or inland	2 years
US Flag Government	3000 displacement tons	Ocean, near coastal or inland	2 years
Special Purpose *	1600 GRT or 3,000 (ITC)	Ocean, near coastal or inland	2 years

### How do I apply?

*Exam Application materials and additional information can be found at [pilotage.wa.gov/exam-information](#).*

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners**  
[pilotage.wa.gov](#), (206) 515-3904, [PilotageInfo@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:PilotageInfo@wsdot.wa.gov)

