



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 2023



Announcements

Women Offshore

The 2023 Women Offshore 6th Annual Conference will be held October 26 and 27 at Texas A&M in Galveston, TX. The theme this year is "A World of Possibility".

Captain Sheri Hickman, Houston Pilots, will kickoff the conference as opening keynote speaker.

The event is hybrid and registration is still open. Check out Women Offshore's [conference page](#) for more information.

Representatives from the BPC and Puget Sound Pilots will be attending in person. If you are planning to attend, come find us!



Image Courtesy of Women Offshore

2024 Marine Pilot Exam

Take the Ride of your Life
Become a Washington State Pilot

WA State Marine Pilot Exam
April 8, 2024
www.pilotage.wa.gov

The Board of Pilotage Commissioners has officially set the date for the upcoming Washington State Marine Pilot Exam. The Written Exam will be held on April 8, 2024, with the Simulator Evaluations scheduled to begin the week of April 22, 2024.

We are pleased to announce that the Written Exam will be held online with live virtual proctoring! We will be hosting a webinar featuring our exam psychometrician to explain the process, security and integrity, and answer questions on Friday, November 3 at 1100 hours PT. To register or find more information about the exam, head to our [website](#).

The BPC published the exam application packet on October 16, 2023, and it is available for download from our website. In addition to the official packet, the Board has also released the [Exam Blueprint](#)! This is a comprehensive document that provides a good deal of information regarding the exam and what it will cover.

The BPC would like to thank the pilots who have contributed to exam development efforts. We couldn't do it with out you!

Welcome Commissioner Firth

The Board is pleased to welcome Captain Richard Firth as the new Foreign Flag Representative. Commissioner Firth has served with Carnival Corporation for 28 years. 16 years of that time was at sea as a deck officer sailing in various capacities from cadet to Deputy Captain with Princess Cruises.

For the last 12 years he has been Director then subsequently Vice President of Maritime Audit Services for Carnival Corporation overseeing the Health, Environmental, Safety, Security operations/compliance for about 37 ships within the Holland America line, Princess Cruises, P&O Australia and Seabourn Brands.

Welcome aboard, Commissioner Firth!

Maritime Blue Equity Summit

Washington Maritime Blue held its first Equity Summit on August 29. The purpose of the summit, per Maritime Blue, was to gather community partners, maritime employers, and industry stakeholders to discuss “building diverse and culturally responsive pipelines” into the maritime industry. Speakers at the summit included Rep. Julia Reed, 36th District, and Commissioner Hasegawa, Port of Seattle. We were pleased to attend along with Puget Sound Pilots. It was a valuable day of conversation.



Maritime Blue's CEO Joshua Berger welcomes the attendees of the 2023 Equity Summit.

Tug Escort Rulemaking – Public Session

On February 22nd, the BPC announced the rulemaking to amend Chapter 363-116 WAC, Pilotage Rules.

Our current rule development calendar includes five workshops for stakeholders and tribes, and one public meeting. We will also be holding workshops specifically for tribes during this time. Each workshop will be virtual and held on the Zoom platform.

Our public information session will be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 via webinar. The purpose of this meeting is to share information about the rulemaking, to provide a summary of workshops held to date with the regulated community, tribes, and interested parties, and to answer questions. You can register in advance by clicking the link in the table below.

Meeting	Register to join online	Join by phone	Access code
Public information session October 31, 2023 10:00am – 12:00pm	https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkd--upjMtH9EekA7K2md8e9qEZEJaeg-1	(253) 215-8782	869 0668 8755

Track our progress and view the rulemaking timeline at:
<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Our-Programs/Spills-Prevention-Preparedness-Response/Legislative-work/BPC-tug-escort-rulemaking>.

District Snapshots

Puget Sound



Retirements:

There were no retirements in the 2nd quarter of 2023.

License Upgrades to Unlimited:

Captain Sandy Bendixen
Congratulations Captain!

Training Program:

Currently training are Captains Cassee, Scott, Kelly, Mancini, Fleischfresser, Sturgell, Michelson, Wood, and Sabbath.



PS Trainee Captain Fleischfresser backing the HONIARA CHIEF out of the East WW in Seattle. Image courtesy of Puget Sound Pilots

Grays Harbor



Training Program:

There are no trainees currently.

