



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

Winter 2024



Announcements



A Transparent and Inclusive Exam Process

Applications are due March 1, 2024, for the next Washington State Marine Pilot Exam, which is scheduled to begin April 8. The list of successful candidates will provide trainees for the next few years.

The BPC is doing things a little differently for this exam. First, our [exam materials](#) have been completely updated to include an **Exam Blueprint** and **Job Task Analysis**, plus **Exam Bibliography** with chapter-specific study instructions! Additionally, for the first time, we are offering the Written Exam via live remote proctoring using a secured testing platform, which means that applicants do not need to travel to Seattle to take the Written Exam. We hope this will be a significant cost and time savings for pilot aspirants!

On November 3, we held a public webinar outlining the 2024 exam process. For those interested in learning more about these changes, you can find a recording of the webinar on our [website](#) or click the image on the right.

In addition, Puget Sound Pilots also hosted a webinar, more specific to life as a Puget Sound pilot. Click the image below to view a recording.



The level of accessibility and information provided in these webinars are historically unprecedented in the world of pilotage. Our hope is that pilot aspirants can easily find the information they need to plan their pathway to pilotage, conduct their due diligence when choosing a district to test in, and find the exam process straightforward, fair, and inclusive.

Do you have questions about the exam process? Contact our Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel at HamelJ@wsdot.wa.gov. Good luck!



Puget Sound Licensures

Congratulations to Captain Stephen Scott, who received Washington State Pilot License #224 at the October 19 Board meeting and Captain Matt Cassee who received Washington State Pilot License #225 at the December 14 Board meeting.



2024 Meeting Schedule

At the November 16 meeting, the Board approved the 2024 Meeting Schedule. Find it along with materials at on our website [here](#).

Leadership Changes in Grays Harbor

On November 14, 2023, the Port of Grays Harbor issued a press release announcing that Executive Director Gary Nelson had announced his retirement from the Port after 24 years of service. His last day will be March 31, 2024. The BPC has worked closely with Gary for many years regarding pilotage in Grays Harbor. Gary will be leaving with the pilotage program as strong as it's been in years. We thank him for his continued efforts to establish and secure a strong pilotage program and wish him the absolute best in his retirement. Thank you for everything, Gary!



Images courtesy of the Port of Grays Harbor

We were excited to see the announcement from the Port on December 14 that Deputy Executive Director Leonard Barnes had been appointed to Executive Director following Gary's departure from the Port. We believe the Port of Grays Harbor and the pilotage program will be in good hands with Leonard and look forward to our continued partnership with the Port. Congratulations Leonard!



District Snapshots

Puget Sound



Retirements:

Captain Alec Newman
Thank you for your service!

License Upgrades to Unlimited:

There were no upgrades to unlimited during the last quarter of 2023.

Training Program:

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

Outreach and Engagement

The 2023 Women Offshore Conference, themed 'A World of Opportunity', was held at Texas A&M Galveston October 26-27. Washington pilotage was well represented by the BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever, BPC Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel, and PSP pilot Captain Trevor Bozina. Captain Sherri Hickman, Houston Pilots, kicked off the conference with an inspirational and empowering keynote speech. The conference was well attended and, as always, provided an invaluable opportunity for connection, mentorship, and networking with seafarers both up-and-coming and seasoned.



Above: PSP's booth tended by BPC's Jolene Hamel and PSP's Captain Trevor Bozina. Below front left: Christine MacMillan, Sarah Scherer, Jolene Hamel, Christine's daughter, Trevor Bozina, Jaimie Bever, and Cassi Laskowski.

Earlier, October 11-13, Cal Maritime held its inaugural Pride in Maritime Summit, both in person and virtually. Sessions included "Out" at Work, Queer Maritime History, Changemaking in the Workplace, and Mental Health in Maritime.



Courtesy of Cal Maritime

Kudos to Cal Maritime for highlighting this specific topic and giving it its own space. It was a great first conference and we look forward to more in the future!

In 2024, MARAD's 12th Annual [Women on the Water](#) conference resumes after a pause due to COVID. The conference will be held at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Look for us there!



Pilot trainee Captain George Fleischfresser outbound in the Duwamish waterway. Courtesy of Puget Sound Pilots.

Grays Harbor



Training Program:

There are no trainees currently.

