



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



Announcements

 **2026 Pilot Exam**



Find out more about the upcoming 2026 Washington State Marine Pilot Exam at www.pilotage.wa.gov

 **Coming Up**

[SUNY Maritime College](http://www.sunymaritime.edu) is celebrating its 50th anniversary of the first cohort of women admitted to the college by hosting a Women of Maritime Leadership Symposium Thursday, April 24.



Courtesy of SUNY Maritime College.

Transitions at the BPC

The BPC, at the November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting, celebrated the incredibly productive 4-year term of Puget Sound Pilots representative Captain Sandy Bendixen. Captain Bendixen brought to her role as Pilot Representative infectious energy and innovation. She is responsible for many improvements in the BPC's training program and exam process, as well as regulatory clarity. Huge thanks to Captain Bendixen for her leadership, work, and service to the State of Washington!



We also wished a fond farewell to our Foreign Flag Shipping Representative Rich Firth. His last meeting with the BPC was in February. Rich joined the BPC in August 2023 and brought both shipboard and shoreside operational experience to the table. We wish him the best with his promotion, which sends him out of state, and thank him for his impeccable service!



Above: Captain Sandy Bendixen and Captain Rich Firth.

The BPC welcomed Captain Severin Knutsen as the new Pilot Representative from Puget Sound Pilots and Chair of the Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC). Captain Knutsen's first meeting was January 16, 2025.

We are pleased with the reappointments of Captain Mike Anthony, Puget Sound Pilots Representative, and Timothy J. Farrell, Public Representative. Commissioners Knutsen and Farrell testified before the Senate Transportation Committee on March 31.

Lee Tyler, CMA-CGM, was appointed by Governor Ferguson to the Foreign Shipping seat on April 7, 2025. Look for additional information about Commissioner Tyler in our Summer newsletter.



From right: Captain Mike Anthony, and Captain Severin Knutsen and Timothy J. Farrell at the Senate Transportation Committee hearing, courtesy of TVW.

Tug Escort Rulemaking Updates

In March 2025, the BPC and Department of Ecology finished up a series of rulemaking workshops first commenced in May 2023. The workshops covered a wide a spectrum of tug escort rulemaking topics including the development and results of the Tug Escort Risk Model, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Economic Analysis, and rule language development.



Courtesy of Greg Fitzgerald,
Department of Ecology.

The workshops were held in a series of three: Stakeholder, Tribal Government, and the Board's Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC), which is an advisory-only committee tasked with developing recommendations for Board consideration.

The Board, at the March 20 Regular Public Meeting, adopted proposed rule language for tug escorts in Puget Sound. The final CR-102 The Board will review and file the final Notice of Proposed Rulemaking package in June with public hearings to follow in July. Find more information at <https://pilotage.wa.gov/oil-transportation-safety.html>

Terminal 4 Groundbreaking

BPC Chair Sheri Tonn had the pleasure of attending the Port of Grays Harbor's Terminal 4 Expansion and Development Project groundbreaking at the end November 2024. Port customer AGP is expanding their operations and constructing a new commodity export facility at T4. As detailed in the Port's November 27, 2024 [press release](#), the expansion project "will add more than 40,000 feet of additional rail within its Marine Terminal Complex, a new fendering system and a stormwater collection and treatment facility at T4 and create more than 30 acres of additional cargo laydown area to support future operations at Terminal A". In preparation for the increased vessel traffic, Captain Ryan Campbell will begin his pilot training in the Grays Harbor Pilotage District in May 2025. Congratulations to the Port of Grays Harbor!



A collection of elected officials, project partners, and community and business leaders at the groundbreaking.

Cruise Season on the Horizon

Cruise season is always a very busy time for Puget Sound Pilots. The first cruise ship of the 2025 season is scheduled to arrive on Saturday, April 12 with the last scheduled for Sunday, October 19. It appears to be another near record-setting cruise season! Find the full schedule and additional information about cruise season activity on the Port of Seattle website at <https://www.portseattle.org/maritime/cruise#>.



Courtesy of Port of Seattle.

District Snapshots

Puget Sound



Retirements:

Captain Bill Sliker

Thank you for 18 years of service to the State of WA!

License Upgrades to Unlimited:

Captain Trevor Bozina

Congratulations, Captain!

Training Program:

Currently training are Captains Michelson, Wood, Shuler, Britton, Boullion, and Woodworth. Captains Bolton and Butterfield will begin training in Puget Sound on May 1.



Pilot trainee Captain Boullion during a training in the North Sound. Courtesy of Puget Sound Pilots.

Grays Harbor



Training Program:

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

