



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS**  
2901 Third Avenue, Suite 500 | Seattle, Washington 98121 | (206) 515-3904

[www.pilotage.wa.gov](http://www.pilotage.wa.gov)  
[HamelJ@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:HamelJ@wsdot.wa.gov) or [BeverJ@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:BeverJ@wsdot.wa.gov)

## PETITION FOR 1 YEAR PILOTAGE EXEMPTION

### Petition Instructions:

- Please submit completed petitions to the Board of Pilotage Commissioners at least thirty (30) days prior to arrival in Washington waters.**  
See [WAC 363-116-360 Exempt Vessels](#) for more information.
- Your application should include the following:
  - Certificate of Vessel Registry
  - Certificate of Financial Responsibility (If applicable)
  - Vessel's Insurance Coverage
  - Valid License of Vessel Captain
  - Signed Vessel Certification (Page 5 of Petition)
  - Photo of Vessel
  - Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) Certification (If applicable)
- Petitions are considered at scheduled monthly meetings of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners. Meeting schedule is posted here: <https://pilotage.wa.gov/meetings.html>
- Schedule of Fees:

**Please make payments to: *Washington State Treasurer***

**Mail to: Board of Pilotage Commissioners, 2901 Third Avenue, Suite 500; Seattle, WA 98121**  
***Currently, we are unable to accept cash, credit cards, or any form of electronic payment.***

The Washington Public Records Act, [Chapter 42.56 RCW](#), requires us to promptly make identifiable public records available for inspection and provide records upon request.

**VESSEL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**START DATE OF REQUESTED PILOTAGE EXEMPTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vessel Information:**

<b>Vessel Name:</b>	
<b>Country of Registry:</b>	
<b>Type and Use:</b>	<b>Type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing Yacht <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Yacht <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Vessel <b>Use:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pleasure <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<b>LOA:</b>	
<b>Gross Tonnage (International) IGT:</b>	
<b>Fuel Type Onboard:</b>	
<b>Fuel Quantity Onboard: (maximum)</b>	

**Primary Vessel Captain:**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone &amp; Email:</b>	
<b>Country Of Licensure:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> License Matches Vessel Tonnage. If not, please explain:

**Primary Vessel Captain Experience in Local Waters:**

<b>No experience in Washington waters</b>  <b>San Juan Islands Region</b> <b>Length of Time in the Area:</b> _____	<b>Northern Puget Sound:</b> Bellingham Channel Deception Pass Guemes Channel Saddle Bags Pass <b>Length of Time in the Area:</b> _____	<b>Seattle Area:</b> Duwamish River Hiram M. Chittenden Locks Montlake Cut <b>Length of Time in the Area:</b> _____
	<b>Central Puget Sound:</b> Agate Pass Hood Canal Rich Pass <b>Length of Time in the Area:</b> _____	<b>South Puget Sound:</b> South of Point Defiance <b>Length of Time in the Area:</b> _____

**Secondary Vessel Captain:**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone &amp; Email:</b>	
<b>Country of Licensure:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> License Matches Vessel Tonnage. If not, please explain:

**Secondary Vessel Captain Experience in Local Waters:**

<p><b>No experience in Washington Waters</b></p> <p><b>San Juan Islands Region:</b> Length of Time in the Area: _____</p>	<p><b>Northern Puget Sound:</b> Bellingham Channel Deception Pass Guemes Channel Saddle Bags Pass</p> <p><b>Length of Time in the Area:</b> _____</p>	<p><b>Seattle Area:</b> Duwamish River Hiram M. Chittenden Locks Montlake Cut</p> <p><b>Length of Time in the Area:</b> _____</p>
	<p><b>Central Puget Sound:</b> Agate Pass Hood Canal Rich Pass</p> <p><b>Length of Time in the Area:</b> _____</p>	<p><b>South Puget Sound:</b> South of Point Defiance</p> <p><b>Length of Time in the Area:</b> _____</p>

**Owner of Vessel or Vessel Management Company:**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone and Email:</b>	
<b>Vessel Agent Info (If Applicable):</b>	

**Information Regarding Visit:**

<b>Purpose of Visit:</b>	
<b>Length of Stay:</b>	

**Voyage Plan (Check all regions/channels/passes you intend to visit):**

<p><b>San Juan Islands Region:</b>                  Cattle Pass                  Harney Channel                  Lopez Pass                  New Channel                  Obstruction Pass                  Peavine Pass                  San Juan Channel                  Spieden Channel                  Thatcher Pass                  Upright Channel                  Wasp Pass</p>	<p><b>Northern Puget Sound:</b>                  Bellingham Channel                  Deception Pass*                  Guemes Channel                  Saddle Bags Pass</p> <p><b>Central Puget Sound:</b>                  Agate Pass                  Hood Canal                  Rich Pass</p>	<p><b>Seattle Area:</b>                  Duwamish River*                  Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks*                  Montlake Cut</p> <p><b>South Puget Sound:</b>                  South of Point Defiance</p> <p><b>Other:</b>                  Please provide location if not listed:</p>
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Please provide specific dates intending to be in area:

\*Deception Pass, Ballard Locks, Duwamish River are Restricted Areas. **MUST COMPLETE PAGE 5** if voyage plan includes these areas .

**Watchstanding Crew List:** (May attach a separate list but must include the information requested below)

<b>1 Name:</b>		<b>2 Name:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>		<b>Position:</b>	
<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes      No	<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes      No
<b>3 Name:</b>		<b>4 Name:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>		<b>Position:</b>	
<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes      No	<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes      No

**Additional Information:**

<b>List any propulsion, navigation, or communication equipment not currently operational:</b>	
<b>Navigational aids on board:</b>	VHF Radios Magnetic compass Gyroscopic compass Satellite compass Radar Automatic radar plotting aid (ARPA) Global Positioning System (GPS) Electronic Chart System (ECS) Electronic Chart Display & Information System (ECDIS) Automated Identification System (AIS) Depth sounder

**Vessel Captain Experience in Geographically Restricted Areas:  
Deception Pass / Ballard Locks / Duwamish River**

*Orientation with a Washington State Licensed Pilot may be required for these areas.  
BPC Vessel Guidelines available here: <https://pilotage.wa.gov/pilotage-exemptions.html>*

**Vessel Captain has had Pilot Orientation**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Vessel:** \_\_\_\_\_ **LOA:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                    YYYY-MM-DD

**Deception Pass**

**Ballard Locks (Hiram M. Chittenden Locks)**

**Duwamish River**

# CERTIFICATION

**Vessel Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

By my signature below I certify that I am authorized to make this application on behalf of the vessel named; that the person(s) listed as captain(s) in the Petition for Exemption meets/meet all the qualifications set by the flag state (country of vessel registry) to act as captain of the vessel in Washington waters; and that no other person(s) will act as captain of the vessel during the period of the exemption. I further certify that I understand and will ensure that any person acting as captain of the vessel understands the following:

1. Navigation in Washington waters in the Puget Sound or Grays Harbor Pilotage Districts area can involve many hazards such as high traffic areas including large commercial vessels, multiple recreational vessels, etc.; use of Vessel Traffic Service routes; unique radio communication requirements and channels; relatively extreme tides and currents, etc.
2. If an exemption is granted, prior to navigating in Washington pilotage waters, appropriate navigational equipment and supporting documents, including but not limited to the following items, will be available on board the vessel and the captain will be familiar with them:
  - a. The Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service Users Manual (USCG Local Notice to Mariners also available here): <https://www.pacificarea.uscg.mil/VTSPugetSound/>
  - b. Information on local VHF radio communications: See VTS Users Manual above, or this 2 pager: [Puget Sound VTS Regulation Highlights](#)
  - c. Those portions of the United States Coast Pilot – 10: Pacific Coast for any area in which the vessel will be navigated. Available in book form or online: <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/coast-pilot/xml2html.html?book=10>
  - d. Local tide and current information, available online: <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/products.html>
  - e. Puget Sound Harbor Safety Plan (click "Documents"): <https://marexps.com/membership/puget-sound-harbor-safety-committee/>
  - f. The [Foreign Yacht Familiarization Packet](#) on BPC website.
  - g. Paper or electronic charts of all areas to be navigated, updated and of appropriate scale.
3. As provided in RCW 88.16.070, if an exemption is granted it shall not be detrimental to the public interest in regard to safe operation preventing loss of human life, preventing loss of property, and protecting the marine environment. The Board may at any time review the exemption and revoke it, should it find the vessel is not in compliance with the requirements for exemption (including operation of the vessel in a manner that is not considered safe).
4. New regulations regarding approach distance to Southern Resident Orca whales go into effect 1/1/2025. It is unlawful for a vessel to approach within 1000 yards of a Southern Resident Orca. It is unlawful to position a vessel to be within 1000 yards of a Southern Resident Orca. Vessels are to reduce and restrict their speed to seven (7) knots when within 1000 yards of a Southern Resident Orca. Vessels that are within 400 yards of a Southern Resident Orca are required to disengage the vessel's transmission. In areas where Southern Resident Orca whales may be present vessel operators are asked to voluntarily set depth finders to 200 kHz frequency or temporarily turn them off. Vessel operators are asked to watch for the Whale Warning Flag to know when whales might be nearby. Vessels must remain 100 yards away from all other whales and marine mammals, and 200 yards away if they are resting or with their calf.
5. Vessel captain certifies they have read the Foreign Yacht Familiarization Packet.

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Signature of Vessel Owner or Representative

Date