



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

SUMMER 2026

Announcements

New Address

Please note the change to our mailing address suite number:
2901 3rd Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98121

Licensures

Congratulations to newly licensed pilots Captains Richard Boullion and Derek Britton! Captain Britton was licensed at the May BPC Meeting and Captain Boullion at the June BPC meeting.



BPC Chair Sheri Tonn presenting licenses to Captain Britton (above) and Boullion (below).

Grays Harbor Celebrates Opening of T4



Grand opening of Terminal 4, AGP's new export facility. Image courtesy of Damian Vines Photo.

Congratulations are in order for the [Port of Grays Harbor](#) and Grays Harbor community! Friday, July 31 was the grand opening celebration of [AGP's](#) new [Terminal 4 export facility](#).

Per the Port of Grays Harbor press release on Monday, August 3, 2026, "the new facility represents the culmination of years of planning, investment, and collaboration between AGP and the Port of Grays Harbor. The project includes a state-of-the-art ship loader at Terminal 4, expanding unloading and storage capabilities, along with supporting port infrastructure designed to increase efficiency, improve vessel loading speeds, and strengthen export opportunities for U.S. agriculture". BPC Chair Tonn as well as over 600 attendees celebrated at the site.

[Pilotage in Grays Harbor](#) is a vital component to the success of this joint venture. We're happy to report that the Port is well equipped and in good hands with the current roster of Grays Harbor pilots.

2028 Tug Escort Rule Assessment

The BPC and Department of Ecology are scoping the upcoming assessment of the 2025 adopted amendments to [Chapter 363-116 WAC](#). This assessment is one of several efforts directed by the Legislature to reduce the risk of oil spills and to protect the Southern Resident Killer Whales. The assessment will incorporate updated information from Ecology's risk model, along with vessel traffic, incident, and other relevant data.

To support the development of this analysis, BPC and Ecology will be holding a workshop series on August 11th and 12th. Please see the registration links below. We invite your participation to help shape this work.

Workshop	Register to join online
August 11, 1:00-2:30pm Stakeholder Workshop (Tribal representatives welcome)	https://waecy-wa.gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/mlR5PS0hRLiOT-49hwXbGA
August 12, 10:00-11:30am Tribal Government Only Workshop	Email Haley.Kennard@ecy.wa.gov for registration link. Invite email with links sent to Tribal Government contact list

A Day with PSP Intern Chloe Hedge



Intern Chloe Hedge (right) with BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever.

During the month of May, Cal Poly Maritime Academy cadet Chloe Hedge interned with Puget Sound Pilots. She spent her two-week internship "shadowing dispatchers, sitting in on meetings, visiting Seattle's VTS station, participating in pilot ride-alongs, and even driving one of the pilot boats", she later reflected. She also spent a day at the BPC office learning about the regulatory side of pilotage and the state's pilot training program.

We're excited for Chloe's maritime future and wish her all the best on her journey!

Sector Puget Sound Change of Command

We were honored to attend the Change of Command ceremony at Sector Puget Sound on July 10, 2026 with much gratitude to outgoing Sector Commander Captain Mark McDonnell for his leadership and collaboration. We wish him all the best in his retirement from the USCG and thank him for his service. We also welcome incoming Sector Commander Captain Michael J. Hunt and look forward to continuing our good work together.



Captain Mark McDonnell

The BPC Pilotage Quarterly is a publication of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners. It is available online at <https://pilotage.wa.gov>. To join our distribution list, email PilotageInfo@wsdot.wa.gov, or call (206) 515-3904.

District Snapshots

Puget Sound



Retirements:

There were no retirements in the second quarter of 2026

License Upgrades to Unlimited:

There were no upgrades to unlimited in the second quarter of 2026.

Training Program:

Currently training are Captains Woodworth, Bolton, Butterfield, Aherns, Anderson, Rogers, Adams, Omdal, and Sullivan



Pilot Trainees (from left) Omdal, Sullivan, and Adams on their first day of the training program at the Port Angeles Pilot Station.

Grays Harbor



Training Program:

There are currently no trainees in Grays Harbor.

