

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
November 12, 2025

SPECIAL MEETING – Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened by Chair Sheri Tonn at 11:00am PST online via Microsoft Teams.

Present via Teams:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Lee Tyler (Foreign-Flag Shipping), Severin Knutsen (Pilot), Andrew Drennen (U.S.-Flag Shipping), Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public), Tom Buroker (Ecology)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

AAG: Albert Wang, Lauren Jaech

Dept. of Ecology: Megan Hillyard, Sara Thompson, Haley Kennard

Public: Tom Banse

Rulemaking: Amending WAC 363-116-500 and adding a new section to Chapter 363-116 WAC – Adopt Final Rulemaking Language (CR103). The purpose of this rulemaking is to establish tug escort requirements for oil tankers between 5,000 and 40,000 deadweight tons (DWT) and barges and articulated tug barges greater than 5,000 DWT. The adopted rule implements updates to Chapter 88.16 RCW Pilotage Act as required under Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1578, which directed the BPC, in consultation with Ecology, to adopt tug escort rules for Puget Sound by December 31, 2025. The adopted rule closes critical safety gaps for vessels carrying oil in bulk, reducing the risk of a catastrophic oil spill in Puget Sound and helping to protect wildlife, including endangered Southern Resident killer whales, fisheries, public health, and Washington's economy. Jaimie pointed out that the BPC has already approved the bulk of the language during the CR 102 process. There were very minor changes regarding the pre-escort conference which included whale sightings and general modifications to reduce ambiguity and provide clarity. There will be a review of the rule in 2028 and again in 2038. It is a process that will remain in flux down the road and subject to change. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Regulatory Analysis will be posted on the Ecology and BPC websites tomorrow. The CR103 filing is scheduled for November 20.

Chair Tonn asked for questions comments from the Board. Commissioner Kirtley offered appreciation for the extensive amount of work and thought that went into the process, not just the Board & Ecology, but also those who provided comments.

Motion: Kirtley/Farrell – approve the CR103 package as presented – Carried.

Public Comment. No public comment was offered.

Chair Tonn thanked Executive Director Jaimie Bever for the additional work on the OTSC and with Ecology. She also thanked the Department of Ecology team as well as the AAGs who worked on the rulemaking and the Board members.

Jaimie will discuss the implementation of the rule at the Regular Public Meeting of the BPC on November 20, 2025.

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

Commissioner Severin Knutsen

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Lee Tyler

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Tom Buroker