



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

AUTUMN 2026

Announcements

Quiet Sound Admiralty Inlet Slowdown

The Admiralty Inlet Slowdown began on September 4, 2026, and runs through early 2027.

Find out more in the [Quiet Sound Press Release](#) regarding this program.

Read the Results of 2025-2026 Voluntary Commercial Vessel Slowdown in Washington Waters for the Protection of SRKWs [here](#).

AUGUST 2026

QUIET SOUND

A Program of Maritime Blue

Results of 2025-2026 Voluntary Commercial Vessel Slowdown in Washington Waters for the Protection of Southern Resident Killer Whales

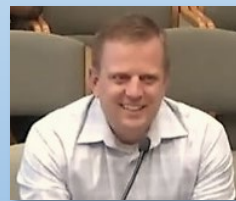


Image courtesy of Quiet Sound

Transitions at the BPC

As we observe the changing of the season, we also see transitions in the make-up of the Board.

In September, BPC's U.S. Flag Shipping Representative Andrew Drennen stepped away from his role on the Board due to a change in his workload at Polar Tankers. Commissioner Drennen joined the Board on January 15, 2021, and was a valuable participant in the Board's work and committees including Co-Chairing the Pilot Safety Committee.



Commissioner Drennen during a Senate confirmation hearing.



From left: Jolene Hamel, Captain John Scragg, and Jaimie Bever at the BPC office.

Former BPC Pilot Representative and Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC) Chair Captain John Scragg retired from Puget Sound Pilots in September. Captain Scragg served the State of Washington for 16 years. In addition to chairing the TEC, he was also a Co-Chair of the Pilot Safety Committee.

We are very pleased to announce that BPC Public Representative Captain Jason Hamilton, USCG (Ret), has been reappointed by Governor Ferguson to the Board for another 4-year-term. Commissioner Hamilton brings to his role on the Board extensive experience from his days in command of a Coast Guard Cutter and then as a USCG attorney.



Commissioner Jason Hamilton.

The BPC thanks Commissioners Drennen, Scragg, and Hamilton for their impeccable service to Washington state!

There is currently a vacancy on the Board for a U.S. Shipping Representative. The Governor's Office is in the process of reviewing potential appointments.

For more information about appointments to a Washington State Board or Commission, visit the Governor's website at <https://governor.wa.gov/boards-and-commissions/boards-commissions>.

Women Offshore Conference Wrap-up

District Snapshots

Puget Sound



Retirements:

Captain John Scragg

Thank you for your service to the State of Washington!

License Upgrades to Unlimited:

Captain Ryan Gartner

Well done, Captain!

Training Program:

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



Pilot Trainee Captain Drew Butterfield training in the Duwamish Waterway.

Grays Harbor



Training Program:

There are currently no trainees in Grays Harbor.

The 9th Annual Women Offshore Conference was held in Houston, TX October 1st and 2nd. Washington pilotage was well represented by BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever and Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel as well as Puget Sound pilot Captain Sandy Bendixen and Puget Sound Pilots Administrative Coordinator Jill Taylor.

The theme for the 2026 conference was *Yes, You Can*. Conference session highlights included sea stories panels from women in various positions within the maritime industry, defining identity in work and life, the workshops Building Resilience by Turning Complainers into Collaborators and Reading the Room, and discussions on navigating unexpected turns.

The BPC and Puget Sound Pilots are proud sponsors of Women Offshore conferences and have been regular attendees since the first conference.



Captain Sandy Bendixen.

Captain Sandy Bendixen always goes above and beyond in connecting with cadets and pilot aspirants. We are grateful for her enthusiasm and willingness to help amplify the pipeline to pilotage and provide mentorship.

The mission of [Women Offshore](https://womenoffshore.org), as stated on their website, is to "propel our members into meaningful careers through our global community and professional development resources, while raising awareness of industry challenges".



From left: Jolene Hamel and Jaimie Bever at the BPC and Puget Sound Pilots table.

Marine Exchange Annual Meeting



The Marine Exchange of Puget Sound held their annual meeting on September 24, 2026.

Congratulations to Marine Exchange Executive Director Patrick Gallagher for a valuable and informative meeting, and for his new role as the President of the Washington Maritime Federation! Well deserved!

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.

