

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
April 17, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING – Call to Order

A Public Hearing concerning WAC 363-116-082 Limitations on New Pilots (Grays Harbor) was convened at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn in the Agate Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA and online via Microsoft Teams.

Present In person:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Lee Tyler (Foreign-Flagged Shipping), Severin Knutsen (Pilot)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Ivan Carlson, Nick Moore, Scott Brewen

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public), Nhi Irwin (Ecology)

AAG: Albert Wang

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers

Puget Sound Pilots: Travis McGrath, Eric Klapperich, Will Kelly, Matt Hannuksela, Jamie Galvin

Puget Sound Pilot Candidate: Daniel Bolton

USCG: John Robertson, Kira Moody

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore

Oil Transportation Safety Committee: Antonio Machado, Lovel Pratt

UTC: Scott Sevall

Public: Ann LaRue, John Harris, Rishi Luthra

WAC 363-116-082 Limitations on New Pilots – Grays Harbor. BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever reported that the proposed revisions to pilot licensing limitations aim to ensure that newly licensed pilots gain the necessary experience and that pilotage services can meet the growing demands of the Port of Grays Harbor. By adopting a more flexible and multifaceted approach, the district will be better equipped to support its expanding infrastructure and increasing vessel traffic, while maintaining high safety standards. The changes will revise the pilot licensing limitations within the Grays Harbor Pilotage District to better align with the Port's evolving traffic patterns. The existing licensing restrictions no longer match the types of vessels calling at the GH Pilotage District, leading to the following challenges: newly licensed pilots facing restrictions, inconsistent assignment of technically challenging jobs, enhanced port infrastructure, return of car carrier vessels, and upcoming retirements. Rather than relying solely on gross tonnage, the new proposed limitations would incorporate additional criteria, including vessel length, draft, and tonnage, to determine which vessels newly licensed pilots can safely handle. This more dynamic approach would better align with the operational realities of the Port, improving both safety and efficiency in pilot assignments. Chair Tonn asked for any public comment and Mike Folkers from the Port of Grays Harbor spoke in support of the proposed revisions due to the changing environment in Grays Harbor and keeping safety as their number one priority.

REGULAR MEETING – Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened immediately following the Public Hearing by Chair Sheri Tonn in the Agate Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA and online via Microsoft Teams.

Present In person:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Lee Tyler (Foreign-Flagged Shipping), Severin Knutsen (Pilot)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Ivan Carlson, Nick Moore, Scott Brewen

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public), Nhi Irwin (Ecology)

AAG: Albert Wang

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers

Puget Sound Pilots: Travis McGrath, Eric Klapperich, Will Kelly, Matt Hannuksela, Jamie Galvin

Puget Sound Pilot Candidate: Daniel Bolton

USCG: John Robertson, Kira Moody

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore

Oil Transportation Safety Committee: Antonio Machado, Lovel Pratt

UTC: Scott Sevall

Public: Ann LaRue, John Harris, Rishi Luthra, Kris Faucett, Steve Kennedy, Liam Hastings, Jake Spink

BPC Staff Report.

- BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever reported that the BPC has completed the liability insurance renewal process for this year.
- The combined Winter/Spring 2025 Pilotage Quarterly newsletter was distributed earlier this week and is available on the BPC website.
- Jaimie shared that there are 10 days left in the Legislative Session. The two bills that BPC was keeping an eye on, SB 5117 and SB 5248, did not make it out of the Senate in time for the cutoff. Jaimie will be keeping a close eye on the budget impacts on the BPC as the legislature finishes its work.
- BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki provided both the KPI dashboard as well as monthly dashboards and was available for questions on any of the charts, graphs and dashboards.

BPC Chair Report.

- BPC Chair Sheri Tonn welcomed new Foreign Flagged Shipping Representative Lee Tyler, Director of Terminal and Marine Operations, CMA CGM.
- Sheri and Jaimie will be meeting with USCG Sector Puget Sound Commander Mark McDonnell and LCDR John Roberts this coming Monday.

Activity Reports. CDR Kira Moody representing United State Coast Guard (USCG), Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), Lindsay Wolpa representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), and Mike Folkers representing the Port of Grays Harbor (PGH) offered current and projected statistical data as well as updates on current maritime issues and activities.

CDR Moody shared that this would be her last meeting. She was sent off with many well wishes by both the Board and the public.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Action – Consideration of Previous Hearing on WAC 363-116-082 Limitations on New Pilots

Motion: Anthony/Knutsen – adopt the changes to WAC 363-116-082 as proposed in the CR102 – Carried.

Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *SM SANTOS*, 03/17/2025

Outbound Admiralty past Pt. Wilson	While underway, the vessel experienced a main engine shut down that led to a significant reduction in RPM. USCG COPT placed a hold on the vessel and had it proceed to anchor for inspection and any necessary repairs. Due to the timeframe for an assist tug, a pilot swap was necessary to remain within rest rules. The newly onboarded pilot anchored without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Anthony– File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Executive Director Bever informed the Board that a draft of the new MSO form will be presented at the May meeting.

Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Kirtley/Farrell – approve the March 20, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes as drafted – Carried.

Motion: Kirtley/Farrell – approve the April 3, 2025 Special Meeting minutes as drafted – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains Hannuksela, McGourty & Moore.** TEC Chair Knutsen reported that the TEC met yesterday and reviewed the upgrade letters for the pilots listed above. There were no changes for the level 5 upgrades for Captains Hannuksela and McGourty, however there was one minor change to the level 4 yellow upgrade for Captain Moore which allows for docking using either Guemes or Saddlebags.
Motion: Knutsen/Anthony – approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains Hannuksela, McGourty and Moore – Carried.
- **Training Program Agreements Puget Sound District – Captains Bolton & Butterfield.** TEC Chair Knutsen explained that the agreement and requirements for Captains Bolton & Butterfield were largely unchanged, with just two small revisions: one to require ECDIS training prior to licensure, and the other to allow one round trip Everett job to be only to/from buoy SF instead of all originating to/from the pilot station.
Motion: Knutsen/Anthony – approve the Puget Sound Training Agreement and Requirements for Captains Bolton & Butterfield as written – Carried.
- Board members were again invited to the upcoming Trainee Orientation for Puget Sound Trainees on April 29. Jolene will reach out to new Commissioner Tyler, who showed interest in attending, to make sure he has the relevant information to attend.
- In Puget Sound there are currently 5 trainees in Training, and 1 trainee in Evaluation with Trainee Wood approved to enter Evaluation after a couple more jobs. There is now 1 trainee in Grays Harbor in Observation.
- TEC Chair Knutsen reported that the TEC had a robust, productive discussion on increasing the training stipend and reviewed data previously provided to the Board. He asked board members if there was anything specific that they would like the TEC to consider or to provide in an upcoming recommendation and asked them to send any specific questions to Jolene.

Exemptions from Pilotage.

Sailing Yacht *SEAHAWK* – 195', 491gt, Cayman Island registry, Captains Guy Hayward and Jakob Fouche.

Motion: Anthony/Kirtley – grant an annual exemption with the condition that the captains must have a dockside orientation - Carried.

Motor Yacht *MEA CULPA* – 130', 302gt, Cayman Island registry, Captains Christopher Grant and Simon Milichich.

Motion: Anthony/Tyler – grant an annual exemption with no conditions – Carried.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Hamilton/Anthony – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains D.S. Anacker, J.M. Miller, K.W. Riddle, E.T. Michael, and N.T. Kelleher for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

It was noted that one pilot had been added to the not fit for duty list since printing of the list but that two likely will be returned to duty prior to the next Board meeting. Executive Director Bever informed the Board that a draft of the new state physical form will be presented at the May meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Chair Sheri Tonn in the Agate Conference Room, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA and online via Microsoft Teams to discuss legal matters related to 88.16.180 RCW.

Present In person:

Chair: Sheri Tonn

Vice Chair: Eleanor Kirtley (Marine Environment)

Commissioners: Mike Anthony (Pilot), Lee Tyler (Foreign-Flagged Shipping), Severin Knutsen (Pilot)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Jason Hamilton (Public), Tim Farrell (Public), Nhi Irwin (Ecology),

Andrew Drennen (U.S. Shipping)

AAG: Albert Wang

Continuing Discussion - Implementation of RCW 88.16.180. A transcript of this discussion is attached to these minutes.

Committee Updates.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- OTSC Chair Jaimie Bever shared that the OTSC is currently on hiatus until further in the development of the rule and anticipates that they will meet next to discuss mitigation recommendations.
- The CR102 package will be the subject of the Special Meeting held online only, on June 5. The CR 102 will be filed on June 11.

Pilot Exam Committee (PEC)

- Jaimie shared that the Board received one proposal in response to the exam RFP. More information will be shared at the next meeting.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- Bettina stated that the PSC will meet again on May 8, and will be making finalizations to the MSO form before it comes to the Board at the May meeting.

Vessel Exemption Committee (VEC)

- The VEC has not yet met since the last meeting and are on hiatus at the moment.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- Chair Tonn and staff met recently with a DEI consultant to discuss potential interest in assisting with exam recruitment and messaging. Further work and getting under contract are underway.
- On May 21, Women Offshore is hosting a Women in Maritime Leadership Summit being held at Shell in Houston. Jaimie will be attending.

Terminal Operations Work Group (TOWG)

- The TOWG is working on scheduling the next meeting.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone that there will be two meetings in June, a Special Meeting held online on June 5 and the Regular Meeting on June 26, which is one week later than usual due to the Juneteenth holiday. BPC Regular Meetings continue to be hybrid, and all are invited and encouraged to attend in person or online.

Public Comment. Chair Tonn asked for public comment, and some follow up questions were asked by Rishi Luthra and Lovel Pratt, which can be found in the attached transcript.

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 12:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaimie C. Bever, Executive Director

Sheri J. Tonn, Chair

Eleanor Kirtley, Vice Chair

Commissioner Timothy J. Farrell

Commissioner Andrew Drennen

Commissioner Lee Tyler

Commissioner Severin Knutsen

Commissioner Michael Anthony

Commissioner Jason R. Hamilton

Commissioner Nhi Irwin