

MEETING MINUTES
STATE OF WASHINGTON ~ BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS
September 18, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING – Call to Order

A Public Hearing concerning WAC 363-116-080 Licensing of Pilots 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 Flag Shipping), Andrew Drennen (U.S. Flag Shipping), Severin Knutsen (Pilot), Tom Buroker (Ecology)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Ivan Carlson

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Tim Farrell (Public), Jason Hamilton (Public)

AAG: Albert Wang, Lauren Jaech

USCG: CDR Sarah Rodino, Genaro Villejo (VTS)

Puget Sound Pilots: Matt Hannuksela, Travis McGrath, George Thoreson

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore, Jordan Royer

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

BPC Oil Transportation Safety Committee: Fred Felleman

Public: Nate Menafee, Calvin Rogers, Ann LaRue, Elisa Olson, Chris Adams, Terry Hall

WAC 363-116-080 Licensing of Pilots. BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever presented information on the proposed rule which modifies existing licensure requirements by adding the following requirement to WAC 363-116-080(3): a certificate representing competency in electronic chart display and information systems (ECDIS) that complies with International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards and International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) regulations. This rule change is necessary due to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) sunset of traditional paper and raster nautical charts to focus solely on electronic navigational chart data. BPC Chair Sheri Tonn asked if Puget Sound Pilots had any comment to which Puget Sound Pilots President Ivan Carlson stated that PSP supports this rule change. She then asked for public comment and, not hearing any, closed the hearing.

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), Andrew Drennen (U.S. Flagged Shipping), Severin Knutsen (Pilot), Tom Buroker (Ecology)

Administration: Jaimie Bever, Bettina Maki, Jolene Hamel

Puget Sound Pilots: Ivan Carlson

Port of Grays Harbor: Mike Folkers

PSP Licensure Candidate: Captain Joel Michelson & Family

Present via Teams:

Commissioners: Tim Farrell (Public), Jason Hamilton (Public)

AAG: Albert Wang, Lauren Jaech

USCG: CDR Sarah Rodino, Genaro Villejo (VTS)

Puget Sound Pilots: Matt Hannuksela, Travis McGrath, George Thoreson

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association: Mike Moore, Jordan Royer

The Northwest Seaport Alliance: Lindsay Wolpa

Oil Transportation Safety Committee: Fred Felleman

Public: Nate Menafee, Calvin Rogers, Ann Larue, Elisa Olson, Chris Adams, Terry Hall

BPC Staff Report.

- The BPC celebrates Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel's 8 years with the agency on September 1. BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever thanked her for all she does to support BPC programs.
- The BPC's 2026 supplemental budget has been submitted to OFM.
- Jaimie recently attended the Marine Exchange Annual Meeting, which was well attended and had included an address from Senator Marko Liias. Chair Tonn suggested that Marine Exchange Executive Director Patrick Gallagher present the services of Marine Exchange at a future BPC meeting.
- In the week prior to the meeting, the BPC website had a fatal error, and a new site is currently in the process of being built. Information not yet uploaded to the site can be requested from BPC staff.
- BPC would like to thank the facilities team at WSF for assistance with furniture upgrades and disposal of surplus items in the BPC office.
- BPC Program Analyst Bettina Maki provided the monthly dashboard and was available for questions on any of the data.

BPC Chair Report.

- BPC Chair Sheri Tonn thanked the Board and staff for all the work in her absence while she was traveling.

Activity Reports. CDR Sarah Rodino and VTS Director Genaro Villejo representing United State Coast Guard (USCG), Mike Moore representing Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), Lindsay Wolpa representing The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), Ivan Carlson representing Puget Sound Pilots (PSP), 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Action – Consideration of Previous Hearing on WAC 363-116-080 Licensing of Pilots.

Motion: Kirtley/Knutsen – adopt the changes to WAC 363-116-080(3) as proposed in the CR102 – Carried.

Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MIDNIGHT SUN, 08/01/2025*

Underway between President Point and Point Jefferson	During vessel transit, there was a significant concentration of recreational vessels. With a coordinated effort between JHOC (Joint Harbor Operations Center), VTS, radio presence, whistle signals and speed management, the pilot was able to maneuver safely.	<u>Motion:</u> Drennen/Anthony– File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried, with one abstention from Commissioner Knutsen.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *TERMINAL 4 CRANES, 08/05/2025*

Tacoma, Husky, Terminal 4 and at Blair A	Upon entering the waterway, the pilot noted cranes down at T4 at Husky over an empty berth with no notification to PSP, and on another occasion at Blair A the pilot noted an improperly secured oil boom. Terminals need to be reminded of crane and other requirements outlined in Harbor Safety Plan.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Knutsen– File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MSC JUBILEE IX, 08/20/2025*

Underway from Seattle to Everett	While underway, the pilot observed the captain of the vessel displaying unusual behaviors that ultimately resulted in enforcement action taken by the Coast Guard. The vessel was always navigated safely and arrived without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Drennen– File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *RABAUL CHIEF*, 09/04/2025

Approaching Seattle East Waterway	While underway and on approach, the vessel experienced difficulty starting the bow thruster. After attempting to restart, a second tug was called and after second tug was made fast forward, the vessel proceeded to the dock without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Hamilton – File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *VIENNA EXPRESS*, 09/07/2025

Southbound in TSS after the turn at SD buoy	While underway, the vessel started experiencing engine RPM dropping. Eventually speed went to 0 and vessel was drifting but maintained steering. Engine came back online after tug arrived. Pilot called for a second tug and maintained slow speed to berth without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Knutsen/Drennen– File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Pilot's Report of Marine Safety Occurrence: *MARSHALL FOSS (West Virginia)*, 09/10/2025

Underway on approach to inside berth, Anacortes Marathon	While underway on approach to berth, tug <i>Marshall Foss</i> , which was made fast to starboard bow, reported that brake had malfunctioned and would not hold. Tug <i>Lynn Marie</i> was made fast to centerline stern and the pilot was able to utilize <i>Lynn Marie</i> to berth without incident.	<u>Motion:</u> Farrell/Drennen– File as a Marine Safety Occurrence – Carried.
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Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Kirtley/Hamilton – approve the August 21, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes as presented with minor grammatical revisions – Carried.

Committee Actions.

Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC)

- **Consideration of Licensure of PSPD Pilot Candidate: Captain Joel Michelson.** On behalf of the Trainee Evaluation Committee (TEC), TEC Chair Commissioner Knutsen stated that Captain Joel Michelson has completed all sections of his Training Program Agreement including successful Portable Piloting Unit (PPU) training and completion of his federal licensing requirements. The Board has received his TPTR Summary and all training comments. Captain Michelson started training in September 2023 and completed 274 trips.
Motion: Knutsen/Drennen – issue Captain Joel Michelson state pilot license #230 for the Puget Sound Pilotage District – Carried. After he was licensed, Captain Michelson introduced his family to the Board and thanked all of those who helped him over the past two years.
- **Pilot License Upgrade Program: Captains W. Kelly & C. Grobschmit.** TEC Chair Knutsen reported that the TEC met yesterday and reviewed the letters for Captains Kelly and Grobschmit. He also reported that Captains Bostick and Gartner finished their upgrades early leaving 13 upgrading pilots in their upgrading windows.
Motion: Knutsen/Drennen– approve the pilot license upgrade program for Captains Kelly & Grobschmit – Carried.
- **Consideration of Simulator Training for PSP Trainees Shuler, Britton, Boullion & Woodworth.** TEC Chair Knutsen advised that Trainees Shuler, Britton, Boullion and Woodworth are at the point in their training to go through Simulator Training. The TEC pilots have worked on getting the training scheduled for October. Both Commissioners Anthony and Knutsen will be volunteering their time to lead the training. As in the past, a stipend increase is needed to reimburse the cost of the training.
Motion: Knutsen/Anthony – approve a one-time stipend increase to cover the reimbursement for simulator training for Captains Shuler, Britton, Boullion, and Woodworth – Carried.
- With today's licensure, there are 10 trainees in Puget Sound. There are currently 6 trainees in Training, 1 in Evaluation, and 3 in Familiarization/Observation. A trainee attended the TEC yesterday and was approved to enter Evaluation after completing a short list of jobs. There is also 1 trainee in Grays Harbor in Training. All the trainees are making good progress.
- The TEC made some revisions to Hard-to-Get jobs in Olympia, due to traffic pattern reduction, which will be released on a forthcoming trainee update. The TEC also needs to study the patterns in several other locations and may need to act accordingly.

- BPC Training Program Manager Jolene Hamel reported that the TEC would like to thank senior management at FRS Clipper for reaching out to offer free standby transportation between Seattle and Victoria for the trainees to work on federal pilotage.

Pilot Safety Committee (PSC)

- **New MSO Form.** PSC Co-Chair Commissioner Drennen asked Bettina to report on the new MSO form and how it has been received during the trial period. She advised that she has received positive feedback and has made changes to it based upon pilot reporting. Also, she is in the process of adding a “pause” and “resume” function so that pilots can start a form and complete it later. Commissioner Drennen thanked Bettina for all her hard work on this project.
Motion: Drennen/Anthony – approve the new MSO form as proposed – Carried.
- The PSC is planning to meet again in December.

Pilotage Act Advisory Committee (PAAC)

- **Membership.** BPC Executive Director Jaimie Bever recapped the first two meetings of the PAAC and reviewed the committee action items.
- The Makah Tribe has expressed interest in the open tribal seat on the committee and have proposed that 2 of their environmental analysts join the committee as a primary and an alternate.
Motion: Drennen/Knutsen – approve the addition of Natalie Lowell as Makah Tribe representative and Jenna Rolf as her alternate for the PAAC – Carried.
- The PAAC will continue to meet monthly from November through August of 2026. Public comment opportunities will be available for this committee at all upcoming BPC Regular Public Meetings between now and August 2026. There will be other public comment opportunities as well.

Exemptions from Pilotage.

Motor Yacht EVVIVA – 164', 492 GT, British Virgin Island registry, Captains Beanlu du Toit and Greg Tonole.

Motion: Anthony/Kirtley – concur with Chair Tonn's granting of the interim annual exemption with no conditions - Carried.

Sailing Yacht APSARAS – 78', 35 GT, Hong Kong registry, Captain Maurizio Zuffui.

Motion: Farrell/Knutsen – concur with Chair Tonn's granting of the interim annual exemption with the condition of no Locks without an orientation - Carried.

Motor Yacht UNBRIDLED – 190', 803 GT, Cayman Island registry, Captain Liam Devlin.

Motion: Anthony/Drennen – concur with Chair Tonn's granting of the interim annual exemption with the condition of a pilot orientation through the Locks and none of the three geographically restricted areas - Carried.

Motor Yacht SEA GYPSY – 54', 64 GT, Marshall Island registry, Captains Gregory Sparks and Devin Zwick.

Motion: Knutsen/Farrell – concur with Chair Tonn's granting of the interim annual exemption with no conditions - Carried.

Pilot/Trainee Physical Examination Reports.

Motion: Farrell/Anthony – approve the pilot physical examination reports for Captains S.T. Coleman, J.L. Carstensen, J.E. Siddell, K.C. Kridler, E.M. vonBrandenfels, D.W. Melin, D. B. Soriano, J. R. Semler and R.M. Gartner for their annual pilot license renewals – Carried.

Motion: Kirtley/Farrell – approve the physical examination report for Captains N.W. Ahrens and S.W. Anderson for their new trainee license – Carried.

Motion: Drennen/Knutsen – approve the physical examination report for Captains L.M. Shuler, D.L. Britton, and R.M. Boullion for their annual trainee license renewal – Carried.

It was noted that there is still one pilot not fit for duty.

Committee Updates.

Oil Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC)

- OTSC Chair Jaimie Bever advised that the OTSC will likely reconvene once the rule is in place to discuss voluntary mitigation measures. Behind the scenes the Rule team is busy reading comments and answering questions from the public comment period.

- The Lummi Nation has requested Government-to-Government consultation with the BPC and Ecology. That meeting will be taking place on October 2.

Pilot Exam Committee (PEC)

- The committee will be meeting next on September 29.
- Dainis & Company will be attending the October BPC meeting virtually to give an overview for the upcoming exam.
- The exam application package is nearing completion and will be on the October BPC meeting agenda.
- Thanks to Commissioner Hamilton for agreeing to join the application review team.
- Look for new updates and more targeted information on the BPC's 'Become a Pilot' tab on the new website. The BPC has been working on clear and concise messaging to reach as many as possible. There will be future social media posts featuring some Puget Sound pilots on their pathway to pilotage. The BPC is excited to see the end results and thanks PSP for their partnership on this project.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEIC)

- The BPC is sending Jolene Hamel to the Women Offshore Conference in Houston in early October. She will be joined by two Puget Sound Pilots. She will be providing exam information to attendees and assisting at the PSP booth. She looks forward to helping to represent WA State pilotage.

Terminal Operations Work Group (TOWG)

- The TOWG met right after the last Board meeting and will have minutes from that meeting in October. TOWG Chair Captain Coleman has provided photos of markings that need repainting for clarity in the Puget Sound area. The group is hoping to get those addressed as well as increased participation from terminal operations to move forward in positive directions.

Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting Dates. Chair Tonn reminded everyone that the October meeting will be on October 16, and the November meeting will be on November 20. 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 none was offered.

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Tonn at 11:55am.

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 Tom Buroker