



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

Announcements

BPC Staff Anniversary

September 1, 2025
marked BPC Training
Program Manager
Jolene Hamel's
8th year with us!

Jolene Hamel
Training Program
Board of Pilotage

Jolene Hamel is the Training
Program Manager for the
Board of Pilotage Commissioners—
mentored and shepherded 23
during her tenure thus far. She
has a Bachelor's Degree in Sea-
Eagles! In her spare time, she
enjoys music.

The Board of Pilotage Commissioners is pleased to announce that the 2026 Washington State Marine Pilot Exam will take place in April 2026!

The exam process will begin on April 13, 2026 with the Knowledge Based Test (KBT/Written) via remote live proctoring. For those who are successful in the KBT, Simulator Evaluations will start the week of April 27 – May 1 at MITAGS-West in Seattle, WA. Successful applicants will receive be assigned a set time slot.

Mark your calendars!



More info at <https://pilotage.wa.gov/next-exam>

Applications will open on November 13, 2025 and close on March 13, 2026. We will also be releasing other exam information on that day including the Preliminary Exam Bibliography, for those who want to get studying. Stay tuned!

Are you a pilot aspirant? We have been busy adding more information and resources to our website to help navigate the pathway to pilotage! Visit <https://pilotage.wa.gov> to learn more or email us at PilotageInfo@wsdot.wa.gov!

Here she is at the end of September attending the USCG Sector Puget Sound Leadership Committee Speed Mentoring Event sharing her BPC Pilot Training Program expertise and inspiring future leaders.
Happy Anniversary Jolene!



Spotlight on the Marine Exchange

On September 11, 2025, the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound reconvened their annual meeting for the first time in several years. Marine Exchange Executive Director Patrick Gallagher provided an overview of the exchange's services as well as goings-on in the maritime industry.



Marine Exchange Executive Director Patrick Gallagher gives opening remarks at the annual meeting.

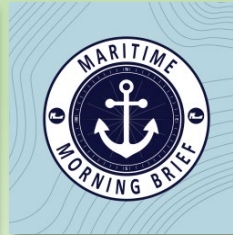
The event featured Senate Transportation Committee Chair Marko Liias as the keynote speaker. Senator Liias spoke about the importance of the maritime industry to the area and graciously answered audience questions.



Senator Marko Liias

Of the event, Patrick later posted that the meeting had "insightful presentations from our staff and community partners, along with meaningful conversations and connections made through the room". We appreciate the Marine Exchange for providing these opportunities to connect and engage!

The Marine Exchange is a valuable resource to the local maritime community. Click on the images below to learn about some of the services they offer.



In addition, the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound will be hosting the National Harbor Safety Conference March 24-26, 2026 at Bell Harbor in Seattle, WA. More information can be found on the Marine Exchange website at <https://marexps.com/>.

Images courtesy of Marine Exchange of Puget Sound.

District Snapshots

Puget Sound



Retirements:

Captain L. Seymour

Thank you for your service!

License Upgrades to Unlimited:

There were no license upgrades to unlimited in the 3rd Quarter of 2025.

Training Program:

Currently training are Captains Michelson (licensed 9/18/2025), Wood, Shuler, Britton, Boullion, Woodworth, Bolton, Butterfield, Anderson, Aherns, and Rogers.



All eleven PS trainees from left, first row: Captains Wood, Ahrens, Bolton, Anderson. From left, top row: Captains Boullion, Britton, Woodworth, Michelson, Rogers, Butterfield, Shuler.

Grays Harbor



Training Program:

Currently training is Captain Ryan Campbell