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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2013

No. 13-30

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Alaska Board of Marine Pilots Fines Greenpeace Vessel

(Juneau, AK) – The Board of Marine Pilots, following an investigation in response to a public complaint, fined the *MV Esperanza* \$15,000 for entering Alaska compulsory pilotage waters in the vicinity of Point Hope between July 22 through 27, 2012.

As a foreign-flagged vessel larger than 65 feet, state law requires the employment of a state-licensed marine pilot on board for transit through Alaska's compulsory pilotage waters. Entering compulsory waters without a pilot is a criminal violation and is subject to fines up to \$15,000 for the first violation and \$30,000 for the second violation. Due to lack of compliance with Alaska statutes and regulations, the Board of Marine Pilots unanimously voted to impose the fine at their October 2013 meeting.

Formed for the purpose of protecting the safety of human life and property and the protection of the marine environment, the board is composed of two marine pilots, two vessel agents, two members of the public, and a department representative.

The mission of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing is to ensure that competent, professional and regulated commercial services are available to Alaska consumers. The division is one of several within the department tasked with consumer protection, along with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the Division of Banking and Securities, and the Division of Insurance. For more information about the department, visit www.commerce.alaska.gov.

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