

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Board of Marine Pilots

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
Email: License@Alaska.Gov

This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).

**Board of Marine Pilots
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**Board of Marine Pilots
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Board Membership *(as of the Date This Report was Approved)*

Date of Final Board Approval: 7/10/2025

Chair Curtis Thayer, Captain Edward (Ed) Sinclair, Captain James Cunningham, Leslie (Les) Cronk, Andrew (Andy) Mew, Joseph (Joe) Tougas, Don Habeger

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Accomplishments

Over the course of the year, the board continued its work to establish, audit, and enforce the standard as set in Alaska Statute 08.62 to:

- Ensure that persons entering the practice meet rigorous standards of competency, and maintain such standards during their practice;
- Assist the public in the knowledge of who is licensed
- (<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofMarinePilots.aspx>);
- Approve the standards by which pilot organizations are operated and trainees are selected;
- Approve or disapprove rates for pilotage services;
- Ensure that drug and alcohol testing is compliant;
- Ensure that sufficient pilots are available to provide service;
- Vessels subject to pilotage have a licensed pilot while transiting compulsory waters; and
- Educate the public about the statutes and regulations governing marine pilotage in Alaska.

The board reviewed, updated, and published the foreign pleasure craft navigation packet for 2025. The board also maintained its review of applications for pleasure craft of foreign registry seeking exemption from pilotage for vessels between 65 feet and 175 feet. The board approves pilotage exemptions if the requesting vessel meets the exemption requirements in 12 AAC 56.115. For FY 2025, the board approved 19 applications for exemption from pilotage requirements for foreign pleasure crafts.

The board approved licenses for 5 Deputy Marine Pilots and 6 Marine Pilots. Core and Local Knowledge exams were administered to 9 total candidates.

Investigations – for FY 2025, 4 new investigations were opened and 5 investigations were closed. At the time of this report, there are no open investigative cases for this program.

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Activities

The board has a current regulations project in process with a proposal to amend 2 regulations.

- I. Amendment of 12 AAC 56.500(a) amends the language for VLCC endorsement required for dock/undock vessels
- II. Amendment of 12 AAC 56.080(c) amends the regional training requirements for Deputy Marine Pilots in Region 3; Western Alaska

The board met four times during fiscal year 2025:

- July 23, 2024, via teleconference
- October 24, 2024, via teleconference
- January 29, 2025, in Anchorage
- April 16, 2025, in Ketchikan

During these quarterly meetings, the board had participation from NOAA (presentation on charting), CLIA/CLAA (reports on cruise ship season and outlook for next season), and all three of the state pilot associations (association reports from AMP, SEAP, SWAPA).

The board continued to support association bylaws and training program amendments while ensuring changes comport with statutes and regulations.

Renewal for the Deputy Marine Pilots, Marine Pilots and Vessel Agent licenses was 12/31/2024.

Active License numbers as of the date of this report:

Deputy Marine Pilots – 24

Marine Pilots – 63

Registered Vessel Agents - 7

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Needs

The board continues to seek information about the impact that Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) has in the state and possible conflicts with state pilotage regulations. SWAPA highlighted several issues with vessels being given navigation direction without the input of state licensed pilots, jeopardizing navigation safety. Once fully understood, the board will work to include the pilot associations in the APC.

The board will work with the division to secure a different testing platform for the LKE and CORE exam. The current platform has continued issues and it has not been used for a single LKE candidate to date.