

STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

## **BOARD OF MARINE PILOTS**

**CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD APRIL 16, 2025**

**These draft minutes were prepared by staff of the Division of Corporations,  
Business and Professional Licensing. They have not been reviewed or approved  
by the Board.**

**By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62,  
Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Marine Pilots was held on  
April 16, 2025, at the Cape Fox Lodge, Room Shaa Hit B, 800 Venetia Way, Ketchikan, AK**

<b>Date:</b>	April 16, 2025
<b>Time:</b>	9:00 a.m. (9:02 a.m.)
<b>Location:</b>	Alaska Energy Authority Building: 813 W Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK
<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Chair Curtis Thayer, Captain Edward (Ed) Sinclair, Captain James Cunningham, Les Cronk, Andrew Mew, Joseph (Joe) Tougas (remotely), Don Habeger
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	
<b>Division/SOA Staff Present:</b>	Renee Carabajal (Marine Pilot Coordinator), Sylvan Robb (Division Director), Patrick Kase (Investigator 3)
<b>Present from the Public:</b>	Jenni Sitton (SWAPA), Kylie Stone (SWAPA), David Artz (AMP), Mik Tibbles (ASA), Paul Axelson (NPMI), Kris Mackie (SEAPA), Caroline Wilkinson (NOAA), Ron Leighton (SEAPA), Brett Merrill (SEAPA), Robert Dersham (SEAPA), Ron Ward (SWAPA), Angel Holbrook (NPMI), Bella Robert (YSA), Katie Montgomery (CLAA)

<b>Review Agenda</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	There was no discussion to amend the agenda.
<b>Motion:</b>	Agenda accepted by unanimous consent
<b>Ethics Disclosures</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	There were no ethical disclosures by any board members or staff.
<b>Public Comment</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	There was nobody in attendance for public comment.
<b>Review/Approve Minutes: January 29, 2025</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	There was no discussion to amend the meeting minutes.
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept the January 25, 2025, meeting minutes as written (First: Sinclair; Second: Cunningham).

Discussion:	With nothing to discuss, the board approved the motion via roll call vote.	
Recorded Votes:	Cronk - Yes	Mew - Yes
	Cunningham - Yes	Tougas - Yes
	Sinclair – Yes	Habeger - Yes
		Thayer - Yes
Association Reports		
AMP	Captain David Arzt of Alaska Marine Pilots provided the AMP report for Western Alaska. We currently have eight full pilots and one deputy pilot. Additionally, one of our pilots is in training to transfer to Region 2 with SWAPA, which is expected to happen within the next year. Currently, there are five individuals in the training apprentice program. Of these, we expect that two should be ready to finish their hands-on training in about a year.	
SWAPA	Jenni Zilinski, Business Manager for SWAPA provided their association report. We currently have 10 full-member pilots qualified for Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs). SWAPA had 1 deputy pilot advance to full marine pilot and currently has 3 deputies with 110,000 gross ton licenses. There are also 3 deputies in training with 95,000 gross ton licenses; 2 are in hands-on training, and one is close to completing his training and obtaining his deputy license. By summer, we expect one pilot to transfer from AMP and 4 others to be observing, totaling 7.	
SEAPA	Captain Ron Leighton provided the report for SEAPA. They have 59 pilots; 17 of which are deputies and 2 completing oral interviews at the meeting today. One of the difficulties they have noted in their training program is the lack of cargo training. A ballot will be put before their membership in May to move the cargo training to following the issuance of a deputy marine pilot license. Captain Leighton requested the board consider approving the amendment to the training manual electronically so the change can take effect before the anticipated July 2025 board meeting. Following a short discussion, the board agreed to review the amendment and vote via OnBoard as it is in the best interest of the training program.	
AMP: Proposed Regulation Amendment 12 AAC 56.028 – Regional Requirements for Deputy Marine Pilots License		
Discussion:	Captain David Arzt of AMP presented the proposed regulation amendment to 12 AAC 56.028(c). The proposed amendment changes the requirements for supervised movements in active ports for trainees of the Western Alaska Region by making changes to the number of dockings and undocking at specific harbors but no changes to the overall number of supervised movements that are currently required.	
Motion:	Move to add an amendment to 12 AAC 56.028(c)(1) (A)and (B) to the regulations project opened January 29 to amend 12 AAC 56.500(a). 12 AAC 56.028(c) will be amended to read: (A) Dutch Harbor/Captains Bay – 30 dockings and 30 undockings (iv) a minimum of 15 of the dockings and 15 of the undockings in Dutch Harbor (B) in addition to the dockings and undockings required under (A) of this paragraph, 5 dockings and undockings performed at any combination of outports within the region in accordance with the regional training program approved by the board. No request for oral hearing or additional review unless substantive changes are made to proposed language by Dept. of Law and/or division regulations specialist.	
Discussion:	With nothing to discuss, the board approved the motion via roll call vote.	
Recorded Votes:	Cronk - Yes	Mew - Yes

	Cunningham - Yes	Tougas - Yes
	Sinclair – Yes	Habeger - Yes
		Thayer - Yes
Division Update	Sylvan Robb, Division Director provided the division update and reviewed the most recent fiscal reports for the program with the board. She presented the Fiscal Year 2025 2nd-quarter report. Director Robb also provided an overview to the board of 2 pieces of legislation currently before the legislature. The bills do not have a direct impact on the Board of Marine Pilots but were discussed due to their impact to Alaskans and the Division. House Bill 131-Senate Bill 124 (Nurse Licensure Compact) and House Bill 158/Senate Bill 145 (Universal Temporary License/SCRA)	
Investigative Report:		
	Investigator III Patrick Kase provided the investigative report to the board. The case that was in litigation at the January 2025 meeting has been closed and the board had voted on that in 2024. There were no new cases opened during this review period.	
Future Meeting Date(s)		
	During a brief discussion the board considered dates for the summer Zoom meeting and the fall Board meeting. The board scheduled the Zoom meeting for July 23 with call to order at 9:00 am. The fall meeting was scheduled for October 15 in Anchorage with call to order at 9:00 am.	
Deputy Marine Pilot Candidate Interview		
Motion: Off Record: 10:01 a.m.	I, James Cunningham, move that the Alaska State Board of Marine Pilots enter into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion; and matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Board staff Renee Carabajal to remain. (First: Cunningham; Second: Mew).	
Recorded Votes:	Cronk - Yes	Mew - Yes
	Cunningham - Yes	Tougas - Yes
	Sinclair – Yes	Habeger - Yes
		Thayer - Yes
Brief Discussion: On Record: 11:41 a.m.	No official action was taken during the executive session.	
Board Action: Deputy Marine Pilot Candidate		
Discussion:	The board approved Deputy Marine pilot licensure for Captain Sam Abell and Captain Ryan Carden.	
Motion:	Move to approve a Deputy Marine Pilot license for 50,000 Gross Tons for Region 1 for Captain Sam Abell - Badge #258, license #176079 and Captain Ryan Carden – Badge #259, license #209617(First: Sinclair; Second: Cunningham).	
Discussion:	With nothing to discuss, the board approved the motion via roll call vote.	
Recorded Votes (roll call):	Cronk - Yes	Mew - Yes

	Cunningham - Yes	Tougas - Yes
	Sinclair - Yes	Habeger – Yes
		Thayer - Yes
<b>Application Review</b>		
<b>Discussion:</b>	The board considered the Foreign Pleasure Craft Exemption Application for the Evivva	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to approve the pleasure craft exemption application of the Evivva pending receipt of documentation of the required mariner’s credentials and radar training for the vessel operator or an amended application with an operator with the appropriate, documented credentials (First: Sinclair; Second: Habeger).	
<b>Discussion:</b>	With nothing to discuss, the board approved the motion via roll call vote.	
<b>Recorded Votes (roll call):</b>	Cronk - Yes	Mew - Yes
	Cunningham - Yes	Tougas - Yes
	Sinclair - Yes	Habeger – Yes
		Thayer - Yes
<b>Adjourn:</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b> <b>Off Record at 11:51 am</b>	Having completed all scheduled business on the agenda, the board adjourned.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to adjourn (First: Mew; Second: Cunningham).	
<b>Discussion:</b>	With nothing to discuss, the board approved the motion via roll call vote.	
<b>Recorded Votes (roll call):</b>	Cronk - Yes	Mew - Yes
	Cunningham - Yes	Tougas - Yes
	Sinclair - Yes	Thayer - Yes
The board held a scheduled tour of the Ketchikan Docks and Harbors Facility starting at 2:00 pm. The tour was open to the public and no board business was discussed during this tour. This was a review of the updates that the municipality has made over the past several years to their docks and facilities. The tour concluded at 3:25 pm/.		
Date Final Minutes Approved by the Board: _____ Meeting _____ OnBoard		