

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 JULY 23, 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 July 23, 2025, via Zoom; originating at 333 Willoughby Ave., Juneau, Alaska**

<b>Date:</b>	July 23, 2025
<b>Time:</b>	9:00 a.m. (9:14 a.m.)
<b>Location:</b>	Alaska Energy Authority Building: 813 W Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK
<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Chair Curtis Thayer (at 9:38 am), Captain Edward (Ed) Sinclair (out at 10:00 am), Captain James Cunningham, Les Cronk, Andrew Mew, Joseph (Joe) Tougas , Don Habeger
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	
<b>Division/SOA Staff Present:</b>	Renee Carabajal (Marine Pilot Coordinator), Patrick Kase (Investigator 3)
<b>Present from the Public:</b>	Jenni Sitton (SWAPA), David Artz (AMP), Mike Tibbles (ASA), Kris Mackie (SEAPA), Ron Leighton (SEAPA), Robert Pletnikoff (SWAPA), Maxwell Paulus (SEAPA), Emelia Sween (SEAPA), Christine Klimkowski (SEAPA), Angel Holbrook (NPMI), Bella Robert (YSA), Katie Montgomery (CLAA), James McSweeney

<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: April 16, 2025</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	There was no discussion to amend the meeting minutes.
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept the April 16, 2025, meeting minutes as written (First: Mew; Second: Tougas).

<b>Discussion:</b>	With nothing to discuss, the board approved the motion via roll call vote.	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Cronk - Yes	Mew - Yes
	Cunningham - Yes	Tougas - Yes
	Sinclair – Yes	Habeger - Yes
		Thayer - absent

#### Association Reports

<b>AMP</b>	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.
<b>SWAPA</b>	Jenni Zilinski, Business Manager for SWAPA provided their association report. We currently have 12 full-member pilots qualified for Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs). SWAPA has 5 deputy pilots: 4 at 110KGT and 1 advancing to 110KGT, upgrade in process. 6 trainees with 3 currently doing hands-on, 1 transferring from AMP, and 2 observing. They have 1 trainee scheduled for his oral interview with the board today.
<b>SEAPA</b>	Captain Ron Leighton provided the report for SEAPA. They have 44 pilots; 16 of whom are deputies and 3 are completing oral interviews at the meeting today. They are currently able to meet the needs of the traffic in the region.

#### SWAPA: Training Program Amendment

<b>Discussion:</b>	Jenni Sitton (SWAPA Business Manager) reviewed the proposed changes to the SWAPA training program. The proposed change removes a “cow turn” maneuver from the required dockings at Port of Alaska, Anchorage. Captain Cunningham explained what a cow turn is.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to approved the proposed change to the SWAPA training program as presented. (First; Cunningham, Second; Mew)	
<b>Discussion:</b>	With nothing to discuss, the board approved the motion via roll call vote.	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Cronk - Yes	Mew - Yes
	Cunningham - Yes	Tougas - Yes
	Sinclair – Yes	Habeger - Yes
		Thayer - Absent
<b>Regulation Project/Division Update</b>	Renee Carabajal provided an update to the board regarding the current regulations project. Due to Administrative Order 358, all regulatory projects are halted in their current step. Once the order is lifted, the project will be restarted. The board and associations can consider future regulation amendments and present them once the order has been lifted. The order has also placed a freeze on travel; once the division has more information about that it will be provided to the board. There is no division update for the July meeting; a full	

	update with current fiscal year 2026 and end-of-year Fiscal year 2025 reports will be provided at the October board meeting.	
<b>Investigative Report:</b>		
	Investigator III Patrick Kase provided the investigative report to the board. The program has 1 case that is in "Intake" status for unlicensed practice/activity. There was 1 case closed during the reporting period for lack of jurisdiction. The board asked a few questions about the investigative process and how cases are assigned to reviewing board members. Inv. Kase gave a brief overview of the process and will provide more information at the October board meeting.	
<b>Future Meeting Date(s)</b>		
	During a brief discussion, the board considered the winter meeting dates. The board scheduled the winter meeting for January 21, 2026, with call to order at 9:00 am; the location will be determined at the October meeting pending information regarding travel and Admin. Order 358.	
<b>Deputy Marine Pilot Candidate Interview</b>		
<b>Motion:</b> <b>Off Record: 9:59 a.m.</b>	I, Andrew Mew, 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: Mew; Second: Cunningham).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Cronk - Yes	Mew - Yes
	Cunningham - Yes	Tougas - Yes
	Sinclair – Yes	Habeger - Yes
		Thayer - Yes
<b>Brief Discussion:</b> <b>On Record: 10:44 a.m.</b>	No official action was taken during the executive session. The record reflects that Captain Ed Sinclair left the meeting at 10:00 am and did not participate in the executive session discussion.	
<b>Board Action: Deputy Marine Pilot Candidate</b>		
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to approve a Deputy Marine Pilot license for 50,000 Gross Tons for Christine Klimkowski, Badge #262, for Region 1 (First: Mew; Second: Cronk).	
<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 - Absent	Habeger – Yes
		Thayer - Yes
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to approve a Deputy Marine Pilot license for 50,000 Gross Tons for Maxwell Paulus, Badge #261, for Region 1 (First: Mew; Second: Cronk).	
<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 - Absent	Habeger – Yes
		Thayer - Yes
<b>Motion:</b>		
Move to approve a Deputy Marine Pilot license for 50,000 Gross Tons for Robert Pletnikoff, Badge #263, for Region 2 (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 - Absent	Habeger – Yes
		Thayer - Yes
<b>Motion:</b>		
Move to approve a Deputy Marine Pilot license for 50,000 Gross Tons for Emelia Sween, Badge #260, for Region 1 (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 - Absent	Habeger – Yes
		Thayer - Yes
<b>Adjourn:</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion: Off Record at 10:52 am</b>	Having completed all scheduled business on the agenda, the board adjourned.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to adjourn (First: Thayer; Second: Cronk).	
<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 - Absent	Tougas - Yes
	Sinclair - Yes	Thayer - Yes
<b>Date Final Minutes Approved by the Board:</b>		
____ Meeting	____ OnBoard	