RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE AMERICAN PILOTS’ ASSOCIATION
October 18, 2017

EMERGING ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION AND CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES

WHEREAS, emerging electronic navigation and control technologies can be valuable tools by providing useful information and enhanced maneuvering options to the human decision-maker; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of vessels piloted by APA member pilots are equipped with emerging electronic navigation and control technologies such as ECDIS, ECS, Azipods, and autopilots; and

WHEREAS, APA member pilots have considerable experience in the development, use, and evaluation of emerging electronic navigation technologies in their own PPUs; and

WHEREAS the APA, through its engagement with various federal executive and legislative interests, monitors and evaluates emerging PNT technologies; and

WHEREAS, the APA, through its Navigation and Technology Committee (NAVTECH), is supporting its member pilots by studying emerging electronic navigation technologies and assisting in the development and use of these and other technologies in cooperation with state, national and international pilotage and professional organizations to foster practical application of these technologies;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, as a result of the work done by the APA’s NAVTECH, the Board of Trustees of the American Pilots’ Association hereby adopts the following as official findings and policies of the APA:

1. Although much of the emerging electronic navigation and control technologies are generally recognized as capable of enhancing navigation safety, there are system limitations and inaccuracies that can be further exacerbated by integrating displays, or by using inaccurate source or sensor data.

2. The various emerging electronic navigation technologies require operator input, which can significantly affect the accuracy of the information being broadcast or displayed, and many of these systems have been placed in use in many vessels with little or no formal training of the crew.

3. The manner in which emerging electronic navigation and control technologies should be used during the course of any particular pilotage assignment should be left to the independent, professional judgment of the pilot.
4. In order to make a professional judgment as to the use of emerging electronic navigation and control technologies, a pilot should be familiar with the capabilities and limitations of these technologies.

5. The American Pilots’ Association encourages its member pilots to be knowledgeable in the capabilities, limitations and operation of emerging electronic navigation and control technologies, including port-specific training on such technologies where appropriate.

6. The American Pilots’ Association encourages its member pilots to discuss the use of applicable emerging electronic navigation and control technologies in their Master – Pilot Information Exchange.