



AMERICAN PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

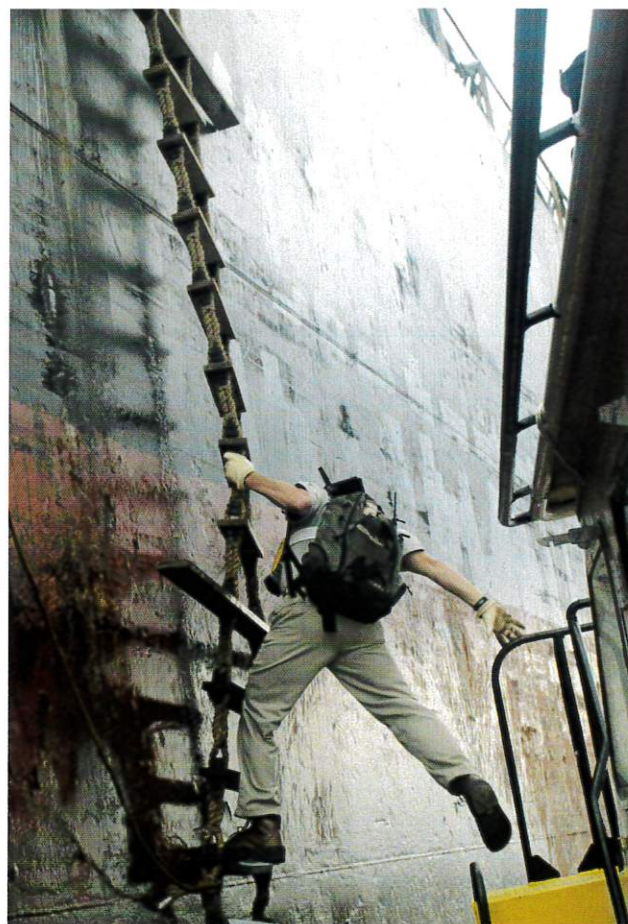
THE MOST HIGHLY TRAINED AND SKILLED MARINERS IN THE WORLD

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN PILOTS' ASSOCIATION?

The American Pilots' Association (APA) is the national association of the maritime piloting profession. The APA was formed in 1884 to support the State Pilotage System and to advance the highest standards of the piloting profession. There are approximately 50 pilot groups in the APA. The 1,200 individuals in these groups represent more than 99 percent of all the state-licensed pilots in the nation as well as all of the United States Coast Guard-registered pilots in the Great Lakes region.

WHAT IS A STATE PILOT?

State pilots in the U.S. are the most highly trained and skilled mariners in the world, responsible for directing the navigation of more than 90% of the large ocean-going vessels moving in U.S. ports and waterways. A state pilot is a fee-for-service professional who operates through an association serving a particular port or waterway area. Although not an employee of the government or the port, a state pilot performs a public service and is charged with protecting the waters where he or she operates by preventing ships from engaging in unsafe operations. State pilots also contribute to maritime security in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard. Under the regulatory systems in which state pilots serve, they are expected to exercise independent, professional judgment in the public interest to ensure safety of navigation, protect the environment, and facilitate the nation's vital ocean-borne commerce.



A state pilot embarks an inbound vessel by riding a pilot boat to the vessel and climbing up a rope ladder hung over the vessel's side. Similarly, the state pilot disembarks an outbound vessel by climbing down a pilot ladder to a waiting pilot boat below. These transfers happen in all hours of the day and night in every pilotage area in the U.S., often in challenging weather conditions.

WHO USES STATE PILOTS?

Foreign-flag and U.S.-flag vessels engaged in international trade are required by state law to take a licensed pilot when moving in the state's waters. This is called "compulsory state pilotage." Most ocean-going U.S.-flag vessels in the coastwise trade also elect to use a state pilot. In all cases, the vessel pays the pilot's fee. As a result, this crucial public service is provided at no cost to taxpayers.



WHO REGULATES STATE PILOTS?

Each of the 24 coastal states in the nation maintains a compulsory pilotage system. These are comprehensive systems that license pilots, regulate their fees, and oversee their operations. The objective is to ensure that every vessel required to take a pilot receives a qualified, well-trained, and competent pilot without delay or preference.

State regulation of pilotage was authorized by the first Congress in 1789 in recognition that pilotage is best regulated at the state and local level due to the

variations in port and waterway conditions and needs. Pilots in the Great Lakes region are regulated by the U.S. Coast Guard under a system modeled after the State Pilotage System. Since 1789, the judgment of Congress that states should regulate pilotage, and the public benefits of the resulting State Pilotage System, have been reaffirmed by Congress and supported by U.S. courts many times.

WHAT SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND EDUCATION DO STATE PILOTS UNDERGO?

State pilots have either deep-sea or tug experience before they enter pilot training programs or they go through a lengthy (four to seven years) apprenticeship program. In addition to extensive prior experience or detailed instruction in basic shiphandling, pilot trainees undergo long periods of route-specific training under the tutelage of experienced pilots. This hands-on training is supplemented with the latest in classroom instruction and simulator training. Once licensed, a state pilot undergoes regular continuing education and professional development, including classroom and simulator training in bridge resource management for pilots, emergency shiphandling, and new navigation technology. APA pilots are committed to staying in the forefront of advances in navigation technology and practices.



WHY ARE STATE PILOTS SO IMPORTANT TO OUR NATION'S WATERWAYS?

Often referred to as "the eyes and ears of a port," state pilots belonging to the APA are typically the only U.S. citizen on each of the thousands of foreign vessels moving in the nation's waters every day. APA pilots are navigation specialists with advanced shiphandling skills and extensive knowledge of the local conditions and hazards in



the waters for which they are licensed. These elite mariners direct oceangoing vessels safely and efficiently through confined and often-congested ports and waterway areas – the most challenging part of an international voyage. The U.S. Supreme Court has described pilots as "indispensable cogs" in the nation's transportation system.