

GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Summary Record
September 12, 2019
Great Lakes Maritime Center
51 Court Street
Port Huron, Michigan 48060**

On the call of the Sponsor, a meeting of the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee was held on September 12, 2019, at the Great Lakes Maritime Center in Port Huron, MI.. This record is a summary of the meeting and transcript taken during the session and summarizes the committee's deliberations, conclusions, and actions. Documents are available for public inspection and printing online at

www.regulations.gov or <https://dco.uscg.afpims.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Marine-Transportation-Systems-CG-5PW/Office-of-Waterways-and-Ocean-Policy/Office-of-Waterways-and-Ocean-Policy-Great-Lakes-Pilotage-Div/>

The Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee held a meeting on September 12, 2019 at the Great Lakes Maritime Center in Port Huron, MI at the request of the Sponsor. The Coast Guard convened this meeting to consult with the advisory committee on the following topics:

- Status of GLPAC Member Terms & Appointments
- Rulemaking Update
- SeaPro Demonstration
- Rulemaking Methodology
 - a. Traffic Projections & Methodology
 - b. Separate Rates for voluntary pilotage
 - c. Use of Financial Information in Rate-setting
 - d. Current Pilot Workforce Levels
 - e. Transparency Improvements
 - f. Training expenditures/investments
- Dispatch Procedures - Current and Cruise Ship Impact and Tanker Proposal
- Pilot Association Projects and Updates
- Stakeholder Engagement
- GAO Report Update
- Cost Control and Efficiency Study
- Coast Guard Maritime Safety Risk Study
- Amending Designated Waters
- Canadian Pilotage Reform Legislation
- Legal Fees
- Public Comments

The Committee forwarded 4 recommendations for Coast Guard consideration.

GLPAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Capt. Dan Gallagher, Lakes Pilots' Association
Capt. John Boyce, St. Lawrence Seaway Pilots' Assoc.
Capt. Jon Olney, Western Great Lakes Pilots Association
Mr. John Baker, Jr, President Great Lakes District Council, ILA
Mr. Steve Fisher, Executive Director American Great Lakes Port Association
Mr. Mike Klein, Chartering/Merchandizing CHS

Thursday, September 12, 2019

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

The Designated Federal Official, Mr. Rajiv Khandpur, opened the meeting at 8:19 A.M. with welcoming remarks and offered introductions to the Committee and public attendees. Captain Gallagher offered opening remarks, reviewed the agenda and Mr. Khandpur administered the oath to Captain Olney. This discussion begins on page 5 of the transcript.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes of the September 10, 2018 meeting without discussion. This can be found starting on page 18 of the transcript.

Status of GLPAC Member Terms & Appointments:

This discussion begins on page 19 of the transcript.

The Committee asked the Coast Guard to clarify current Committee membership term appointments. A committee member requested the Coast Guard to provide current status and update GLPAC members on their individual term dates.

Committee recommendation: None

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Rulemaking Update:

This discussion begins on page 28 of the transcript.

The Coast Guard Pilotage office provided an update on rulemaking. The final rule was published on May 10th, 2019 and the 2020 notice of proposed rulemaking is expected to be published in early fall.

Committee recommendation: None.

SeaPro Demonstration:

This discussion begins on page 29 of the transcript.

Mr. Wendell Koi of SeaPro Solutions provided an overview and demonstration of the SeaPro dispatch and billing system

Committee recommendation #1: “The Committee recommended that the Coast Guard move from Klein to the SeaPro dispatch and billing system.”

Boyce/Olney/Unanimous

Dispatch Procedures including current cruise ship impact and tanker proposal:

This discussion begins on page 61 of the transcript.

The Committee discussed the impact of traffic diversification on the “first come, first serve” dispatch process on the Great Lakes with the increase of cruise ships, tankers and Canadian lakers. Captain Boyce offered to spearhead a series of informal meetings to discuss staffing issues.

Committee Recommendation #2: “The Committee recommended that the Coast Guard re-evaluate the staffing model taking into account new traffic levels, trade diversification, especially cruise ships and association management demands.”

Boyce/Fisher/Unanimous

Rate Making Methodology:

This discussion begins on page 141 of the transcript.

The Committee discussed the impact of voluntary pilotage within the current rate making methodology.

Committee recommendation: None.

Financial Information and Rate Setting:

This discussion begins on page 157 of the transcript.

The Committee discussed the financial information (data) utilized by the Coast Guard in rate setting.

Committee recommendation #3: “Recommendation that in April of each year, in advance of each Great Lakes Pilotage rate setting process, the USCG should convene and facilitate a meeting of pilotage rate stakeholders, with the purpose of reaching agreement on components and inputs of the rate setting mechanism and as appropriate, submit joint comments to the rate setting docket.”

Fisher/Boyce/Unanimous

Pilot Work Force Levels

This discussion begins on page 205 of the transcript.

Each Pilot Association shared information on their current pilot workforce levels.

Committee recommendation: None.

Transparency Improvements

This discussion begins on page 209 of the transcript.

The Committee discussed issues concerning transparency in Coast Guard rulemaking and decisions.

Committee recommendation: None.

Training Expenditures:

This discussion begins on page 209 of the transcript.

The Committee discussed pilot training requirements, expenditures and pilot applications.

Committee recommendation: None.

Stakeholder Engagement:

This discussion begins on page 235 of the transcript.

The Committee discussed stakeholder outreach and expectations.

Committee recommendation: None.

Pilot Association Projects and Updates:

This discussion begins on page 244 of the transcript.

The Committee discussed each Pilot Associations current projects and related issues.

Committee recommendation: None.

GAO Study:

This discussion begins on page 255 of the transcript.

The Committee discussed the recent stem to stern GAO review of the Great Lakes Pilotage Office and the related issue of designated waters.

Committee recommendation #4: Recommendation to the Coast Guard to review the designation of the Great Lakes including but not limited to the Straits of Mackinac.
Olney/Fisher/Unanimous.

Pilotage Associated Risk Study:

This discussion begins on page 277 of the transcript.

The Committee discussed possible pilotage associated risk elements that should be considered by the Coast Guard.

Committee recommendation: None.

Cost Control and Efficiency:

This discussion begins on page 282 of the transcript.

The Committee discussed cost and control elements as possible topics within a risk study.

Committee recommendation: None.

Canadian Pilot Reform Legislation:

This discussion begins on page 284 of the transcript.

Fulvio Fracassi, CEO of the Laurentian Pilotage Authority provided a brief overview of recent changes to the Canadian Pilotage Act.

Committee recommendation: None.

Public Comments:

This discussion begins on page 296 of the transcript.

Bill Yockey of the International Longshoremen Association presented information and submitted a document to the docket in reference to recent litigation in which his organization was involved.

Committee recommendation: None.

Captain Gallagher and Mr. Rajiv Khandpur both offered closing remarks. This begins on page 301 of the transcript.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm. This can be found on page 304 of the transcript.

The Committee unanimously elected Captain Dan Gallagher as Chairman and Captain John Boyce as Vice Chairman during the administrative session following the meeting. Additionally, the committee asked the Coast Guard to hold the annual meeting during a pre-determined time each year. The committee believes April 20-30 represents the optimal timeframe for the 2020 annual meeting.