

House Transportation Committee
Consideration of Governor's Appointee
Richard Harris to Alaska Board of Marine Pilots
February 18, 2020

My name is Richard (Rick) Harris. I am one of the Governor's appointees to the Alaska Board of Marine Pilots. I am here today for my confirmation hearing before this committee. I am an Alaska resident living in Alaska for the past 42 years and in Juneau for the past 40 years. My permanent residence is 8351 River Place, Juneau, Alaska.

I have previously served one term on the Board of Marine Pilots and during the transition between Governor Walker and Governor Dunleavy I served as the Chair of the committee until a new Chair was appointed by the Governor.

My background is that I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries from the University of Washington. I came to Alaska in 1978 as a program manager for the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association. In 1980 I was hired by Sealaska Corporation as its Environmental Coordination Manager. I retired from Sealaska in 2014 as its Executive Vice President. During my tenure with Sealaska I was also the acting CEO of Sealaska Timber Corporation where I had extensive involvement with log ship charter and marine transportation. I am currently a consultant providing advice to my former employers on issues relating to land and resource management, Federal legislation and appropriations and promotion of Sealaska Heritage Institute Northwest Coast Arts Initiative.

In 2017 several associates asked if I would consider adding my name to possible candidates to the Board of Marine Pilots. I was appointed to the Board on December 17, 2017.

I submitted my name for consideration because of:

- A desire to do public service and to use my experience in that endeavor.
- My entire career has been associated with marine water, marine transportation, and supporting environmental safeguards to maintain safe and productive waters.
- All of my immediate family has had either summer or permanent jobs working in the cruise ship industry.

The reasons for accepting my original appoint to the board remain the same with one addition. I have gained substantial experience as a board member, enjoy working with other board members and all of the people in the industry who are affected by Board of Marine Pilots actions and decisions.

I thank you for consideration to confirm me for a second term on the Board of Marine Pilots.

Role of the Board of Marine Pilots

The Board of Marine Pilots (BoMP) is responsible for licensing of marine pilots, who are the experts responsible for on-board directing the safe navigation of ships through Alaska's waters. The board is authorized by AS 08.62 Marine Pilots. The Board consists of six members appointed by the Governor, two licensed pilots, two registered vessel agents, two public members and seventh member is the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development or the Commissioner's designee.

The Board is supported by Department of commerce Marine Pilots Coordinator Renee Hoffard. The costs of the board and for the board to conduct the Boards business is paid for by the fees charged for marine pilot and agent license renewals and the foreign vessel pilotage exemption fees.

There are three pilot associations recognized by the Board of Marine Pilots. They are: Alaska Marine Pilots, LLC Anchorage, Southeast Alaska Pilots' Association Ketchikan and Southwest Alaska Pilots Association Homer. Applicants for pilot licenses, pilot training programs, and licensure as a marine pilot or deputy marine pilot, must be a member of an Alaska pilot association.

The BoMP responsibilities are rigorous but are focused the following:

- Efficient and competent pilotage services.
- Establishing qualifications and required training for marine pilots.
- Issuance pilot licenses for pilots meeting criteria.
- Maintain register of approved pilot associations licensed pilots, deputy pilots and agents.
- Review and approve articles, bylaws and rules of pilot associations.
- Approve or disprove rates for pilotage services.
- The board may (by regulation or other lawful means) ensure proper and safe pilotage, such as licensing criteria by region, mandatory drug and alcohol testing, and other actions to ensure safe navigation of vessels through Alaska waters.