



ALASKA MARINE PILOTS LLC

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Pilotage of international trade vessels in the United States is regulated by the individual states, each of which maintains a pilotage system that is suited to the particular needs and circumstances of its own waters. In 1789, the first Congress of the United States enacted a law giving the states the right to regulate pilotage in their waters. That created the state pilotage system, which remains in effect today. Every foreign-flag vessel and every United States-flag vessel engaged in international trade moving in the waters of a state is required by the state to take a pilot licensed by the state.

Vessels subject to pilotage in Alaska navigating the inland or coastal water of, or adjacent to, the state as determined by the board in regulation shall employ a pilot. These vessels include vessels propelled by machinery and more than 65 feet in length over deck, and vessels of United States registry of more than 300 gross tons, and except towboats of United States registry.

Alaska Marine Pilots, LLC. (AMP) are licensed in Region III of Alaska which encompasses all state pilotage waters to the west of Kodiak Island to the end of the Aleutian Islands, all of the Bering Sea and north to the Canadian border. AMP's sole responsibility is the safe and efficient flow of commerce on Alaska's north and western waterways, always ensuring the protection of the Alaskan marine environment. Navigation of a ship in Alaskan pilotage waters is a shared responsibility between the pilot and the master/bridge crew. The compulsory state pilot directs the navigation of the ship, subject to the master's overall command of the ship and the ultimate responsibility for its safety. International law requires the master and/or the officer in charge of the watch to "cooperate closely with the pilot and maintain an accurate check on the ship's position and movement."

Alaskan state-licensed pilots are expected to act in the public interest and to maintain a professional judgment that is independent of any desires that do not comport with the needs of maritime safety. As stated in Alaska Statute: "a pilot licensed under this chapter has a primary duty to safely navigate vessels under the pilot's direction and control, and to protect life and property and the marine environment while engaged in the provision of pilot services. A person licensed under this chapter shall report to the appropriate authority all violations of a federal or state pilotage law." In addition, licensing and regulatory authorities, state and federal, require compulsory pilots to take all reasonable actions to prevent ships under their navigational control from engaging in unsafe operations.