



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



**Minutes of March 13, 2008 Connecticut Pilot Commission
Public Meeting
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington CT**

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:07a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael Eisele, Captain Rick Barry, Captain Charles Beck, Captain Vince Cashin, and John Love were present. Also attending were LCDR Kevin Oditt, USCG; LT Kristen M. Schroeder, USCG; LT Matt Wingate, NOAA; Alan T. Stevens; Dave Rossiter; Captain Keith Kelsey; and Joe Salvatore.

The minutes of the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots for the month of February were distributed.

On the motion of Captain Cashin, seconded by Mr. Love, the minutes of the Commission's February 14, 2008 public meeting were approved as drafted by a unanimous vote.

LT Schroeder made a presentation to the Commission regarding proposed rule-making to establish regulated anchorage grounds and lightering zones in Long Island Sound, including advance notice and general requirements. The Commission provided feedback to the Coast Guard regarding locations for the 6 proposed zones, the segregation of anchorages and lightering zones, and related issues.

The Commission discussed four issues relating to pilotage rates: (1) the provision of a fee for shifts from anchorage or lightering areas to the sea buoy; (2) a mechanism for funding training and certification; (3) unbundling pilot boat fees from the pilotage fees; and (4) development of a fuel index surcharge. These issues will be continued on the agenda.

Mr. Eisele reported that he had provided to each of the legislator-appointed Commissioners a revised draft letter in support of the Commission's recommendation that the pilotage fee regulations provide for a training and certification fund in lieu of the current 6% fee which is allocated to the general fund. Each Commissioner will revise the letter as they deem appropriate for their respective appointing authorities.

Captain Beck advised the Commission that CDOT continues to consider the Commission's recommendation that a heavy weather pilot station be established in Block Island Sound. This issue will be continued on the agenda.

Captain Beck reported that CDOT is continuing settlement discussions with four pilots regarding alleged boarding/disembarkation violations. Two Connecticut-licensed pilots have consensually resolved similar violations; two additional pilots have indicated a desire to have all charges resolved through the administrative hearing process. No hearings have been scheduled.

The Commission continued its development of the draft criteria for apprentice pilot selection and training developed by Captain Cashin and Captain Barry. This issue will be carried to the April agenda.

LT Wingate briefed the Commission on a NOAA proposal to revise raster charts to eliminate certain information, including land contours, roads and railways, state plane, and tidal information. NOAA is also considering converting soundings and air drafts to metric units and adopting INT 1 symbology and a uniform chart size. The Commission provided input to LT Wingate with respect to these issues. Captain Beck will prepare a form to solicit additional input from Connecticut pilots and provide this information to NOAA.

The Commission reviewed SB 302 "An Act Concerning Harbor Improvement Projects," which facilitates funding of various dredging projects. On the motion of Captain Beck, seconded by Captain Cashin, the Commission voted unanimously to express its support for the bill. Mr. Eisele will draft a letter on behalf of the Commission.

Mr. Rossiter commented on current trip and recency requirements as found in the Connecticut statutes. The Commission will review these statutes in connection with its development of new licensing criteria.

LCDR Oditt discussed the make-up and work of the Area Maritime Security Committee as well as the formulation of a Harbor Safety Committee, which will include CDOT and pilot representatives. Lcdr Oditt advised the Commission that the New London TWIC enrollment center is expected to stand-up shortly, to be followed by New Haven, in anticipation of a September, 2008 implementation date for TWIC requirements. In addition, the Coast Guard is working with the New York Board to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate marine accident investigations. The Commission expressed a willingness to also work with the Coast Guard toward a similar MOU, recognizing the limited resources available to the Commission to conduct investigations.

The Commission did not meet in Executive Session.

The public meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at the Bridgeport Port Authority, 330 Water Street, Bridgeport CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission