



Marine Pilot

Education and Training

Marine Pilots must show evidence of many years of professional maritime experience. In order to apply for a license to serve as a Marine Pilot, candidates must have served as a master of a ship for a period of not less than 735 days or have served as a watch-keeping deck officer on a ship for a period no less than 490 days. In addition, Marine Pilots must also hold a valid Radar Observer's Certificate and a Restricted Radiotelephone Operators Certificate.

Nature of Work

Pilots guide ships in and out of harbors, through straits, and on rivers and other confined waterways where a familiarity with local water depths, winds, tides, currents, and hazards such as reefs and shoals are of prime importance. Pilots on river and canal vessels are usually regular crew members, like mates. Harbor pilots are generally independent contractors, who accompany vessels while they enter or leave port. They often pilot many ships in a single day.

Main Duties

- Assists the Master of a vessel during the ship's passage to and from a berth in a given pilotage area, by providing local knowledge of navigational and operational matters combined with specialist ship-handling experience
- Advises the Master, who remains responsible for the conduct of the ship. The pilot is entirely familiar with the special regulatory requirements and unique conditions that exist in his specific pilotage area, and with which the Master of the vessel cannot be expected to be fully conversant.
- Familiar with the local factors that might affect the navigation of the ship. These include strong tidal flows, recent shoaling, ferry activity, dredging operations and other hazards. The maritime pilot also provides an essential communications link with the port authorities, maritime traffic services (VTS), tugboats, boatmen and other ships.

Typical Employer

Private companies providing pilotage services to port authorities (e.g. BC Coast Pilots Ltd)

Additional Information

Pacific Pilotage Authority
www.ppa.gc.ca
 British Columbia Coast Pilots
www.bccoastpilots.com

Earnings

Low: \$100,000
 Average: \$125,000
 High: \$150,000

Essential Characteristics

- Effective communication skills
- Work well under pressure
- Attention to detail

