WHAT IS MARINE PILOTAGE?

Marine pilots use their knowledge and expertise of local waters to safely guide vessels to their destination.

Once a vessel enters a compulsory pilotage area, a Canadian licenced pilot or a Canadian holder of a pilotage certificate must be on board to guide her transit through the area.

PILOTAGE AUTHORITIES IN CANADA

The Pilotage Act was enacted in 1972. It created four Pilotage Authorities, which are Crown corporations:

- Atlantic Pilotage Authority
- Laurentian Pilotage Authority
- Great Lakes Pilotage Authority
- Pacific Pilotage Authority

The mandate of Pilotage Authorities is to establish, operate, maintain and administer safe and efficient pilotage services within their respective regions.

Through the Pilotage Act, Pilotage Authorities are responsible for regulating:

- compulsory pilotage areas and the types and classes of vessels that are subject to compulsory pilotage
- qualification, experience and training requirements for licenced marine pilots and pilotage certificate holders
- service fees

WHY THE NEED TO REVIEW THE PILOTAGE ACT?

The Pilotage Act Review is another way the Government of Canada is working to protect our coasts and waterways.

In May 2017, Transport Canada launched an independent review of the Pilotage Act. The review:

- examined options to modernize pilotage in Canada, while preserving its high safety record
- focused on topics such as tariffs, service delivery, governance, new technologies and dispute resolution processes
- included extensive consultations with the shipping industry, Indigenous peoples and the provinces and territories

The final report includes 38 recommendations and was made public on May 22, 2018.

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback on the findings of the report, please contact us at: TC.pilotageactreview-examendelaloisurlepilotage.TC@tc.gc.ca


The Pilotage Act Review Initiative is another action that the Government of Canada is taking to protect the country’s coasts and waterways. The Government is investing $1.5 billion in the Oceans Protection Plan, a national strategy to create a world-leading marine safety system that provides economic opportunities for Canadians today, while protecting coastlines for future generations.