



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS**  
 2901 Third Avenue, Suite 500 | Seattle, Washington 98121 | (206) 515-3904

[www.pilotage.wa.gov](http://www.pilotage.wa.gov)  
[HamelJ@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:HamelJ@wsdot.wa.gov) or [BeverJ@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:BeverJ@wsdot.wa.gov)

## PETITION FOR VESSEL EXEMPTION FROM PILOTAGE REQUIREMENTS

**Petition Instructions:**

1. Please submit completed petitions to the Board of Pilotage Commissioners **at least thirty (30) days prior to arrival** in Washington waters. The Board will consider petitions received at least forty-eight hours prior to arrival in Washington waters on an interim basis. See [WAC 363-116-360 Exempt Vessels](#) for more information.
2. Your application should include the following:
  - Certificate of Vessel Registry
  - Certificate of Financial Responsibility
  - Vessel's Insurance Coverage
  - Valid License of Vessel Operator
  - Signed Vessel Certification (Page 5 of application)
  - Photo of Vessel
  - Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) Certification (If applicable)
3. Petitions will be considered at the scheduled monthly meetings of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners. The monthly meeting schedule can be found on our website at [Board of Pilotage Commissioners Minutes/Agendas](#).

**Date of Application:**

New

Renewal

**Length of time sought for exemption when vessel will be operating in Washington State waters:**

3 months beginning \_\_\_\_\_

1 year beginning \_\_\_\_\_

**Vessel Information:**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Country of Registry:</b>	
<b>Type and Use:</b>	Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing Yacht <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Yacht <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Vessel Use: <input type="checkbox"/> Pleasure <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<b>LOA:</b>	

<b>International Gross Tonnage:</b>	
<b>Gross Registered Tonnage:</b>	
<b>Fuel Type Onboard:</b>	
<b>Fuel Quantity Onboard: (maximum)</b>	

**Vessel Operator:**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Experience in Local Waters:</b>	

**Owner of Vessel or Vessel Management Company:**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

**Purpose of visit and intended areas of operation including dates and waters you intend to sail:**


**Vessel Crew List:** (Feel free to attach a separate list but must include the information requested below)

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>		<b>Position:</b>	

<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Name:</b>		<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>		<b>Position:</b>	
<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>		<b>Position:</b>	
<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>		<b>Position:</b>	
<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Speaks English:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

**Navigational aids on board:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magnetic compass                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Positioning System (GPS)                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gyroscopic compass                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Chart System (ECS)                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite compass                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radar,                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Automated Identification System (AIS)                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> w/Automatic Radar Plotting Aid (ARPA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Depth sounder   |

<b>Other:</b>	
<b>Brief description of communications equipment: (list accessible VHF channels)</b>	
<b>List any propulsion, navigation or communication equipment not currently operational:</b>	

Required attachments:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Vessel Registry                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Financial Responsibility                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vessel's Insurance Coverage                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Valid License of Vessel Operator                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signed Vessel Certification (page 5 of this application) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photo of Vessel  | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) Certification<br>(If applicable) |

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME AND PHONE NUMBER IF SIGNATURE IS OTHER THAN CAPTAIN NAMED

**Please make payments to: Washington State Treasurer**

**Mail to: Board of Pilotage Commissioners, 2901 Third Avenue, Suite 500; Seattle, WA 98121**

***At this time, we are unable to accept cash, credit cards, or any form of electronic payment.***

# CERTIFICATION

Vessel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

By my signature below I certify that I am authorized to make this application on behalf of the vessel named; that the person(s) listed as captain(s) in item three of the Petition for Exemption meets/meet all the qualifications set by the flag state (country of vessel registry) to act as captain/master of the vessel in Washington waters; and that no other person(s) will act as captain/master of the vessel during the period of the exemption. I further certify that I understand and will ensure that any person acting as captain/master of the vessel understands the following:

1. Navigation in Washington waters in the Puget Sound area can involve many hazards such as high traffic areas including large commercial vessels, multiple recreational vessels, etc.; use of Vessel Traffic Service routes; unique radio communication requirements and channels; relatively extreme tides and currents; etc.
2. If an exemption is granted, prior to navigating in Washington pilotage waters, appropriate navigational equipment and supporting documents including – but not limited to - the following items will be available on board the vessel and the master will be familiar with them:
  - a. The Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service Users Manual.  
Available on-line at <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/psvts/docs/userman032503.pdf>
  - b. Information on local VHF radio communications.  
see, e.g., [http://www.byc.org/weather\\_radio/vhfchannels.html](http://www.byc.org/weather_radio/vhfchannels.html)
  - c. Those portions of the United States Coast Pilot – 7: Pacific Coast that cover any area in which the vessel will be navigated.  
Available on-line at <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpdownload.html>
  - d. Local tide and current information.  
Such as that available on-line at <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/index.shtml>
  - e. Puget Sound Harbor Safety Plan.  
Available on-line at: [http://www.pshsc.org/about/harbor\\_safety\\_plan](http://www.pshsc.org/about/harbor_safety_plan)
  - f. Paper or electronic charts of all areas to be navigated, updated and of appropriate scale.
3. As provided in RCW 88.16.070, if an exemption is granted, it shall not be detrimental to the public interest in regard to safe operation preventing loss of human lives, loss of property and protecting the marine environment. The Board may, at any time, review the exemption and revoke it should it find the vessel is not in compliance with the requirements for exemption (including operation of the vessel in a manner that is not considered safe).
4. The regulations of [RCW 77.15.740](#) Protection of southern resident orca whales – Unlawful activities –Penalty, including new 2019 legislation that in the U.S a vessel will stay 300 yards from either side of orcas, stay 400 yards behind orcas, stay 400 yards out of orcas' paths, and keep vessel speed at under 7 knots within ½ mile of orcas, as further described and depicted at <https://www.bewhalewise.org/federal-regulations/>.

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Signature of Vessel Master or Representative

Date

**WAC 363-116-360: Exempt Vessels.**

(1) Under the authority of RCW [88.16.070](#), application may be made to the board of pilotage commissioners to seek exemption from the pilotage requirements for the operation of a limited class of small passenger vessels, which are not more than one thousand three hundred gross tons (international), do not exceed two hundred feet in length, is manned by United States-licensed deck and engine officers appropriate to the size of the vessel with merchant mariner credentials issued by the United States coast guard or Canadian deck and engine officers with Canadian-issued certificates of competency appropriate to the size of the vessel, and are operated exclusively in the waters of the Puget Sound pilotage district and lower British Columbia, or yachts, which are not more than one thousand three hundred gross tons (international), and do not exceed two hundred feet in length. For purposes of this section, any vessel carrying passengers for a fee, including yachts under charter where both the vessel and crew are provided for a fee, shall be considered a passenger vessel.

The owners or operators of the vessel for which exemption is sought must:

(a) Complete and file with the board a petition requesting an exemption at least forty-eight hours prior to planned vessel operations where possible. Petitions filed with less than forty-eight hours notice may be considered by the chair at the chair's discretion on a board-approved form. The form shall include a description of the vessel, the contemplated use of vessel, the proposed area of operation, the names and addresses of the vessel's owner and operator, the areas and dates of planned operations, and such other information as the board shall require.

(b) Pay the appropriate initial application or renewal fee with the submittal of the petition, which is listed in subsection (5) of this section.

(2) All petitions for exemption filed with the board shall be considered at its next regularly or specially scheduled meeting. Consistent with the public interest, the chair may grant an interim exemption to a petitioner subject to final approval at the next board meeting, where special time or other conditions exist.

(3) Any grant of an exemption, including interim exemptions, may contain such conditions as the board, or in the case of an interim exemption, the chair, deems necessary to protect the public interest in order to prevent the loss of human life and property and to protect the marine environment of the state of Washington.

Such conditions may include: a requirement that the vessel employ the services of a pilot on its initial voyage into state pilotage waters; and/or that the master of the vessel at all times hold as a minimum, a United States government license as a master of ocean or near coastal steam or motor vessels of not more than sixteen hundred gross tons or as a master of inland steam or motor vessels of not more than five hundred gross tons, such license to include a current radar endorsement; and/or that the vessel possess specific navigational charts, publications and navigational equipment necessary to ensure safe operation.

(4) The board shall annually, or at any other time when in the public interest, review any exemptions granted to the specified class of small vessels to ensure that each exempted vessel remains in compliance with the original exemption and any conditions to the exemption. The board shall have the authority to revoke such exemption when there is not continued compliance with the requirements for exemption.

(5) Fee Schedule for Petitioners for Exemption

	<b>3 Months or Less</b>	<b>1 Year or Less</b>	<b>Annual Renewal</b>
<b>A. YACHTS</b>			
<b>Up to and including 50 feet LOA</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>
<b>Up to and including 100 feet LOA</b>	<b>\$ 700</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>\$ 600</b>
<b>Up to and including 200 feet LOA and 750 gt</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,400</b>	<b>\$ 800</b>
<b>Up to and including 200 feet LOA and 751 to 1,300 gt</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>
<b>B. PASSENGER VESSELS</b>			
<b>Up to and including 100 feet LOA</b>	<b>\$ 1,125</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>
<b>Up to and including 200 feet LOA</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,200</b>

(6) Petitions for annual renewals must be submitted within one year of the expiration of the previous exemption.