

## ITEM 15 – February 2026 Board of Pilot Commissioners Meeting

### Harbors and Navigation Code section 1198

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (c), the rates and charges for pilotage services shall not include the cost of primary marine insurance insuring a pilot, an organization of pilots, or their officers or employees, **or a pilot trainee**, from liability arising from negligence or errors in judgment in connection with the provision of pilotage service by pilots, organizations of pilots, or their officers or employees, **or pilot trainees**.

(b) A pilot who holds a state license for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun shall arrange to have available, upon advance written notice, trip insurance, with coverage limits of thirty-six million dollars (\$36,000,000), naming as insureds the pilot, any organization of pilots to which the pilot belongs, and their officers and employees, and insuring the named insureds against any civil claim, demand, suit, or action by whomsoever asserted, arising out of, or relating to, directly or indirectly, acts or omissions of the insureds in connection with the provision of pilotage service, except willful misconduct.

(c) Every vessel, owner, operator, or demise or bareboat charterer hiring a pilot with a state license for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun shall either defend, indemnify, and hold harmless pilots **and pilot trainees** pursuant to paragraph (1), or alternatively, notify pilots of an intent to pay for trip insurance pursuant to paragraph (2). If a vessel or its owner, operator, or demise or bareboat charterer does not provide written notice pursuant to paragraph (2) of an intent to exercise the trip insurance option, then the vessel and its owner, operator, and demise or bareboat charterer will be deemed to have elected the obligation to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless pilots **and pilot trainees** pursuant to paragraph (1).

(1) (A) Except for a vessel electing trip insurance pursuant to paragraph (2), a vessel subject to this subdivision, and its owner, operator, demise or bareboat charterer, and agent shall not assert any claim, demand, suit, or action against the pilot, any organization of pilots to which the pilot belongs, and their officers and employees, **or any pilot trainee**, for damages, including any rights over, arising out of, or connected with, directly or indirectly, any damage, loss, or expense sustained by the vessel, its owners, agents, demise or bareboat charterers, operators, or crew, or by any third parties, even if the damage results, in whole, or in part, from any act, omission, or negligence of the pilot, any organization of pilots to which the pilot belongs, and their officers and employees, **or any pilot trainee**.

(B) A vessel subject to this paragraph and its owner, operator, and demise or bareboat charterer shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the pilot, any organization of pilots to which the pilot belongs, and their officers and employees, **and any pilot trainee**, with respect to liability arising from any claim, suit, or action, by whomsoever asserted, resulting in whole, or in part, from any act, omission, or negligence of the pilot, any organization of pilots to which the pilot belongs, and their officers and employees, **and any pilot trainee**. The obligation to indemnify under this paragraph shall not apply to the extent that it causes the amount recoverable from a vessel, its

owner, operator, or demise or bareboat charterer to exceed the limits of liability to which it is entitled under any bill of lading, charter party, contract of affreightment, or provision of law.

(C) The prohibition on claims by vessels, owners, operators, demise or bareboat charterers, and agents imposed by subparagraph (A) and the obligation to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the pilot **and pilot trainee** imposed by subparagraph (B) shall not apply in cases of willful misconduct by a pilot, any organization of pilots to which the pilot belongs, and their officers and employees, **or any pilot trainee**.

(D) A pilot **and/or pilot trainee** who is the prevailing party shall be awarded attorney's fees and costs incurred in any action to enforce a right to indemnification provided pursuant to this subdivision.

(2) In lieu of paragraph (1), a vessel subject to this subdivision and its owner, operator, demise or bareboat charterer, and agent may elect to notify the pilot, or the organization of pilots to which the pilot belongs, of intent to pay for trip insurance, as described in subdivision (b). If notice of this election is received, in writing, by the pilot, or the organization of pilots to which the pilot belongs, at least 24 hours prior to the time pilotage services are requested, the vessel, and its owner, operator, demise or bareboat charterer, and agent are not subject to the requirements of paragraph (1). The pilot shall take all steps necessary to have trip insurance coverage in place during the vessel movement for which it is requested. The pilot shall assess to the vessel the premium for the trip insurance at the pilot's cost, in addition to any other applicable rates and charges for the pilotage services provided.

(d) Nothing in this section is intended to limit, alter, or diminish the liability of a vessel, owner, operator, or demise or bareboat charterer to any person who sustains loss or damage.

**(e) The provisions of this section apply to all vessel transits to, from, or within the Pilotage Grounds, where the vessel, or its owner, operator, demise, or bareboat charterer, hires a pilot or pilots with a license for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo and Suisun, including any portion of such transits that occur within the waters of the Ports of Sacramento and Stockton.**

### **Section 1110**

(a) "Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun" means all the waters of those bays and of the tributaries, ports, and harbors of those bays, and includes the water areas from the south end of San Francisco Bay and from, **and including**, the Ports of Sacramento and Stockton to the Golden Gate Bridge. "Bay of San Francisco, San Pablo, or Suisun" means any of those waters, respectively.

(b) "Monterey Bay" means all the waters of that bay and of the tributaries, ports, and harbors of that bay.

**Section 1125 – NO CHANGE**

(a) Pilots licensed by the board have exclusive authority, to the extent not provided otherwise by federal law, to pilot vessels from the high seas to Monterey Bay and the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun and the ports thereof, and from those bays and ports to the high seas. They shall also have exclusive authority to pilot vessels within and along the waters of those bays, except as otherwise set forth in this division.

(b) Nothing in this division shall interfere with pilotage regulations of Monterey Bay and of the Ports of Sacramento and Stockton, nor prevent the regulatory authority of those ports from utilizing the pilots licensed pursuant to this division.