

# Maine Pilotage Commission



April 29, 2022

## Minutes of Meeting

In compliance with MRSA 38 § 85 and in fulfillment of the Maine Pilotage Commission's duties addressed in MRSA 38 § 90, a meeting of the Maine Pilotage Commission was held on April 29, 2022.

This meeting was held to discuss and vote on a single agenda item regarding fuel surcharges for pilot boat operations. The meeting was held in a virtual format in compliance with Maine Pilotage Commission Policy Letter 1-21.

### **Administration:**

Maine Pilotage Commission Members constituting a quorum were:

Charles Weeks	– Chair of the Commission
David Gelinas	– Pilot Member
Gerald Morrison	– Pilot Member
Adam Philbrook	– Pilot Member
Carrie Norton	– Public Member
Brian Downey	– Pilotage Commission Administrator

Maine Pilotage Commission Interested Parties present were:

Mike Ames	– Independent
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### **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order (Charles Weeks)**

Charles Weeks opened the meeting at 1032 and acknowledged a quorum.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Review/Vote – Pilot boat fuel surcharges (Charles Weeks)**

Mr. Downey summarized previous discussions regarding pilot boat fuel surcharges from the March 18, 2022 Pilotage Commission, as well as a follow-up workgroup meeting on April 19, 2022. He further, reviewed a draft fuel surcharge document which was shared with the Commission in advance for review and comment before the meeting.

Various domestic and international events have caused a significant spike in marine diesel fuel prices between 2021 and April 2022. Due to the significant and unpredicted increase in diesel

fuel, the Maine Pilotage Commission explored a fuel surcharge to be charged to pilotage customers to recover the unanticipated added fuel costs to operate the region's pilot boats.

A fuel surcharge is within industry standards and expectations and is intended to ease the financial burden of unanticipated fuel cost increases. Fuel cost recovery is meant to best assure continued long-term health of the pilotage system.

The fuel surcharge was presented as follows:

Location	Approximate Average Gallons of Fuel	Recovery Surcharge per pilot boat transit (each way)
Port of Eastport	52	\$38
Frenchman Bay	52	\$38
Penobscot Bay	70	\$80
Boothbay Harbor	70	\$80

Carrie Norton moved to accept and implement the fuel surcharge document as drafted. Jerry Morrison seconded the motion. The agenda item was then:

DISCUSSED with a focus on additional research by the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots who reviewed additional fuel receipts to 2018 and concluded that the recent fuel cost spike was underestimated in their submission to the Administrator which contributed to the table above. Regardless, the group does not wish to change the fuel surcharge document.

Captain Weeks called for a vote of the quorum which passed with three in favor and one abstention (David Gelinas). It was thus:

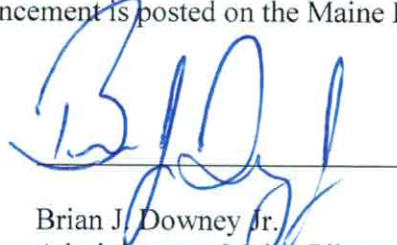
APPROVED to apply a temporary fuel surcharge for pilot boat operations.

### Agenda Item 3 –Adjourn (Charles Weeks)

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair of the Commission, Charles Weeks at 1050.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held June 16, at 1030 at Maine DOT Headquarters in Augusta. The next meeting announcement is posted on the Maine Pilotage Commission website - [www.maine-pilotage.org](http://www.maine-pilotage.org).

Respectfully submitted:



Brian J. Downey Jr.  
Administrator, Maine Pilotage Commission