

Rhode Island State Pilot Board

The Rhode Island State Pilot Board (Board) consists of three senior pilots who volunteer their time to oversee the selection and training of pilot apprentices. The Board consists of a chair appointed by the Commission and two members who are also selected by the Pilot Commission. The Board is required to make quarterly reports to the Pilot Commission on the status of apprentice pilots. Once an apprentice has successfully completed their training, the Board recommends to the Commission that apprentice for examination by the Commission. The Board is also required to make an annual report on the status of the roster of pilots and the future requirements with their recommendations as to the needs of additional pilots to the Pilot Commission. The Board also advises the Commission of the ongoing training of the State Pilots.



Captain Clinton Walker, Chair (Appointed February 2013)

Captain Walker is a 1986 graduate of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. He has 16 years deep sea experience on all types of vessels but primarily on chemical and product tankers in international and coastwise trade. Captain Walker started piloting with Northeast Marine Pilots, Inc. in 2002. Captain Walker holds a USCG Ocean Master license and Full Branch State Pilot Pilot's licenses in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York



Captain Vincent Kirby (Appointed February 2009)

Captain Kirby is a deep sea Master Mariner with eight years piloting experience. A graduate of US Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY, Captain Kirby has 13 years of deep sea experience on a wide range of internationally-trading ships, primarily LNG carriers in the Far East natural gas trade, and containerships trading between the US and Northern European and Mediterranean ports. Captain Kirby transitioned from his deep sea career in 2003, when he began piloting with the Northeast Marine Pilots. Captain Kirby holds federal and state pilotage in the states of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York.



Captain Richard C. Astles, (Appointed September 2014)

Captain Astles is a deep sea Master Mariner with ten years piloting experience. He worked as captain aboard oil tankers in U.S. Trade, East and West coast, and Alaska. Additionally, Captain Astles worked aboard auto carriers on the Northern European run. Captain Astles is a graduate of Massachusetts Maritime Academy. He holds state and federal pilotage for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. Captain Astles has been a volunteer firefighter and EMT in his hometown of Ivoryton, Connecticut for over 20 years. Captain Astles has been sailing in the capacity as mate, master and pilot for over 25 years.
