



NOTICE TO INDUSTRY NO. 3-2021

CONDUCT OF THE SHIP AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MASTER AND THE PILOT

The purpose of this notice is to remind masters and pilots of their responsibilities concerning the conduct of a ship in compulsory pilotage waters in the Great Lakes region under the responsibility of the *Great Lakes Pilotage Authority* (GLPA).

Paragraph 38.01 (1) of the *Pilotage Act* states:

No individual shall have the conduct of a ship within a compulsory pilotage area unless they are a licensed pilot for that compulsory pilotage area or a regular member of the ship's complement who is a pilotage certificate holder for that compulsory pilotage area.

It is understood that the navigation of the ship, including all directions to speed, course, and steering commands, are entrusted to the pilot and it is the master, officers, and crew's responsibility to assist the pilot in this duty. This does not prevent the master or officer of a vessel from manipulating the vessel's controls, provided this is done under the active guidance of the pilot and following his/her instructions.

However, if the master believes on reasonable grounds that the actions of a pilot are, in any way endangering the safety of the ship, the master may, in the interest of the safety of the ship, take the conduct of the ship from the pilot or relieve the pilot from this duty¹. In that situation, the master who takes the conduct of the ship, must within three days, file a written report with the Minister that sets out the master's reasons for doing so².

We also want to take this opportunity to remind you that the safety of the ship cannot be ensured by the pilot or the master acting alone. Therefore, it is essential that there be an effective relationship between the pilot, the master, and the crew in the form of a good bridge resource management. A pilot who has the conduct of a ship is responsible to the master for the safe navigation of the ship³, but everyone on the bridge shall work together to keep the ship safe for the duration of the voyage. The exchange of information is not just something that takes place during the Master-Pilot exchange at the beginning of a passage. It is a process that must start when the pilot gets on board and must continue all along the transit with all individuals on the bridge involved in the navigation of the ship.

If there are any questions with the contents of this Notice, please contact Captain Christian Ouellet, Chief Operating Officer at the GLPA at [\(613\) 933-2991 Ext. 209](tel:6139332991) or at couellet@glpa-apgl.com.

November 26, 2021
Cornwall, Ontario


Capt. Christian Ouellet
Chief Operating Officer

¹ Pilotage Act 38.02 (1)

² Pilotage Act 38.02 (2)

³ Pilotage Act 38.01 (3)