

PACIFIC PILOTAGE AUTHORITY

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NOTICE TO INDUSTRY

Date Issued: 20 January 2023

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Subject: Environmental Limits for Pilot Transfers at Triple Island Pilot Station

Geographic Area: Dixon Entrance / Chatham Sound

Details:

The Authority is implementing environmental limits for pilot transfers at Triple Island pilot station. PPA will cease pilot transfer operations when these limits are exceeded. These limits mainly apply to vessels inbound to the pilot station, but may apply to outbound vessels as well, and are intended for safety reasons:

- Reduce the maneuvering risk to the inbound vessel by having to create a lee in the confined waters near Triple Island.
- Reduce the risk to the pilot during the pilot transfer, especially if a sufficient lee cannot be created.
- Reduce the risk to the pilot launch crew on deck, and damage to the pilot launch.
- Reduce the risk of vessels not being able to conduct safe anchoring / berthing.

During inclement weather conditions, pilots should be able to disembark from outbound vessels provided a proper lee can be created. Moreover, outbound vessels can perform a pilot transfer earlier and then be led out by the pilot launch. In case this is not possible, the pilot station will be closed for outbound vessels as well in which case dispatch will inform the agent.

The pilot station will be closed when the sustained wind velocity reaches 45 knots or higher with a forecasted wind velocity increase, and very rough seas.

The Authority and the port of Prince Rupert have partnered and installed a weather station at buoy D60 near Triple Island and are further exploring options for another weather station at Triple Island. In case the environmental limits are reached, the launch crew will inform dispatch, who in turn will inform the agent and pilot. The Authority does not foresee the pilot station being closed for extended periods of time as an analysis of the 2021 wind conditions indicated that the wind subsided within a 6- to 8-hour window. Potential reopening times of the pilot station will be communicated through PPA dispatch.

A pilot station status indicator for the PPA website is in development and will be shared with industry when operational.

If there are any queries on the contents of this notice, please contact the PPA at marineops@ppa.gc.ca.