

PACIFIC PILOTAGE AUTHORITY

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NOTICE TO INDUSTRY

Date Issued: March 05, 2002

Notice Number: 03/2002

Subject: Pilot Ladders and Pilot Boarding Safety

Geographic Area: B C Compulsory Pilotage Waters

Specific Location: Pilot Boarding Stations: Victoria, Prince Rupert, Steveston and Pine Island

Details:

There have been a number of incidents in other Pilotage Jurisdictions, where the pilot launch was capsized when boarding a pilot. In at least two incidents there were fatalities.

The common factor in these incidents was the location of the pilot ladder. The pilot ladder was located aft, near the ship's counter or the pilot was boarding by means of the after accommodation ladder.

These recent incidents have demonstrated that boarding a pilot in a position near the counter can present dangers in certain conditions.

Therefore the pilot launch crews have been directed not to board a pilot using a pilot ladder which is located too far aft, near the ship's counter.

Ships with the pilot ladder rigged too far aft will be directed to move the pilot ladder forward prior to the boarding of a pilot.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this notice please contact the Vice President of Marine Operations at (604) 666-6771 or via email at oberkey@ppa.gc.ca or via mail to the above address.