

**U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security**

**United States  
Coast Guard**



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

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16637  
September 14, 2018

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American Great Lakes Ports Association  
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Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for your participation in the most recent Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee (GLPAC) meeting in Cape Vincent, New York. Your expertise and candid contributions were essential in informing the Coast Guard on a range of topics that ensure the navigational safety of vessels sailing throughout the Great Lakes System.

Based upon the GLPAC discussions, and after considering the substantial stakeholder input we received over the past several months, on September 12, 2018, the Director, Great Lakes Pilotage cancelled the 1994 Great Lakes Pilotage Commandant Instruction, COMDTINST 16637.5.

Consistent with the Great Lakes Pilotage Act of 1960 (Pilotage Act) and the Coast Guard's implementing regulations at 46 C.F.R. Parts 401-404, the Coast Guard will use its full range of existing authorities to ensure each vessel subject to the Pilotage Act receives a pilot upon request and safely sails on schedule.

The Coast Guard is committed to ensuring safe, efficient, and reliable pilotage service for foreign merchant vessels transiting the Great Lakes System to facilitate commerce. In carrying out this mission, the Coast Guard will continue to consider GLPAC and other stakeholder recommendations to improve the Great Lakes Pilotage Program.

Please contact Mr. Todd Haviland at 202-372-2037 or [todd.a.haviland@uscg.mil](mailto:todd.a.haviland@uscg.mil) with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael Emerson  
Director, Marine Transportation Systems  
U.S. Coast Guard