



Rhode Island State Pilotage Commission

235 Promenade Street, Providence RI 02908

Pilot Commission Policy on the use of Dynamic Positioning (DP) Aboard Vessels in Rhode Island Waters (2019)

The Rhode Island Pilotage Commission recognizes that the technology of DP is quite sophisticated and has been in use for a number of years on offshore drill-ships. Cruise ships have also used DP in many anchorages around the world to avoid anchoring on reefs and other obstructions on the bottom. These anchorages are generally very large and allow ample room to recover should the DP system fail.

Whereas the anchorages in Narragansett Bay are quite small, and the potential for severe damage to the environment of RI waters exist, the Commission has determined the following policy.

Should a vessel request of a pilot that they be allowed to use DP inside Narragansett Bay, they must meet the following criteria:

1. Be equipped with DP class 2;
2. The DP certificate must be current and valid;
3. While the DP is in use, it must be monitored continuously by a certified DP deck officer;
4. The RI State Pilot shall confirm that the above conditions exist prior to leaving the vessel in DP mode.

Should the vessel insist on using DP, it may do so except the pilot must remain aboard. The pilot shall be paid pro-rated on an hourly basis based on the Pilotage Units (PU) of the vessel for an inbound transit. The hourly rate shall be 50% of the pilotage fee per hour. (Only if the rotation of pilots has enough pilots to do so)

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