MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Stacey Buccieri, Executive Director, Board of Pilot Commissioners

SUBJECT: Examinations for Certified Deputy Pilot Openings in Port Canaveral, Port Everglades, the Port of Palm Beach, and Tampa Bay

DATE: November 1, 2026

If you are interested in applying for the Deputy Pilot openings in Port Canaveral, Port Everglades, the Port of Palm Beach, and Tampa Bay please submit a completed application and a non-refundable application fee of $200.00 per port. The Department will not begin accepting applications until **November 15, 2026**. All completed applications must be returned to the Department on or before **December 15, 2026,** however, we encourage you to make application as soon as possible. **Please mail your application to the following address:**

DBPR/Professions
Board of Pilot Commissioners
PO Box 5377
Tallahassee, FL 32314-5377

Or you may make application online: A direct link to the application is here:

Deputy Pilot Application

Please note that there will be one or more openings per port. Applicants will be notified if the openings increase further.

The March 2027 Deputy Pilot Examinations are currently scheduled as follows:

DATE: March 11-12, 2027

SITE: Osceola Heritage Park Exhibition Building
1901 Chief Osceola Trail Kissimmee, FL 37477-6112

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

Examination for Certified Deputy Pilot Openings in Port Canaveral, Port Everglades, the Port of Palm Beach and Tampa Bay

The examination will consist of the following two sessions:

1. (a) Rules of the road, International (b) Rules of the road, Inland

(c) Seamanship and Ship Handling

(d) Federal and State Pilotage Laws and Regulations

(e) Aids to navigation

2. (a) Local Knowledge of Port (b) Port Chart Work

Detailed information concerning all aspects of the Deputy Pilot examination can be found in the Candidate Information Booklet (November 2026 Edition).

Prospective applicants are advised to contact the Pilot Associations in the specific port for information concerning local conditions including but not limited to:

1. Number of pilots

2. Training program in effect

3. Present and projected volume of business

4. Compensation as a deputy and later as a state pilot

Chart Description(s):

Port Canaveral:

The area from the vicinity of the seaward end of the Project Channel including approaches from the south as well as from the north around Southeast Shoal to and including the locks leading to the Banana River and the ICW. This includes the east, middle and west basins. Offshore approaches chart information such a launch warnings and undersea cables should be shown from the latitude 28o North to 28o-23’ North, and seaward to Longitude 080o-15’ West.

(NOAA Charts 11476 and 11478)

Palm Beach:

The entire area of the approaches to the Port of Palm Beach leading into the Entrance Channel up to lighted buoy R”4”, thence into the Port of Palm Beach all channels, aids to navigation and docks utilized by commercial vessels.

(NOAA Custom Chart 11459FLP)

Port Everglades

The area from the vicinity of the sea buoy to and including all docks and channels utilized by vessels which require or request pilotage. This will include all slips and berths in Port Everglades, the turning basin, the north extension to and including the 17th Street causeway bridge, the south extension, the

ICW south to the Dania Cut-off Canal, and the Dania Cut-off Canal to and including the US 1 Highway Bridge.

(NOAA Chart 11470)

Tampa Bay:

Section I - Approach into Tampa Bay

The approach into Tampa Bay from the vicinity of the sea buoy, as well as by Southwest Channel, to the intersection of E and F Cuts, including buoy “1F” as well as the South and North range lights of F Cut. In addition, the following port approaches/areas will be included:

a) Port Manatee

b) South approach to Bayboro (St. Petersburg) to and including junction light "S".

Section II – From the intersection of E and F Cuts, including buoy “1F”, to:

a. The intersection of Hillsborough Cut C and Port Sutton Channel and Cut D, but including the Rear Range Light for Cut C. It will not be necessary to include any of the aids located on the channel into Big Bend, the Alafia, Port Sutton, or into Cut D.

b. The approaches to and the facilities at Rattlesnake (south of the Gandy Br.) including Port Tampa and the Bayboro (St. Petersburg) via the northern approach. Use of 1:20,000 chartlet inset of St. Petersburg is expected.

Additional Requirements to Sections I or II

Port Areas and their Approaches:

a. All channels in Port Tampa including Seddon, Garrison, East Bay and Port Sutton located above the intersection of Hillsborough Cut C, Cut D, and the Port Sutton Channel including Port Sutton ranges. Use of 1:20,000 chartlet inset of the Port of Tampa is expected. It will not be necessary to include any of the aids in Hillsborough Cut C.

b. From the intersection of Hillsborough Cut C and the Alafia Range, to and including the facilities in the Alafia River at East Tampa as well as the Alafia Range. It will not be necessary to include any of the aids in Hillsborough Cut C.

c. From the intersections of Hillsborough Cut A, Cut C and Big Bend Channel, to and including the facilities at Big Bend and the Big Bend Range. It will not be necessary to include any of the aids in Hillsborough Cut C or Cut A.