

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

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

SUBJECT: Examinations for Certified Deputy Pilot Openings in the ports of Jacksonville/Fernandina, Key West and Tampa Bay

DATE: October 13, 2025

If you are interested in applying for the Deputy Pilot openings in Jacksonville/Fernandina, Key West or 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 1, 2025**. All completed applications must be returned to the Department on or before **December 1, 2025**, 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 on line: A direct link to the application is here:

<https://www.myfloridalicense.com/intentions2.asp?chBoard=true-&boardid=23&SID>

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

The March 2026 Deputy Pilot Examinations are currently scheduled as follows:

DATE: March 12-13, 2026

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

TIME: 7:00 am

Examination for Certified Deputy Pilot Openings in Jacksonville/Fernandina, Key West 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

Prospective applicants are advised to contact the applicable 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):

NOAA Chart numbers are for previous generation charts (raster) which have been discontinued since January 2024 and replaced with Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC). However, the Board of Pilot Commissioners and the Bureau of Education and Testing agree to continue the use of the raster charts as the reference for all chart drawings for the upcoming examination. The Candidate Information Booklet (CIB) published later this year will give complete details on charts and reference publications in which to prepare for the examination.

Jacksonville/Fernandina

Jacksonville: NOAA Chart 11491, upper and lower plate

Candidates are responsible for all areas described below – but will only draw limited segments of the St. Johns River as notified on the exam day.

1. Offshore areas including depth curves/contours for 18-feet, 30-feet and 60-feet
2. Offshore depths in the area bounded by 1.5 miles north and south of the Jacksonville Harbor Bar cut channel and from the 18-foot curve to one (1) mile offshore of pilot boarding area B
3. St. Johns River and channel boundaries from pilot boarding area Bravo to an including the Fuller Warren bridge.

Fernandina: NOAA Chart 11503

1. St Mary's Entrance: Sea buoy STM to buoys 18 & 19
2. St Mary's River: Buoys 18 & 19 to buoys 26 & 27
3. Amelia River: Turning Basin buoys E & F to beacon 12

Key West

Key West: NOAA Charts 11441 and 11447

The area from the vicinity of the Key West Sea buoy at Sand Key including all the approaches and the channels leading to all docks utilized by commercial vessels. This includes all slips and berths in the Port of Key West, the turning basin, approaches to and facilities at Stock Island as well as the approach via Northwest Channel.

Tampa Bay

Tampa Bay: NOAA Charts 11415 and 11416

Candidates are responsible for all areas described below – but will only draw Sections I or II of Tampa Bay and one of the three port areas as notified on the exam day.

Section I

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) Approaches to Port Manatee via the Port Manatee Entrance Channel and Port Manatee
- b) Southern approach to St. Petersburg via the St. Petersburg Harbor Channel to and including junction light "S".

Section II

From the intersection of E & F Cuts, including buoy 1F & F-Cut North and South range lights to:

- a) the intersection of Hillsborough Cut C with the Port Sutton Channel including Light #1 and buoy #2 and Cut D, including the upper range lights for Cut C. It will not be necessary to include any of the aids located on the channel into Big Bend, the Alafia River, Port Sutton, or into Cut D, except as required as an "additional port area" listed below.
- b) the approaches to and the facilities at Rattlesnake located south of the Gandy Bridge including Old Port Tampa, and the Bayboro (St. Petersburg) via the northern approach to buoy #3.

Additional port areas:

- 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. It will not be necessary to include any of the aids in Hillsborough Cut C. Use of the 1:20,000 scale inset chart of Tampa expected.
- b) From the intersection of Hillsborough Cut C and the Alafia River Channel, 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 intersection of Hillsborough Cut A, Cut C and Big Bend Entrance 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.