

PACIFIC PILOTAGE AUTHORITY

1000 – 1130 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C
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INTERIM NOTICE TO INDUSTRY

Date Issued: April 4th 2019 **Notice Number:** 04/2019

Subject: Laden bulk Carriers entering VFPA on a strong flood tide

Geographic Area: BC Coast, Port of Vancouver

Details: There was an incident recently in Vancouver Harbour involving a laden bulk carrier that entered on a flood tide and appeared to lose directional stability. As a result, the Pacific Pilotage Authority and the BC Coast Pilots Ltd. have conducted a risk assessment on loaded bulk carriers entering the port of Vancouver on a strong flood tide. The results show that it is very difficult for such vessels making for a berth or anchorage from KM Vancouver Wharves to Centerm to slow up without losing direction stability.

Guideline: As an interim measure while the TSB complete the investigation as to the root cause, the PPA is recommending the following when the flood current exceeds 1.5 knots:

- An escort tug with a minimum Bp of 65 tonnes is to be ordered for any inbound loaded bulk carrier with a LOA between 200m and 250m and a draft in excess of 12.0m making for an anchorage between KM Van wharves and Centerm.
- The escort tug to be made fast centre lead aft 2 cables west of First Narrows Bridge weather permitting
- For vessels over 250m users should refer to the Ports First Narrows TCZ (TCZ-1) in the Port Information Guide at:

<https://www.portvancouver.com/marine-operations/port-information-guide/>

Note: This notice will be amended and clarified once the TSB report has been published.

Kevin Obermeyer
CEO

If there are any queries, concerns or a wish to further discuss these issues please feel free to contact me at oberkev@ppa.gc.ca or by telephone at 604-666-6771.