



# INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

## REPORT INTO REMOTE PILOTAGE FINDS OPPORTUNITY, BUT IT IS NOT ALL PLAIN SAILING

*IMPA is leading an international study to deliver authoritative insights into the potential use of remote pilotage in port approaches, ports, harbours, rivers and lakes for conventional ships and those that may be navigated remotely or by software with autonomy in the future.*

**London, 24 September 2025:** The International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA), in collaboration with the Canadian National Centre of Expertise on Maritime Pilotage (NCEMP) and the Canadian Coast Guard, have released a report on the technical readiness of remote pilotage solutions.

This first report from the International Study on Remote Pilotage finds that proposed remote pilotage solutions offered a glimpse of what is possible. However, for the Study to progress to the trial phases in mandatory pilotage areas, key challenges need to be overcome.

There are challenges relating to system redundancy and enabling critical pilotage workflow tasks. Shared situational awareness, collision avoidance, relative navigation, and manoeuvring close to other ships and infrastructure were identified as significant risks.

The report was compiled based on extensive desktop assessments of remote pilotage solutions proposed by manufacturers and system integrators. The proposals were made in response to a request for information issued by IMPA in November 2024. With Lloyd's Register as technical adviser, the assessments took place in April and May 2025.

IMPA is acutely aware of the need to overcome some of the scepticism of its intentions to trial remote pilotage solutions. Mature solutions are needed to reveal the capabilities, limitations and prerequisites of remote pilotage in port approaches, ports, canals, rivers and lakes where pilotage is mandatory.

Captain Simon Pelletier, President of IMPA, says: "We have had a glimpse of what might be possible, but we are not there yet. Our primary concern is how to conduct trial phases that are not skewed by the limitations of technology solutions. Artificial limits will not help us deliver the objectives of the Study."

Captain Alain Arseneault, Executive Director of NCEMP, believes that manufacturers and system integrators need another opportunity: "The first time around, we wanted to see what was out there and not put people off by being too prescriptive. We had anticipated a lot of interest as a result, but this did not materialise. We have learned through this process that a more detailed set of goal-based requirements may help identify a minimum viable solution we can use in the Study."

An updated RFI with more detailed goal-based requirements for remote pilotage solutions for trials in mandatory pilotage areas will be issued in Q4 of 2025. Manufacturers and system integrators wanting more information should contact IMPA or NCEMP.

Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard, Mario Pelletier, believes collaboration with IMPA and NCEMP is an invaluable way to gain insights into what the future holds: “The Canadian Coast Guard is pleased to contribute to this international effort, which is helping us explore how navigation services may evolve in the years ahead. The insights gained through this work will help strengthen our own services and ensure we remain ready to meet future needs, while sharing lessons with partners worldwide.”

ENDS

## Notes for Editors

### About IMPA

*The International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA), established in 1970, represents pilots' organisations in over 50 countries and a professional community of over 8,000 maritime pilots. The Association is a not-for-profit organisation that uses its membership resources to promote effective safety outcomes in maritime pilotage as an essential public service. It achieves this objective by bringing together pilots' associations from around the world to share knowledge, expertise and experience on matters affecting maritime pilotage.*

*The Association is also the active, formal voice of maritime pilotage and pilots in relevant international fora. It has been a non-governmental organisation in consultative status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1973. IMPA delegates make lasting contributions to different aspects of the technical work of the IMO.*

<https://www.impahq.org/>

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