



DEEP SEA
& COASTAL PILOTS

Professional Navigation as a matter of course

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With a combination of knowledge and experience,
our deep sea pilots can greatly enhance the safety
of your vessel.



About Us

Based in Gravesend, UK, Deep Sea & Coastal Pilots is one of the largest Deep Sea Pilotage agencies in Europe providing Deep Sea Pilotage, VTS/Traffic Management and Navigational Audit services to seagoing vessels in the English Channel and the North Sea. We pride ourselves on the high level of service we offer, building close relationships with our clients which is reflected in the trust they put in us to enhance the safety of their vessels.

Founded in 1960 and one of the longest standing agencies, we utilise the services of UK Trinity House certified deep sea pilots who have all previously served as Master with a minimum of three years command experience. Following extensive training, examination and gaining of their license, our pilots face annual revalidation to test competency and ensure that they are at the forefront of all Navigational changes.

All of these combined ensures that they are some of the most experienced and knowledgeable individuals in their area of operation.

How we operate

From an operations perspective, we are ISO 9001:2015 Quality Assurance Certified with annual audits by Lloyds Register of London. Our operations are 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, ensuring our clients have access to our services at all times. Our pilots are experienced on many varieties of vessels meaning they can provide their services to all shipping sectors.



Pilotage Services

Our Deep Sea Pilots have an expert knowledge of the English Channel and the North Sea through their previous experience as master, and extensive training.

The knowledge gained allows our pilots to provide Masters and owners with increased safety and support through some of the most navigationally complex water ways in the world. This helps mitigate the risk of accident or collision, as well as provide crew with the additional support to maintain their working hour limitations.

Through this extensive sea pilotage training, as well as keeping up to date with the complex buoyage, navigation, offshore activity and reporting procedures, a deep sea pilot can greatly enhance the effectiveness and safety of a bridge team. Our licensed deep sea pilots provide increased assurances around the safe passage of a vessel, assisting vessels to pass through some of the busiest and most treacherous waterways in the world.

Boarding a Pilot

In terms of boarding a deep sea pilot, we are able to join a vessel prior to the Dover Straits off Brixham or Cherbourg via pilot launch. The boarding positions for these are listed below and we are also able to join vessels alongside in port, all over Europe.

Brixham	- 50° 25' N - G=003° 25.5' W
Cherbourg Port	- 49° 43.5' N - G=001° 42.0' W
Cherbourg (loaded tankers)	- 49° 47.5' N - G=001° 39.0' W



Passage Planning

Our pilots assist with all passage planning, ensuring the safest and most direct routes. This can lead to reduced passage distances between 50-100 miles.



Fatigue & Limitations

Deep Sea Pilots reduce the risk of master/crew fatigue and ensure work/rest hours are not breached due to the additional support they offer. In times of great scrutiny around working hours, deep sea pilots provide a ready made solution addressing these concerns.



Increased Safety

Our pilots greatly mitigate the risk of an accident whilst also bringing expert knowledge and advice to a bridge team.



Costs

Reduction in bunker costs through expert passage planning, reduced mileage and knowledge of anchoring/drift positions.



Recommendations

As per IMO Resolution A486 (xii), Master and owners are recommended to utilise the services of a deep sea pilot when transiting the English Channel and the North Sea.



Navigational Audit Services

To allow forward-thinking companies to measure and benchmark their navigational standards, Deep Sea and Coastal Pilots Ltd are able to offer our bespoke auditing service, utilising the considerable experience of our pilots across the maritime industry.

Knowledge & Experience

Our pilots previous experience as Master and knowledge means they are in prime position to provide navigational audits. This includes special attention to the Navigation at sea and bridge team management elements. Being in an environment to oversee the ship's operations, whilst also being heavily involved in these, allows them to provide constructive reports for companies focussing on specific improvement areas.

For those tanker operators taking part in the OCIMF Tanker Management and Self-Assessment (TMSA) Program, we can assist with providing external auditing services.

See Beneficial Results

Companies which are compliant and consistent with their reporting should see beneficial results from charterers and a reduction in some inspection times. Charterers are looking for ever-increasing standards and particularly during difficult economic times, they have a lot of choice of suppliers. Where there is a choice, there must be clear differentiators. High evidence-based standards are one of the key differentiators and allow some movement away from purely price-based negotiations.

TMSA External Navigational Safety Audits are one of the key performance indicators necessary for an operator to reach level 4 of the TMSA program, thereby placing themselves in an advantageous commercial position with charterers willing to pay for quality and safety. When requested to provide this service, it should be borne in mind that our primary business is the provision of pilotage services, and auditing will be undertaken such that it does not interfere with our primary duty.

The TMSA audit covers

- Management, Leadership And Accountability
- Recruitment And Management Of Shore-Based Personnel
- Recruitment And Management Of Ships Personnel
- Reliability And Maintenance Standards
- Navigational Safety
- Cargo Ballasting And Mooring Operations
- Management Of Change
- Incident Investigation And Analysis
- Safety Management
- Environmental Management
- Emergency Preparedness And Contingency Planning
- Measurement, Analysis And Improvement.



VTS/Traffic Management

Where the continuing search for new oil and gas reserves and wind farm installations conflicts with commercial traffic routes, it is increasingly important that vessels are clearly and authoritatively informed, as well as directed away from sensitive and expensive equipment. Our Deep Sea Pilots can assist in reducing the cost of damaged or lost equipment, ensure the safety of personnel and lead to cost-efficient time savings.

Pilot Based Traffic Management

The Pilots provided for this work have experience within the seismic survey industry, carry their own equipment and can therefore work independently off the ship's equipment (a bonus where space is of a premium). They are experienced in working with guard vessels and the Coastguard which provides extensive communication lines with the relevant authorities. Calling on their knowledge from their full time pilotage role, involving extensive navigational demands in some of the world's most congested shipping lanes, they are in a prime position when it comes to traffic management. Through this they can not only keep both equipment and crew safe, but drastically reduce project times which can result in large cost and time savings.

Our Pilots have completed the basic safety training required for the Oil and Gas Industry, along with BOISSET training. Pilot based traffic management will allow the survey team to concentrate on providing the best data for the client, on time and within budget, and therefore allow all the crew's attention to be solely focused on the project in hand. We always provide two pilots for projects meaning that one is on duty at all times.

Benefits of VTS



Costs

Reduction in costs due to decreased delays in the timescale of operations, as well as any potential damage to expensive equipment.



Reporting

Our pilots are experienced with reporting procedures allowing them to keep on top of these for the vessel and crew to focus on operations. Having the authority of being a licensed deep sea pilot allows them to easily divert any vessels away from ongoing operations.



Experience/Knowledge

Calling on their extensive knowledge and experience as a deep sea pilot, navigation and traffic management are a daily part of their role. They provide their expert assistance when it comes to routing and highlighting critical and dangerous areas of the project. Their experience of changeable weather conditions, high traffic areas and vessel movements will be of great assistance to any on going projects.



Crew Support

Having a Deep Sea Pilot onboard allows the crew to focus purely on the job at hand and not become distracted by other vessel movements. This, in turn, helps to reduce project times and bring about further cost savings.



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