



April 10, 2002

CAPTAIN OF THE PORT PUGET SOUND ADVISORY

USE OF AUTOMATIC PILOT IN THE PUGET SOUND REGION

To: All Cruise Ship Masters and Operators:

Effective immediately, all cruise ships and large passenger vessels operating in the Puget Sound region shall take precaution when using the automatic pilot in U.S. and Canadian waters while transiting the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound region.

The 1974 *Safety of Life at Sea* Convention, as amended, Chapter V, Regulation 19, Use of the Automatic Pilot, (a) states "In areas of high traffic density, in conditions of restricted visibility and in all other hazardous navigational situations where the automatic pilot is used, it shall be possible to establish human control of the ship's steering immediately."

I encourage all vessel masters to carefully evaluate their use of the automatic pilot while navigating in the proximity of the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service traffic separation scheme. Furthermore, in concert with Transport Canada Marine Safety, Vancouver, all cruise ships and large passenger vessels are strongly recommended to use manual steering while transiting the above areas.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have questions regarding this advisory, please contact our Port State Control branch at the letterhead address and phone number.

M. R. MOORE
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port, Puget Sound

cc: Transport Canada Marine Safety, Vancouver
Puget Sound Pilots
B.C. Pilots
MCTS Regional Marine Information Centre (for distribution to CVTS Traffic Centres)