



October Industry Lunch – October 17, 2023

Speakers:

Captain Jeremy Nielsen, Columbia River Pilots
Captain Steve Ackerman, Columbia River Bar Pilots

Captain Jeremy Nielsen, President, Columbia River Pilots

Captain Jeremy Nielsen is a 1999 graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy with a bachelor's degree in marine transportation with a focus on marine engineering. Captain Nielsen began his career working in the local transportation industry as a transportation logistics manager. He is well versed in the maritime industry as he began as a steamship agent, before becoming a stevedore, then worked as a tug captain before becoming a Columbia River Pilot in 2013. He served as the Vice President for two years prior to his current role as President, which he has held since January 2020. Captain Nielsen is dedicated to increasing the safety and efficiency of the Columbia and Willamette River system. He was born and raised in the landlocked state of Montana and never saw a ship prior to stepping aboard his first assignment at the age of 18.

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Captain Steve Ackerman, Columbia River Bar Pilots

Captain Steve Ackerman is born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. Captain Ackerman attended the University of Oregon for one year and then transferred to California Maritime Academy, graduating in 1990. He specialized in dredging for 24 years after graduation and has worked in many ports on the west coast, gulf coast and southeast coast of the United States, as well as numerous countries and ports around the world. Captain Ackerman served as Master on three different dredges. After completing training, he began piloting on the Columbia River Bar in 2015. Captain Ackerman is currently the bar pilots representative working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and is serving on the Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee.

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