



ON STATION

The Newsletter of the American Pilots' Association

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APA RECOGNIZED FOR LONG COMMITMENT TO NAVIGATION SAFETY

Due to “the long history of promoting the highest standards of marine piloting and navigation,” the editors of *Professional Mariner* magazine have chosen the American Pilots' Association to receive the **2012 Samuel Plimsoll Outstanding Service Award**. Each year, the Plimsoll Award is given to one organization that “has been instrumental in making the maritime industry safer.” The award will be presented on March 20 at the Connecticut Maritime Association’s “Shipping 2012 Conference” in Stamford, CT.

The APA was selected to receive the 2012 Plimsoll Award in recognition of its substantial and long-term contributions to improving pilotage standards, navigation practices and marine safety throughout the country. The award nomination identifies four primary areas in which the APA has positively impacted maritime safety.

- ♦ **PPUs.** The APA, its NAVTECH Committee, and its member pilots have led the world in the development of portable pilot navigation systems (or PPU), and APA policy and “best practice” guidance has been instrumental in the continual improvement and increased use of this important navigation safety tool.
- ♦ **BRM-P.** Well ahead of government agency guidance, APA pioneered the development of bridge resource management training courses geared specifically for maritime pilots (BRM-P). These courses are now taught at training centers throughout the country.
- ♦ **MPX.** Recognizing the critical nature of the exchange of information between the pilot and master (MPX), the APA promulgated MPX best practice recommendations that have been adopted nation-wide and are now recognized as the professional standard for pilots. The MPX and BRM-P initiatives have not only had enormous domestic benefits, but also – be-

cause both were included in guidance from the International Maritime Organization – have had a substantial impact on navigation safety around the world.

- ♦ **E-NAV.** The APA is currently a leading participant in the IMO’s E-Navigation initiative, working with that body as well as other international groups on an overarching strategic vision for the development and use of advanced navigation technologies. Consistent with that effort, APA has issued guidelines and recommendations for pilots’ use of, and training in, EC-DIS and other emerging technologies.

The magazine’s announcement concluded, “For these and other achievements in the pursuit of maritime safety, *Professional Mariner* is pleased to honor APA with the 2012 Plimsoll Award for Outstanding Service.”

Samuel Plimsoll (1824-1898) was a member of British Parliament who fought against unsafe maritime

industry practices. His efforts led to passage of an 1878 law that required ships to have marks indicating safe load lines. The Plimsoll marks on ships today are an enduring testimony to his tireless pursuit of safety at sea.

Upon notification that APA was to receive the 2012 Plimsoll Award, APA President Mike Watson said, “I want to recognize *Professional Mariner* for the valuable work it does and to thank the magazine for presenting this important award to the APA, an organization made up of maritime professionals who are committed to protecting the safety of navigation and the marine environment in the waters for which they are licensed.” Watson added, “Since its founding in 1884, the American Pilots’ Association has been committed to assisting member-pilots and oversight authorities by actively promoting navigational and piloting excellence. I’m pleased that this award publicly affirms this long-standing commitment.”

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- Captain Mike Watson