

SET YOUR COURSE


Applications are now open for the 2026 Trainee Training Exam




The Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun (BOPC) is seeking eligible mariners for its **Pilot Trainee Training Exam**—your gateway to qualifying for the BOPC’s training program, the pathway to become a BOPC licensed pilot.

Key Dates

 **Application Deadline**
May 15, 2026, by 5:00 PM PDT

 **Knowledge-Based Test**
Monday, July 20, 2026
Virtual, Proctored

 **Simulator Evaluation**
August 11–14, 2026
[Cal Poly Maritime, Vallejo, CA](https://www.calpoly.edu/maritime)

 **Final Interviews**
Candidates who pass both the Knowledge Based and Simulator Evaluation portions of the exam advance to a virtual interview

The **Board of Pilot Commissioners** is California’s only state-level maritime pilot commission, ensuring safe navigation across the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, Suisun, Monterey, and their tributaries.

An Extraordinary Opportunity

The Challenge: Qualify for the Pilot Trainee Program, where once a trainee, you will learn to pilot heavy maritime traffic—including but not limited to container ships exceeding 1,200 feet, VLCC class oil tankers, bulk carriers, car ships, and passenger liners—from the Golden Gate to over 200 berths located within the 200 miles of pilotage waters under BOPC’s jurisdiction.

The Reward: Opportunity to qualify for one of the nation’s most rigorous pilot training programs, and the chance to become a pilot in one of its most sought after pilotage grounds.

Rarity: BOPC conducts these examinations every 2-4 years. The last opportunity was in 2022—*don’t miss this chance.*

Ready to Navigate to Your Future?



Learn More: bopc.ca.gov/2026-trainee-exam/

Questions? Email: bopc_trainee_exam@bopc.ca.gov

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