Did You Know?

In total, Tampa Bay is home to more than 80 miles of channels - more channel miles than all of the other ports in Florida combined!

- Port Tampa Bay

FLORIDA HARBOR PILOT HELPS NAVIGATE BLACKED-OUT SHIP TO SAFETY

PORTMIAMI - May 29, 2016 - Recently, a Florida harbor pilot helped navigate a vessel to safety during a total blackout, which rendered the ship’s engines, propellers and thrusters all to fail. Captain Geoff Pool used his knowledge and skill to guide the Adonia outbound through the rock jetties in the narrow rock channels of PortMiami.

To view this article in full, please visit http://bit.ly/1sWvpXi.

HOW MOBILE APPS ARE HELPING PROTECT FLORIDA’S WATERWAYS

APPSSHEET - June 6, 2016 - Carl Mahler is a state pilot and partner with Port Everglades Pilots Association. His job is to navigate large ships around Florida’s waterways.

To view this article in full, please visit http://bit.ly/1U4NH1c.

SOUTH FLORIDA PORTS STAND TO BENEFIT FROM PANAMA CANAL EXPANSION

WSVN-TV 7 NEWS, MIAMI - June 24, 2016 - South Florida’s two major shipping ports - and the local economy - could soon benefit from the multibillion-dollar expansion of the Panama Canal, set to open June 26.

To view this article in full, please visit http://bit.ly/29g0OLi.
Tampa Bay is home of three of Florida’s commercial ports - Port Tampa Bay in Tampa, Port Manatee in Manatee County and Bayboro Harbor in St. Petersburg. Additionally, there are several private side-ports, all of which are serviced by the Tampa Bay Pilots. In total, there are more than 100 berths and 80 miles of channels - more channel miles than all of the other ports in Florida combined - that require Florida state-licensed harbor pilots. Currently, 17 state-licensed pilots and two state-certificated deputies provide service 24 hours a day and 365 days a year to the vessels that call upon Tampa Bay, making more than 7,000 transits per year.

Port Tampa Bay is the largest of Florida’s ports by tonnage and land, and is a critical economic engine for all of Central Florida, as its diverse infrastructure results in a constant revenue stream. This, coupled with prudent expense control, has made it possible to invest in projects with excellent growth potential.

Building on a long and rich history as a significant bulk port, Port Tampa Bay today handles a broad mix of bulk, break-bulk, container, ro-ro, and heavy lift/project cargo. It is also a significant cruise port with nearly 1 million passengers a year. Ongoing container terminal expansion is also providing greater capacity and efficiency for cargo movements, and will help Florida’s shippers expand and/or enter international markets. Port Tampa Bay’s multi-phased development project supports 1,399 direct, indirect and induced jobs, 525 construction jobs and approximately 2,500 existing jobs.

New developments also include Eastport, for deeper draft bulk and general cargo vessels with 43 feet of depth, and Port Redwing, which will complete critical infrastructure needed to provide capacity for additional bulk trade and intermodal transportation activities. Cargo capacity at full build-out is projected to reach 12 million tons.

Port Manatee remains a vibrant seaport, is growing and has great plans for additional expansion. Port Manatee has also finished additional widening and deepening dredging and added several more berths in recent years.
Having plenty of land for expansion, Port Manatee is well-positioned to continue to grow as this region of Florida is undergoing a growth boom and the needs of this area are increasing with this growth. Responsive and progressive, Port Manatee promises to become even more prominent in the shipping world as this region of Florida continues to develop.

Just as the seaports of Tampa Bay are planning, preparing and evolving to be well-positioned for the future, the Tampa Bay Pilots continue to rise to meet the opportunities and challenges of the industry and remain well prepared to provide the finest piloting services possible to the vessels that call upon these ports.

As there have been many retirements in the last several years, two new deputy pilots have come on board with another deputy due to arrive in the fall. These new members of the Tampa Bay Pilots bring fresh ideas and energy while still observing and honoring the traditions of the organization’s proud 128-year-old heritage.

In addition to providing professional piloting services, the Tampa Bay Pilots also contribute to the ports of Tampa Bay in many different roles and capacities. Pilots serve on a number of port industry boards, as well as on multiple community service councils. Additionally, the Tampa Bay Pilots make significant educational outreach efforts to raise awareness in the community about the roles and responsibilities of state-licensed pilots of Florida in preserving and protecting Florida ports, population and environment, while providing the highest quality, reliable, efficient and modern pilotage services. Much of the Tampa Bay Pilots efforts in outreach are focused on educating minorities about career opportunities in the maritime industry, including becoming a pilot.

Tampa Bay Pilots are involved in the port and community in many ways, and it is easy to see the ports of Tampa Bay are well positioned for the challenges and opportunities of today and those of the future.