

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sailing large ocean-going vessels in certain areas requires specific knowledge of the area, waterways and use by other shipping traffic. This was acknowledged many years ago and this is why compulsory pilotage applies in a large number of these areas all over the world. Pilots are the experts in the sailing areas in which they operate and thus have an exemplary function with regard to shipping safety.

The exemplary function with regard to shipping safety was not in line with the routine action on 21 January 2018. Safety barriers have not been observed, while it is specifically this professional group that must honor these measures.

The captain and crew of a ship in a pilotage operation need to, next to taking their own responsibility, be able to trust that a pilot and the pilot service do everything in their power to enable a safe transfer of the pilot. To all parties involved in and around this pilotage operation, it must be clear how maneuvers will proceed. There should be no room for untested assumptions.

The Dutch Safety Board issues the following recommendations:

To the Nederlands Loodswezen (Scheldemonden region) and the Agentschap Maritieme Dienstverlening en Kust in Belgium:

- Jointly formulate further instructions for pilots on how to act if the pilot cutter and the SWATH are in each other's presence in the vicinity of a pilotage process. Promote compliance with this process that is in line with the exemplary role of the Loodswezen. Look specifically at situations where the pilot cutter is nearby, but is not actively involved in the pilotage operation. Bring these instructions under the attention of the Schelde Coordination Centre and the pilots working in the Scheldt area.

To the Nederlands Loodswezen B.V.:

- Make an inventory of the pilot vessels on which the Bridge Routine Standard Watch Orders deviate from the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers. Bring Bridge Routine Standard Watch Orders in line with the provisions for keeping a lookout and duties on watch.