



# International Propeller Club of the United States

Promoting the Maritime Industry Since 1927

## September 2021 Newsletter

### Message from the President



#### **We will emerge from the pandemic a much stronger organization**

A big highlight and a real game-changer for our organization has been the implementation of quarterly virtual meetings with our regional leaders. A true win/win for all involved. During the quarterly meetings between the headquarters' staff, internal leadership, and local regional leaders we have fostered and enjoyed a highly productive dialog. Our virtual meetings with local leaders have facilitated open, candid, and reciprocal interaction.

The feedback received has initiated positive change and helped adjust goals at the Headquarters level. Conversely, we hear success stories of local clubs being creative, proactive, and getting out of the box. Adapting and adjusting in a positive manner.

As your International President, I am pleased to see how many of our local clubs have transitioned during the COVID pandemic. Yes, things are indeed different. Yet, in so many cases because we have been proactive, we have positioned ourselves to be in a great place when things open up. The bottom line, it's the little things now that will make the difference. So try to do something positive today because you'll be shocked at how big the little things are. We will emerge from the pandemic a much stronger organization.

Throughout my many one-on-one phone calls, guest speeches, social events, and representation on behalf of the Propeller Club, I am impressed with the way our members have persevered and risen to the occasion. You make us all very proud. Success won't just drop in our lap; we must go out and get it. Success at any level won't be random or just luck. Anyone that works with me knows I like to emphasize teamwork. "Teams win championships not individuals."

So, keep up the great teamwork and know that we as an organization are laying the foundation for the next great chapter for our Propeller Club!

Stay safe,

Niels

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE VP

Your International Propeller Club Headquarters staff has been fully engaged in three things in the last month: planning the 95th Annual Convention, planning the Annual Port President's meeting, and having our quarterly Regional and Port President's calls. We have a spectacular agenda chock full of great speakers and panelists for our Convention. We are especially happy to have as keynote speakers the 26th Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Karl Schultz, and Secretary-General Kitack Lim of the IMO. More information is below, as well as links to the agenda and registration.



Our Port President's meeting - held in two sessions on 12 and 14 October - is where we will nominate and elect International Officers and present International awards for the Port of the Year, the Member of the Year, and the Maritime Person of the Year. Detailed information on these meetings will be sent directly to Port Presidents and Regional VPs. All Ports are required by our Bylaws to attend, so don't miss out! Remember that nominations must be in writing (e-mail is acceptable) and be sent to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, [Niels Aalund](#), no later than 28 September. Also, award nominations should be sent to your respective Regional Vice President who may submit one nomination for each award. The Regional Vice Presidents will report its Region's nominees to the Chairperson of the Awards Committee, Mr. [Bob Fry](#) no later than 28 September 2021.

Each Quarter our International Leadership engages in a detailed Zoom meeting with each Regional VP and the Port presidents within that Region. It's a two-way conversation where Headquarters learns what the Ports are doing as well as how we can better support the Ports. Also, Headquarters can fill in our Port and Regional leaders on what we are doing and answer any questions they may have. While the Covid pandemic forced these calls on us, we have been very surprised and happy at how they have improved our communications.

Finally, we need some special IPC members to help us on two important committees: the [Communications Committee](#) and the [Membership Committee](#). Any International Propeller Club member who has skills that would help us in these areas, please let me or Cheryl Rothbart know. We're especially looking for some younger members!

Thanks all, Joel

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### 95th International Convention and Ports President's Meeting (Virtual) 12-14 October 2021 *"Open for Business in 2022: What Will it Look Like?"*

Our 95th annual Convention and Leadership Conference will be held in conjunction with our annual Port Leadership meetings from October 12-14. I hope this will be our last year meeting virtually because we are really excited at the thought of the 2022 convention with our good friends in Piraeus, Greece! Each year, our annual convention includes a maritime industry conference featuring the industry's most influential leaders as guest speakers to discuss the latest issues and trends affecting us. The theme of this year's conference is ***"Open for Business in 2022: What Will it Look Like?"*** We have a great agenda full of interesting panels that are pertinent to the maritime industry during the pandemic. **Keynote Speakers include the 26th Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Karl Schultz, and the Secretary-General of the IMO, Mr. Kitack Lim.**

## Port Presidents Meeting

Our Port Leaders will have two meetings, the first on October 12th at which time nominations will be made for Regional Vice Presidents and elected officers. The International President will also appoint certain positions to the Board of Directors, and any amendments to the bylaws will be announced. After this meeting, we will have several leadership training sessions where new officers can learn about their duties, how to increase membership and how to hold events that will keep your members interested. On October 14th, we'll reconvene the Port President's meeting to vote on the new officers and any bylaws changes. We'll also take up any new business brought to the floor. This is an important set of meetings and, as a reminder, our bylaws require each Port to have at least one representative present.

See these links for the [full agenda](#) and [registration](#).



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

**Richard Grimison, Harbor Pilot at Port Canaveral, FL**

My first experience with the Propeller Club was as a student at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. After graduating in 1986, I shipped out deep sea for eleven years before starting a career as a ship pilot. I joined the Propeller Club of Port Canaveral after being encouraged to do so by some of the other members of the Canaveral Pilots Association. Several of the pilots had been founding members of the club. I soon joined the Board and served a term as President.

I am currently still involved as the Education Committee Chairperson. We support a maritime studies program at a local High School by bringing students to the port for field trips and career shadow opportunities and providing guest speakers for the classroom. We also provide scholarships each year to Brevard County graduating seniors planning to pursue post-secondary education in a maritime-related field which could include maritime academies, trade schools, or degrees in engineering, law enforcement, and marine science. I also stay very involved at the local level helping to plan events and participating in our beach and park clean-up days. Our monthly luncheons provide an opportunity for our local port community members to get together in person and strengthen business relationships, personal friendships, and camaraderie. I especially like the fact that our local and Sector Coast Guard units participate in our events and get to know all of us working at the port.

I was fortunate to serve on the international level by Co-Chairing the 2017 International Propeller Club Annual Convention which we hosted here at Port Canaveral. I have attended all annual conventions since 2013 and have enjoyed meeting and interacting with maritime industry leaders from around the country and the world. Experiencing the conventions prior to the one we hosted helped us to provide a memorable experience for our visitors!

My membership in the Propeller Club is rewarding especially through the opportunities to give back to the community by helping to educate the next generation of industry leaders. The building of the maritime industry community through club events and volunteer efforts is invaluable in helping our port run smoothly and efficiently with excellent communication and professionalism. I look forward to seeing the club bounce back from the last few challenging years which have restricted our in-person activities and I hope to see everyone at the next International convention!

## Around our Propeller Club Ports

The Port of New Orleans held a reception for the incoming 8th District



Commander, Rear Admiral Rich Timme. He is the new Commander of the Coast Guard's largest District which spans 26 states, including the Gulf of Mexico coastline from Florida to Mexico, the adjacent offshore waters and outer continental shelf, as well as the inland waterways of the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Tennessee River systems.



**The Port of Baltimore** held its annual Crab Feast. It was attended by over 1,400 people including International President Niels Aalund. The Crab Fest's proceeds are placed in a Charitable Trust which supports a multitude of 501(c)3 local organizations both maritime and locally including Seaman's Church and the Pride of Baltimore.



**The International Propeller Club of the Basque Country Port of Bilbao** - After a year and a half without face-to-face meetings due to the problems with the Covid-19, the Bilbao Club scheduled the first meeting on the 16th of September to celebrate that members can meet together again. They will visit San Mames Stadium in Bilbao, an icon of world football, including a visit to its museum of trophies. The

visit will end with a delicious lunch in the stadium restaurant. Further in-person meetings will follow soon to re-start with our habitual activities.

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## Maritime News

### **Transportation industry coalesces against the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 (HR 4996)**

More than two dozen leading transportation organizations are urging legislative decision-makers to reject the proposed Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021 (HR 4996), key components of which would have detrimental consequences to the entire supply chain. The stakeholders who oppose and voice their concerns about the legislation are listed at the end of this write-up.

On Aug. 10, 2021, Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) and Dusty Johnson, (R-S.D.) introduced the Ocean Shipping Reform Act 2021 (HR 4996) in the House of Representatives. This bill aims to address concerns about terminal congestion by reducing beneficial cargo owners (BCOs) responsibility to collect cargo from marine terminals. Before one container can come into a space, another has to be removed. When containers are unloaded from ships, they are allowed a period of "free time" on the terminal. However, when containers are not picked up within the agreed-upon time, the BCOs are charged. These charges—demurrage and detention—are critical incentives for BCOs to pick up cargo. [AJOT](#)

### **Why the Maritime Industry Needs to Pay Attention to Recent UN Debates**

AUG 12 - Within the past two weeks, the United Nations Security Council held two debates on maritime security. One was a discussion on August 6 of the recent incident in the Gulf of Oman, the drone attack on the MV Mercer Street that had two crew killed. A major open debate on maritime security was held three days later. The Council has been pro-active in maritime security for a while, in particular, in order to address piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Guinea. Yet, the recent debates prove that the Council increases its awareness for maritime matters. [Maritime Executive](#)

### **Security Threats at Sea Need Global Response**

August 24 - Despite an overall decrease in maritime traffic due to the COVID-19 pandemic, piracy and armed robbery of ships rose by 20 % in the first six months of last year, a senior UN official told the Security Council. Addressing a high-level debate on enhancing seafarer security, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, UN Secretary-General Chef de Cabinet, highlighted the need for stronger international cooperation. [Dryad Global](#)

### **COVID Vaccination Guide for Seafarers and Shipping Companies: A Practical Guide**

The International Chamber of Shipping has released version 2 of the publication; Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccination for Seafarers and Shipping Companies: A Practical Guide, Your Questions Answered. [International Chamber of Shipping](#)

### **Shape up or ship out: EU Commission pushes hard on maritime emissions**

AUG 26 - The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report published on 9 August paints a bleak picture on the status of the world's climate, and scientifically proves that it will be extremely difficult to reach the 1.5-degree target under the Paris Agreement. The publication of the report couldn't have been timelier, only three weeks after the EU Commission released its Fit for 55 package, a toolbox of proposals to reach the Union's 2030 emission-reduction target of net 55% compared to 1990-levels.

[Hellenic Shipping News](#)

### **A trucking crisis has the US looking for more drivers abroad**

A shortage of truckers across the U.S. has become so severe that companies are trying to bring in drivers from abroad like seemingly never before.

For the first time in her 10-year trucking career, Holly McCormick has found herself coordinating with an agency in South Africa to source foreign drivers. A recruiter for Groendyke Transport Inc., McCormick has doubled her budget since the pandemic and is still having trouble finding candidates.

The U.S. has been grappling with a chronic lack of drivers for years, but the shortage reached crisis levels because of the pandemic, which simultaneously sent demand for shipped goods soaring while touching off a surge in early retirements. The consequences have been both dire and far-reaching: Filling stations have had gasoline outages. Airports have run short on jet fuel. A stainless-steel maker declared force majeure. And lumber prices hit a record, with some suppliers partly blaming delivery delays. [AJOT](#)

### **Dredging Up Federal Funding for Inland Ports and Waterways**

AUG 25 - All signals from Washington, D.C., indicate that Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 could be a record-breaking year for inland port and waterway investment. The successful opening of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, a record-breaking United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) budget request, positive improvements to the Port Infrastructure Development Program, and a possible bipartisan infrastructure deal, could result in billions of dollars in additional federal investment in inland ports and waterways. [Marine Link](#)

### **Falling foul of the Jones Act Enforcer**

Aug 25, 2021 - The Jones Act specifies that movement of parts and equipment between US points and platforms and drill rigs must be done by nationally built, owned, and operated vessels. The Offshore Marine Service Association (OMSA) has taken a proactive step - chartering a vessel, dubbed Jones Act Enforcer, that would monitor activity in the Gulf of Mexico, and, if warranted, would report out violations of the Jones Act. "Reporting out", in this context, means notifying the appropriate regulatory agencies - US Coast Guard (USCG) and US Customs and Border Protection CBP of non-compliance with the Jones Act, and also disseminating the news widely in mainstream news media.

[Seatrade Maritime News](#)

### **American Cruise Restart Homeports By the Numbers**

August 24 - With the uptick in the cruise restart, the U.S. homeports across the country are welcoming the cruise ships back. As more vessels are reactivated, a total of 18 ports will be homeports for cruise ships between August and December. With seven ships currently in service, Miami leads the way and will see up to 27 vessels returning through December. Two other homeports in Florida follow, Port Everglades with 20 ships, and Port Canaveral, with 13 vessels. On the West Coast, Los Angeles and Seattle are going to be seeing the biggest number of cruise ships this year, with San Diego completing the top 3. [Cruise Industry News](#)

### **With ships getting bigger, Port Tampa Bay businesses like the idea of more deepening**

Leaders representing businesses at Port Tampa Bay have expressed their support for a new study that will look into deepening Tampa Harbor. Port Tampa Bay and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will embark on a three-year-long study into possible improvements,

just over two years after the deepening of the Big Bend Channel. Any projects resulting from the study would be on a large scale involving major funding, spokesperson David Ruderman said. [Tampa Bay Business Journal](#)

### **Port of Los Angeles reports 36.8% volume jump in July**

Aug 17, 2021 - The Port of Los Angeles reported year-to-date container volumes were up in July by 36.8% over 2020 levels for a total of 6,318,675 TEUs, according to Gene Seroka executive director, Port of Los Angeles. Imports were up by 2.9% in July 2021 compared to July 2020 for a total of 469,361 TEUs while July exports declined by 27.6% to 91,440 TEUs over 2020 numbers. The number of empty containers being transported from the Port rose by 20.4% to 329,999 TEUs. [AJOT Insights](#)

## On Deck



### **White House**

#### **White House – Executive Order on Maritime Competition**

In response to the ongoing issues related to port congestion and the rising cost of international maritime shipping, President Biden issued an Executive Order to help address these issues. The Executive Order can be viewed at this link: [Executive Order On Promoting Competition in the American Economy](#)

**The White House and the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that John D. Porcari will be the Port Envoy to the Biden-Harris Administration Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force.**

27 AUG - Envoy Porcari will work closely with Secretary Buttigieg and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) as well as the National Economic Council to address congestion at U.S. ports. Disruptions in global shipping and rapid shifts in demand have led the cost of shipping containers between China and the West Coast to grow more than 90% compared to 2019. Containerized cargo volumes rose 40% in the first half of this year compared to the same time last year at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which together handle the largest share of containerized cargo moving through U.S. ports. Envoy Porcari will work with stakeholders and others at the ports to address the backlog and associated delivery delays and product shortages being experienced by American consumers and businesses. [American Journal of Transportation](#)



### **Congress**

#### **Contacting Member of House or Senate on Legislation**

**If you are interested in contacting your Senators or Member of the House of Representatives on any of the legislation listed below – simply “click” on the hyperlink for the bill number. Then on the right side of the Congress.gov website – you can click on “Contact Your Member” to provide them feedback on this bill.**

### **After a More Than 15-Hour Markup, Committee Advances Legislation to Invest in More Equitable and Sustainable Transportation Systems and Infrastructure**

Washington, DC - The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, led by Chair Peter DeFazio (D-OR), today advanced legislation in a vote of 37-29 to invest nearly \$60 billion to make America’s infrastructure more sustainable, resilient, and equitable, and to reduce carbon pollution from the transportation sector—the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

“From tackling climate change, to addressing racial and environmental injustices, to building back better after the COVID-19 pandemic, our nation faces big challenges. By advancing this legislation, we’re taking a key step forward in addressing those challenges,” Chair DeFazio said. “With this legislation, we can reduce carbon pollution from the transportation sector that’s driving the climate crisis and make communities more resilient to extreme weather events; connect people with good-paying jobs and affordable housing; address the planning mistakes of the past by reconnecting communities; make meaningful investments to plan for and develop high-speed rail projects; provide more people access to clean water; and make our aviation and maritime sectors greener. I look forward to seeing Congress pass this once-in-a-generation legislation because we can’t afford to squander this opportunity.”

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure’s portion of the budget reconciliation bill includes the following key maritime related investments:

- \$1 billion for climate resilient Coast Guard infrastructure.
- \$2.5 billion to the Maritime Administration to support more sustainable port infrastructure and supply chain resilience.

[House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#)

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## Coast Guard

### Notice of recent cyber threats to the Marine Transportation System

The Marine Transportation System (MTS) should be on heightened alert as a result of two recent developments.

The first is a cyber-attack impacting port operations at container terminals in several South African ports due to “an act of cyber-attack, security intrusion and sabotage.” The impacted terminals use a popular Terminal Operating System (OS) widely used throughout the U.S., and certain processes handled by the Terminal OS were suspended as a result of the cyber-attack. The attack is believed to be related to the “Death Kitty” ransomware, although full details are still not available. [USCG Maritime Commons](#)

### Office of Port and Facility Compliance 2020 Annual Report

AUG 23 - The Office of Port and Facility Compliance is pleased to release the Office of Port and Facility Compliance 2020 Annual Report. This report highlights the efforts of CG-FAC and its partners to ensure the safety and security of doing business at our port communities. [USCG Maritime Commons](#)

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## Maritime Administration

### MARAD Announces a New Marine Highway and Six Marine Highway Designations

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration (MARAD) today announced the designation of six new Marine Highway Projects and a new Marine Highway Route as part of the America’s Marine Highway Program (AMHP). The AMHP encourages the use of America’s navigable waterways for the movement of freight and people as an alternative to land-based transportation. [MARAD](#)

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## Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Interior Department Announces Environmental Review of Proposed Wind Energy Facility in the North Atlantic



As part of the Biden-Harris administration's goal to deploy 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy by 2030, the Department of the Interior today announced that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) plans to conduct an environmental review of a proposed

commercial-scale wind project offshore New York. "The Interior Department is committed to confronting climate change, creating thousands of good-paying jobs, and paving the way for the nation's transition to a cleaner energy future. Offshore wind is a critical component of that ambitious agenda," said Secretary Deb Haaland. "The demand for offshore wind energy has never been greater — we will continue to invest in the infrastructure to develop the offshore wind industry and to help attract the domestic supply chain. [BOEM](#)

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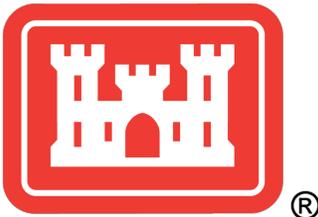
## Federal Maritime Commission

### Commission Questions Shipping Lines About Surcharges

**AUG 4** - The Federal Maritime Commission has launched an expedited inquiry into the timing and legal sufficiency of ocean carrier practices with respect to certain surcharges. Eight ocean carriers are being asked to provide the Commission's Bureau of Enforcement (BoE) with details about congestion or related

surcharges they have implemented or announced. BoE has given the ocean carriers until August 13, 2021, to provide details that confirm any surcharges were instituted properly and in accordance with legal and regulatory obligations. [FMC](#)

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## Army Corps of Engineers

### Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works updates Water Resources Development Act of 2020 implementation guidance

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (OASA(CW)) is providing an update today on the status of implementation guidance for the 170 sections in the Water

Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducted a 60-day public comment period to provide an opportunity for the public to offer input and recommendations on the implementation of any sections contained in WRDA 2020. The comment period ended May 7. Additionally, the ASA(CW) and USACE hosted five virtual stakeholder sessions where participants provided input and recommendations on the implementation of WRDA 2020 sections.

USACE received 134 unique comments on 86 of the 170 sections of WRDA 2020. All public input was considered during an evaluation process where 32 sections were identified as needing clarity to aid in the execution of the sections. The OASA(CW) and USACE are currently drafting implementation guidance for these sections. [USACE](#)

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## National Transportation Safety Board

### Lessons Learned from Maritime Accidents Detailed in NTSB's Safer Seas Digest

August 24 - The National Transportation Safety Board released Tuesday the Safer Seas Digest 2020, a compendium of the NTSB's maritime accident investigations involving loss of life, injuries, and significant property damage completed in 2020. Safer Seas Digest

2020 details lessons learned from 42 maritime accidents involving contact with fixed objects, sinkings, collisions, fires, explosions, flooding, groundings, and capsizings.

Among the investigations included in the 112-page report are the fire aboard the Conception where 34 lives were lost and the collision that took 11 lives aboard the USS Fitzgerald. [NTSB](#)

## We Need New Committee Members!

To fulfill our recently approved Strategic Plan, we need energetic and innovative members to join our committees. Committees tackle specific issues we've identified to promote our industry and help the IPC grow. This is an opportunity for you to have a voice in the direction of the club to better serve your needs. This last year has brought significant value through the work of our committees with the additional programs of our European Conference and webinar on Mercy Ships.

Our Maritime Promotion and Education Committees are off and running, but we need more help with two very important committees.

**Specifically, need new blood in our Membership Development and Communications Committees.** The *Membership Development Committee* will examine and make recommendations to our leadership on how to recruit new members, how to retain them, and if their membership has lapsed, how to reinstate them. The *Communications Committee* will recommend and carry out various forms of communications that will promote our maritime industry and advertise the purposes and objectives of the International Propeller Club. The Communications Committee will concentrate on the traditional press, our website, and social media. If you would like to help with one of these committees, please contact either [Joel](#) or [Cheryl](#).

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## Job Offerings

### MERCY SHIPS OF TEXAS

Mercy Ships of Texas is looking to fill three positions with candidates that have had Maritime (Merchant Marine/USCG/Navy), Maritime Industry, or Maritime Academy backgrounds. They are working to build out their team to support their mission and their two Mercy ships. Mercy Ships' staff recruiter will be reviewing all candidates after they complete the online application through the below links.

Technical Recruiter

<https://careers.mercyships.org/Applicant/CurrentOpportunities.aspx?PosId=382>

Marine Operations Administrative Assistant

<https://careers.mercyships.org/Applicant/CurrentOpportunities.aspx?PosId=864>

Marine Project Coordinator

<https://careers.mercyships.org/Applicant/CurrentOpportunities.aspx?PosId=862>

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### GREAT LAKES MARITIME ACADEMY

Crewing of the State Maritime Academy training ships has always been a challenge, but due to COVID, these challenges have increased. Pre-COVID the Great Lakes Maritime Academy operated the *T/S State of Michigan* for 12 weeks annually. They now anticipate operating the vessel for 26 weeks annually. The Academy is asking that any crewing agency, that might be interested in working with the Academy to contact them. Their POC is Jerry Achenbach ([gachenbach@nmc.edu](mailto:gachenbach@nmc.edu), 231-995-1203).

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## WANT NEW MEMBERS?

**Recent maritime graduates can get a free 1-Year membership in the Propeller Club!**

If your Club supports a local Student Port, you need to know that 2021 graduates can get a [free 1-year membership](#) to the International Propeller Club. Our Bylaws were changed in 2019 specifically to bring in young persons just entering the maritime industry. Your Club will have to decide if they will charge local dues, but most Ports are waiving local dues as an incentive to recruit younger members. Look for a message soon on how you can grow your Port membership!

## Upcoming Events

- International Propeller Club Port Leadership Meeting (Virtual) - Oct. 12 & 14, 2021
- 95th International Propeller Club Conference (Virtual) Oct. 13-14, 2021
- Salute to Congress, May 4, 2022
- 96th International Propeller Club Conference (2022) in Piraeus, Greece!  
Date to be announced.
- 97th International Propeller Club Conference (2023) in Charleston, SC,  
Date to be announced.

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