



Report: Captain personally fined

I am a Captain who is not new to the islands but is relatively new to South Florida. I have operated for many years on the West Coast and in Southeast Alaska. It is unfortunate that what should be a federal requirement and be federally supported differs greatly from one region to another.

During this past cruising season in Southeast Alaska, a yacht captain was personally fined for not obtaining a pilot. The new regulation requires any foreign-flagged vessel to use a pilot. In this particular case, a licensed yacht captain with local knowledge was working aboard a foreign-flagged personal yacht. Even though he was experienced in these waters and was a U.S. captain, he was in violation. Additionally, the yacht owner took the fine out of the captain's pay for being negligent about legal requirements.

It is the Captain's responsibility to know the different requirements for each state that he is operating in.

Thank you Triton for bringing the very important topic of pilotage to our attention.

Capt. Mark Fernandez

Note: For information and website addresses on pilotage requirements in Florida, California, Washington & Southeast Alaska, visit regulation at www.yachtsourcing.com