

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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COPY

16637
July 28, 2005

Captain Frantz Coe
Puget Sound Pilots
101 Stewart Street, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Capt. Coe:

Please accept my sincere appreciation for the high degree of professionalism that you exhibited while piloting the OOCL NETHERLANDS on the morning of Wednesday, July 13, 2005. As you know, the OOCL NETHERLANDS suffered a start air loss to the main diesel engine while on approach to the East Waterway for Terminal 18. This casualty resulted in a complete loss of propulsion while you were maneuvering in close proximity to critical port infrastructure.

Upon discovering the casualty, you immediately executed appropriate initial actions to prevent a grounding or allision and informed our Vessel Traffic Center (VTC) of the rapidly developing situation. In response to propulsion casualty reports, standard VTC procedure is to ask the pilot about the status of anchors and assist tugs. Before this query could be made, the VTC Watch Supervisor monitoring the situation via closed-circuit video camera observed that you had already lowered the anchor to the water's edge and brought the waiting assist tug alongside to control the vessel's movement. Your proactive response was critical to rapid resolution of an incident that could have escalated into a major marine casualty. Thank you for a job well done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. P. Metruck".

S. P. METRUCK
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port, Puget Sound

Copy: Washington State Pilotage Commission
President, Puget Sound Pilots

