



CAPT. GAVAN F. DUNLEAVY

Dunleavy Maritime Services, LLC
Docking Pilot | Maritime Consultant | Expert Witness
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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Active Delaware River docking pilot and former U.S. merchant seafarer with over a decade of experience in tanker operations, ship handling and the transportation of crude oil, refined petroleum products and chemicals. Experienced in marine casualty analysis, shipyard repair, confined space safety, marine coatings and pollution prevention. Engaged in maritime expert witness consulting and ship handling instruction. Recognized for practical operational judgment, technical knowledge and the ability to clearly explain complex maritime operations and industry practices.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Delaware River Docking Pilots: Harbor Docking Pilot | January 2023–Present

- Conduct docking and undocking operations for large ocean going vessels along the Delaware River.
- Coordinate complex ship handling maneuvers involving modern tugboats, terminals and vessel bridge teams.

Wilmington Tug, Inc: Captain / Mate | August 2023 – Present

- Part time assignments as a Captain/Mate operating Azimuthing Stern Drive (ASD) tugboats in support of docking and undocking operations involving large ocean going vessels along the Delaware River.

Massachusetts Maritime Academy: Assistant Ship Handling Instructor | June 2025–Present

- Assistant instructor in the Advanced Ship Handling Manned Model Training Program.
- Provide practical operational insight and mentoring to future/current maritime professionals.

Maritime Expert Witness | April 2023–Present

- Provide operational analysis and consulting support related to maritime casualty and safety matters.
- Conduct vessel inspections, technical reviews and case evaluations.

Wilmington Tug, Inc: Captain / Mate | November 2021- August 2023

- Served as a ship assist tugboat operator as part of the operational training requirements for the Delaware River docking pilot apprenticeship program.
- Operated and maneuvered Azimuthing Stern Drive (ASD) tugboats in support of docking and undocking operations involving large ocean going vessels along the Delaware River.
- Gained extensive practical experience in tug handling, ship assist operations, vessel interaction forces and harbor maneuvering.
- Completed pilotage apprenticeship training while actively participating in harbor tug and ship-assist operations.

Cetacean Marine: Sea Trials Team Member | June 2018–November 2021

- Collaborated with two domestic shipyards conducting sea trials and systems testing for newly constructed vessels.
- Verified vessel systems performance and regulatory compliance prior to customer delivery.

PBF Energy: Pollution Safety Advisor / Loss Control | January 2018–November 2021

- Oversaw tanker cargo transfer operations to ensure safety, environmental compliance and operational efficiency.
- Prepared operational and compliance reports evaluating vessel and terminal performance.

Philadelphia Ship Repair: EHS Coordinator / Assistant Shipyard Superintendent | November 2011–November 2021

- Supported ship repair operations, safety management, confined space entry oversight, and environmental compliance activities during scheduled relief periods from sea service aboard U.S. flag tank vessels.
- Participated in shipyard planning and coordination efforts involving vessel repair projects, contractor oversight and regulatory safety compliance

U.S. Shipping Corporation: Chief Officer Unlimited | November 2011–November 2021

- Progressed through the ranks aboard chemical and petroleum carriers, ultimately serving as Chief Officer on a 48 parcel chemical tanker.
- Oversaw day to day vessel operations, cargo transfers, and operational duties involving petroleum products, chemicals and hazardous liquid cargoes.

Philadelphia Ship Repair: EHS Coordinator | July 2010–November 2011

- Coordinated shipyard safety activities, confined space entry procedures, contractor safety compliance and environmental oversight in support of vessel repair operations.

EDUCATION

- Lloyds Maritime Academy & North Kent College, London, United Kingdom
Diploma in Ship Superintendency / Marine Technical Management | 2019
- Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts
Bachelor of Science | 2010

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- Master Unlimited Tonnage Upon Oceans
- Master of Towing Vessels Upon Oceans
- First Class Pilotage of Unlimited Tonnage Upon the Delaware River
- Advanced Ship Handling for Masters
- Advanced Ship Handling Training in Manned Models
- Tankerman Dangerous Liquid Cargo PIC Endorsement
- AMPP Shipboard Corrosion Assessment Technician
- Shipyard Competent Person Certification
- Train the Trainor/Assessor

PUBLICATIONS

- “The American Merchant Seaman’s Manual, Chapter 7” — Contributing Editor (2022)
- “Training Ships Commissioned by MARAD” — AMPP (2021)
- “Confined Spaces: The Initial Test of the Atmosphere” — The Maritime Executive (2020)
- “Prioritizing Painting in Ship Maintenance” — NACE International (2018)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

- Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society: Board Member & Scholarship Committee (2015-Present)
- Massachusetts Maritime Academy Philadelphia & Tri-State Alumni Chapter: President (2019-Present)
- Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay: Member (2021-Present)
- Connecticut Maritime Society: Member (2019-Present)
- NACE Maritime Coatings Focus Panel: Panel Member (2020-2021)
- NACE Biofouling Technology Exchange Group: Member (2020-2024)
- Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP): Advisor to IMO initiatives (2023-2024)