

# Sun-Sentinel

## **Florida's harbor pilots are so few, get paid too much, study says** *Florida's 88 harbor pilots earn average of \$368,000 per year*

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By Jaclyn Giovis

Florida's harbor pilot system limits the number of available pilots and inflates their salaries, acting as a cost burden to consumers and the state, according to a study released Tuesday.

The study was by Miami-based firm, The Washington Economic Group (WEG). It found Florida's pilots are paid an average of \$368,000 per year, significantly more than professionals such as air traffic controllers, ship captains and commercial airline captains.

Florida's 14 ports were served in 2008 by just 88 pilots, who were paid about \$50 million in fees, the study said. Reducing harbor pilots' fees to levels comparable to the incomes of air traffic controllers would result in as much as \$35 million in direct annual savings, the study said.