



# GOOD CATCH from **The American Club**

## Pilot Ladder Safety Part 5: The cutting edge

**Your safety as well as the safety of your fellow crew mates** is every crewperson's responsibility. The same responsibilities apply to those visiting your vessel, including marine pilots. There has been a tragic increase in marine pilot fatalities in recent months and pilots around the globe are paying particular attention to the conditions of pilot ladders of the vessels they board. Many have refused to board vessels where ladders are in poor working condition. The American Club has reached out to the marine pilot community regarding some of the main concerns they have with pilot ladder arrangements.



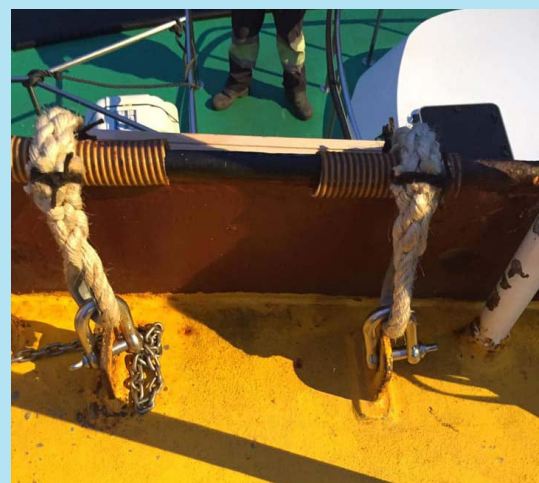
Pilot ladder over the side across a sharp edge.



Wear and tear on the pilot ladder rope will occur at a faster rate if no sharp edge protection is in place.



Well designed pilot station with a section of cut steel pipe affixed to ensure pilot ladder goes over a rounded edge.



SOLAS regulation V/23, *Pilot Transfer Arrangements*, set forth the standards and requirements for boarding arrangements, responsibility of ship's personnel in rigging pilot transfer equipment, associated pilot transfer equipment, clear access and lighting.

“Failure by design” is an element of pilot ladder safety that is often beyond the vessel crew’s control. A common example of this is the presence of sharp deck edges in and around the pilot’s boarding station. It is imperative that crews remain vigilant and watchful of pilot ropes and other parts of the pilot ladder that can be damaged by sharp deck edges where pilot ladders go over the vessel’s side. Such events can be injurious or fatal to the pilot or personnel on a pilot boat. A simple way to avoid this is to weld a round pipe over any sharp edges to safeguard the ladder against such damage. This will also avoid excessive wear to the ladder.

When you identify a hazard before someone gets hurt...

**it’s a Good Catch.**

When you fix a problem before something bad happens...

**it’s a Good Catch.**

When you take responsibility for your own safety...

**that’s a Good Catch, too!**

All pictures are courtesy of maritime pilots worldwide and Facebook group [#dangerousladders](#).



Your Managers thank Capt. Herman Broers, a maritime pilot in Rotterdam, for his efforts maintaining the website [pilotladdersafety.com](http://pilotladdersafety.com), and recommend that Members take note of the information it contains and be guided accordingly.



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