



PORT OF NEWPORT

600 S.E. Bay Blvd.
Newport, OR 97365
Phone 541-265-7758
Fax 541-265-4235

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Walter Chuck Position #1
President
Dean Fleck Position #5
Vice President
Ken Brown Position #4
Secretary/Treasurer
JoAnn Barton Position #3
David Jincks Position #2

GENERAL MANAGER

Kevin Greenwood 541-265-7758

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Stephen Larrabee 541-265-7758

HARBORMASTERS

Kevin Bryant, Commercial
Marina Harbormaster
541-270-5557
Chris Urbach, South Beach
Marina Harbormaster
541-270-5558

SOUTH BEACH MARINA

AND RV PARK
Phone 541-867-3321
Fax 541-867-3352

INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL

Jim Durkee, Terminal Operations
Supervisor
Phone 541-265-9651
Cell 541-270-0545
Fax 541-574-1053

NOAA FACILITIES MANAGER

Rick Fuller 541-961-3904

PORT MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular Meeting is **January 27, 6:00 PM**, South Beach Marina Activities Room, 2120 SE Marine Science Dr, Newport.

Dredging for Eel Grass Mitigation Progressing Well



UPDATE ON THE EEL GRASS MITIGATION PROJECT

Dredge work has progressed at the eel grass mitigation area, done by Natt McDougal Contracting. The south and east gravel bench elevation is being lowered to enhance the growth of eel grass. The dredge work is utilizing a tracked mobile crane with a Toyo hydraulic suction pump system. The hydraulic suction pump's main advantage is its ability to minimize turbidity and the ease of material transport to the upland disposal site. At the time of this report, a barge and back hoe are working at the eastern beach area, which is beyond the mobile crane's reach. The project should be completed the week of January 12th. It will take months before the beach has stabilized prior to this summer's anticipated eel grass replanting.

UPDATE ON THE COAST GUARD AIR STATION

Congress passed an appropriations bill in December that included a provision preventing the U S Coast Guard from closing the helicopter air stations in Newport and South Carolina until January 1, 2016. Senators Wyden and Merkley, as well Representatives Schrader, DeFazio, and Bonamici, were instrumental in preventing the immediate closure of the air stations.

The Port of Newport had joined in a federal lawsuit filed by the Fishermen's Wives, seeking an injunction to prevent the closure. The hearing scheduled in December was cancelled by the judge subsequent to the congressional action.

Our congressional delegation, in conjunction with the South Carolina representatives, is now working on a permanent solution that would keep the air stations operating.

Port & Starboard

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

See website calendar for event details



- 01/19** MLK Holiday - Closed
- 01/27** Regular Commission Mtg
- 02/11** Fishermen's Forum (PD7 shop)
- 02/20** Seafood and Wine Festival
- 02/16** President's Day - Closed
- 02/24** Regular Commission Meeting

PORTLAND BOAT SHOW

The Portland Boat Show opened on Tuesday, January 6, and closed Sunday, the 11th. Many of our staff worked the Port booth, promoting the marinas and RV parks, as well as the City of Newport, as a recreation area. Kevin Greenwood, Steve Larrabee, Penny Gabrielson, Barb and Dan Martin, Clay Moore, Bill McCann, and Devin Whaley all took turns speaking with the public about the great opportunities offered to visitors by the Port of Newport.

Englund Marine, Rogue Brewery, Local Ocean, Oregon Coast Aquarium, and Marine Discovery Tours donated door prizes, for which approximately 240 attendees signed up. The winners were contacted and were delighted with their prizes.

The Chamber of Commerce generously provided fliers and brochures promoting the Newport area as a tourist destination. Attendance at the booth was in the thousands and many of those who stopped by the booth picked up materials, including 25 pounds of salt water taffy.

Barb Martin took the lead on organizing the Port's participation in the event and did a fabulous job. The number of contacts that may result in future moorage and RV reservations are a result of her hard work and that of other Port personnel who worked the show and is very much appreciated.

Kevin and Penny at the Boat Show



THE SOUTH SIDE

The South Beach office began taking reservations for RV spots for the Seafood and Wine Festival at 8:00 on the morning of January 5, 2015. Eighty-five minutes later, the sites were sold out. Guests registered by phone and on-line and approximately 30 people were waiting at the front door to register at the counter. Each applicant could register for a maximum of three sites per phone call or counter contact. Because so many people stood in line to register in the office, many of the spots were not made available to those who attempted to register on-line. Staff plans a discussion before next year's registration to decide the best procedure to equitably handle the sheer volume of persons seeking to stay at the RV parks for the Festival. All guests were required to register for a minimum of two nights, pay the full cost at the time of registration, and no discounts were provided.

In mid-December, the Rogue Brewery began construction of a \$2 million bottling line to expand its production capacity. As part of the last expansion of the main building, it had installed a 6,000 square-foot cooler. The old cooler has now been removed to accommodate the new bottling line.

Commercial fishermen underwent safety training at South Beach in fire suppression and use of survival suits and life rafts. The training occurred at the service dock and the old boat launch.

Welcome to our new neighbors! The Inn at Yaquina Bay was sold and the new owners have a Motel 6 franchise. The new Motel 6 signs are up and the owners plan to paint the exterior and do extensive repairs. They have been working closely with Chris Urbach on such matters as landscaping. They have used RV sites at the Annex for very temporary needs. All their rooms were sold out for the Seafood and Wine Festival in the first week of January,



Commercial fishermen safety training at South Beach



Rogue's new bottling line

THE NORTH SIDE

When the weather has permitted, the hoist dock has stayed busy with independent commercial buyers, purchasing crab and hag fish. Hag fish, sometimes called slime eels, are caught between 70 and 80 fathoms; purchasers ship them to the state of Washington, with Korea as the principal destination. To date, the crab season has seen a decline in the number of crabs brought in compared to last year, but that has been offset to some degree by the higher prices they are bringing. The crab harvest tends to be cyclical and often has a quick decline or rebound from year to year.

The negotiated opening price of \$3.10 per pound was the highest on record for a season opener, according to the News-Times. That source also noted that the Port of Newport has led the crab harvest with 31% of the of the catch, followed by Astoria and Charleston with 29% and 28% respectively.

Report from the Shipping Terminal

It's been a busy month at the terminal. Foul Weather Trawl, Joe Lamb Electric and Northern Refrigeration were all busy working with Alaska boats, as were Port of Newport personnel. Most of the Alaska fleet managed to get loaded and left by January 10th. A few boats are still doing boat yard work. Most of the crab boats that use the terminal dock have brought in their crab gear and are re-rigged for other fisheries or are on their way to doing so.

The dredging along the west dock is close to completion. Divers will have to be called in to identify the hard spots encountered by the dredge crew and cut off any steel pilings they find.

The lot is messy from dredge spoils and the remains of net repair work and loading. There is a lot of clean-up and maintenance work to be done in the coming months...



F/V Predator's crew working overtime to get the boat put back together and loaded for the trip to Alaska.

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