



600 S. E. BAY BOULEVARD NEWPORT, OREGON 97365 (541) 265-7758 FAX (541) 265-4235

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Contact: Don Mann, General Manager
541-265-7758

NEWPORT IS SUCCESSFUL IN ITS BID FOR NOAA MOC – P

Newport, Oregon – The Port of Newport received word from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tuesday morning that it was successful in its bid to bring NOAA’s Marine Operations Center – Pacific to Yaquina Bay beginning in 2011.

“This is stunning news,” said Port Commission President Ginny Goblirsch. “We knew we had a strong proposal and that Newport was the perfect location. Our success is the result of a tremendous community effort. Having NOAA Marine Operations Center – Pacific based in Newport will be pivotal in our history as we continue to evolve as **the** major center for marine research and education and one of the top U.S. fishing ports. One of our unique strengths is the leadership our fleet has shown as research partners with scientists. This is a gift beyond measure to our community and the state of Oregon.”

In its offer, the Port touted the collaborative work among scientific agencies at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, commercial fishers, vessel owners, state and federal regulatory agencies and Oregon Coast Aquarium. It also emphasized that Yaquina Bay offers central, close-up access to high value marine environments, which would reduce fuel consumption and carbon footprints from NOAA’s research vessels.

“NOAA is committed to providing the highest level of science, service and value to the nation,” said Rear Adm. Jonathan W. Bailey, director of the [NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations](#) and the [NOAA Corps](#). “We look forward to reuniting NOAA’s West Coast research ships and support personnel at one facility and being an active part of the community.”

Home porting NOAA’s Pacific fleet in Newport enjoys widespread community support, the support of the state legislature, U.S. Congressman Kurt Schrader, and U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley.

The Port of Newport commission will be meeting at 12:00 p.m. in special session on Wednesday, August 5, at 600 S.E. Bay Boulevard, to act on the 20-year lease with NOAA and discuss the next steps for the project.

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