

# Port of Newport

# Harbor News

## South Beach marina readies for summer season

Preparations for a busy summer season are underway at the South Beach marina, but changes in the state's fishing calendar and a more structured parking program at the Port of Newport may make for smoother sailing.

In a change from recent years, Oregon's spring all-depth halibut season will be open 7 days per week through June 30. Local proponents say it will make for less congestion and greater safety, since there will be less temptation for anglers to brave unfavorable weather. The summer season will open on Aug. 4 and revert back to a limited calendar for all-depths. The month of July has a few back-up dates in the event the spring season did not reach the quota.

On the local front, the Port of Newport is instituting a parking fee program for additional vehicles at the marina starting July 1. Under the new system, vehicles pulling a boat and those belonging to moorage holders in the marina are already covered. A parking fee would be required of any extra visitors parking on-site while fishing or visiting a boat in the marina.

The Port Commission has approved the use of a mobile application, plus an on-site kiosk, for administration of the new fee, which will be \$5 per day or \$45 for an annual pass. Monies collected will be set aside to handle pavement maintenance and repairs at the marina.

Spreading the cost of maintaining the marina among all users and reducing the amount of congestion are two of the reasons for the new fee.

"Even with changes to the state calendar, we expect this year to be as busy as the last few years at the marina," said General Manager Paula Miranda. "It is our hope that some individuals will choose to carpool, which will save them the parking fee and reduce traffic on site."

Information on the mobile app will be available in June on the Port Facebook page and website.



Leonard Dahl, of La Pine, with the 109-pound halibut he caught June, 2021. Angling off Newport since 2005, this was his biggest prize, which yielded 80 pounds of fish to enjoy. (Photo by Out West Photography)

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### Port of Newport At-A-Glance

#### Port Commission

- Jim Burke, President
- Gil Sylvia, Vice President
- Walter Chuck, Sec/Treasurer
- Jeff Lackey, Commissioner
- Kelley Retherford, Commissioner

#### Port Facilities

- North Commercial Marina
- International Terminal
- RV Parks (South Beach)
- Recreational Marina (South Beach)
- NOAA Facilities
- Properties leased to Rogue, OSU, Aquarium, Englund Marine, and others

#### Management

- Paula Miranda, General Manager
- Aaron Bretz, Director of Operations
- Mark Brown, Director of Finance

# Project Update: Here is what's happening around the Port

Several projects to improve Port facilities are currently underway or in the planning stages. Funding comes from a variety of sources, including grants, loans, Port revenues, fees, and lease funds. In recent years, the Port has taken extra steps to assess the condition of its buildings and assets, and actively planned for upgrades or, when necessary, replacement. Below is a quick snapshot of some of the projects that are either underway or in the planning stages.

## 📍 Newport International Terminal:

This spring, the grading of nine acres of property at NIT better prepares the site for potential cargo clients. Storage areas will also be paved this year, eliminating the Port's need to lease other storage space. Additionally, dredging is budgeted in order to maintain an appropriate NIT channel depth, and pilings will be evaluated and repaired.

## 📍 Rogue Seawall:

Thanks to a \$1.14 million appropriation from the State of Oregon, assisted by Rep. David Gomberg, major repairs will happen in the coming year to the 540-foot seawall that supports Rogue World Headquarters in South Beach. The permitting process is underway and officials say much of the effort will occur this winter during the allowed window for in-water work.

## 📍 Administration Building:

Construction is currently underway on the new building, located near Port Dock 7. The project is expected to be completed mid-autumn of this year. Once complete, the temporary trailer will be removed from the site to provide additional storage area.

## 📍 Commercial Marina:

Supply chain issues have created delays, but new electrical pedestals will be installed in the coming year at Port Dock 5 and Port Dock 3. In response to a failure in the old tank, the Port will also be



Administration building – as of May 21, 2022

constructing a new facility for the handling of used oil – a service provided to vessels in the marina. Planning will also begin on the replacement of Port Dock 7. While replacement will be an expensive, multi-year undertaking, potential funding sources will first require a detailed plan. The Port is budgeting for the planning stage in the coming year, which begins this July.

## 📍 South Beach RV Park & Marina:

The RV Park Annex is beginning to show its age, so planning for a new park design is expected to occur this year. There are also improvements slated to other Port buildings in South Beach, as well as ongoing dock repairs.

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## Reflections from the Port Commission president

by Jim Burke



The key to the future success of the Port of Newport lies with well-made plans that create a solid road map to achieve our ambitious goals. Our strategic business plan outlines the long-standing goals of the Port and can be viewed on our website in full detail. It includes our capital facilities plan which prioritizes projects, provides cost estimates, and identifies potential funding sources. This gives port staff guidance to ensure the needs of our district are met and the port remains an economic revenue generator.

The Port Dock 5 pier replacement is a recently completed, successful example of the importance of planning and having shovel ready projects, especially when trying to acquire federal funding. That project was partially funded with a \$1.2 million grant from the Economic Development Administration.

A current project that has been funded after years of planning and engineering is a \$1.4 million refurbishment to the Rogue seawall to ensure that our biggest tenant is able to continue being an innovative employer in our community.

The Port's biggest project is still ahead of us and that is the dredging and rebuilding of the Port Dock 7 facility. Planning for a project of this scale is complex and includes a lengthy permitting process. A new Port Dock 7 is several years in the future, but port staff is working diligently to see it come to fruition. It is critical to the success of the fishing fleet.

There are many more to highlight and I encourage you to take a deeper dive into our website to view and track our progress.

## Happy Retirement, Chris!



Best wishes to Chris Urbach on his retirement. After nearly 33 years at the Port of Newport, Chris finished his career as South Beach harbormaster on May 31. May he enjoy time with his family and plenty of days in the garden.

We are also pleased to announce that Kody Robinson is the new South Beach harbormaster. Trained by Chris and with the Port for more than a year, we know he'll do a great job!

# AROUND YAQUINA BAY: Who Manages the Harbor?

It is a hub of activity, playing the starring role in both commerce and recreation in Newport and beyond, but who actually owns the harbor? Who makes the decisions when it comes to development or other endeavors that take place in or on the water?

Find the answer to those complex questions and you also discover why water-related advancements sometimes move painfully slow and why the cost of doing business on the harbor is layered with fees and regulations. This navigable waterway brings federal, state, and local oversight. Community stakeholders are also guided by the Yaquina Bay Estuary Management plan, which is currently being updated and outlines a vision for the area.

Here's a brief look at the agencies with authority over the jewel of the central coast: Yaquina Bay.

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):



- Charged with managing federal infrastructure
- Permitting authority over anything requiring in-water installation (docks, piers, etc) in consultation with other federal permitting agencies and tribes
- Builds and maintains jetties and bar, and maintains channel

## Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL):



- State owns submerged and submersible land (with some exceptions) and DSL manages it.
- Requires a permit for installation of anything in-water (joint with USACE)
- Leases submerged land to entities for an annual fee
- Small projects may require only an annual registration (instead of lease)

## U.S. Coast Guard:



- Maintains all federal aids to navigation (buoys, ranges, fog signals, etc.)
- Maritime safety and security
- Pollution response
- Search/rescue and federal law enforcement in U.S. waters

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*While it is true that each organization has a role to play, the harbor is best managed when all organizations and individuals work together to care for this important waterway.*

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## City of Newport:



- Has authority to permit construction of shoreside buildings
- Requires approval for the construction of any docks or other physical structures

## Port of Newport:



- Manages its own facilities in accordance with state and federal regulation
- Must obtain permits and lease submerged lands from DSL where docks are located

## NOAA Fisheries:



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

- Charged with overseeing the protection of marine habitat
- Any projects that might impact habitat must consult with NOAA Fisheries
- Projects may require mitigation, often a costly process, which offsets impact

# The Port of Newport welcomes these new entrepreneurs!

## Newport Marina Store under new ownership

The new owners at the Newport Marina Store say people might be surprised by what they find at the market located near the South Beach boat launch.

Lauren Craven and her sister-in-law, Rachel Craven, bought the store and

took over ownership from Chris Olson on January 1, 2022. Since then, they have introduced several new products, a larger hot food menu, and some items that might appeal to the RV park audience situated nearby.



Lauren Craven

The store is a true family affair, since her brother, Jack Craven, who owns Yaquina Bay Charters, was the one who urged his sister to buy the business and partner with his charter operation.

“I had helped Jack out in the beginning of his business, when I was fresh out of college,” Lauren

recalled. “We had worked together before and we saw this as an opportunity to do something special that was family-oriented, where we could all grow together,” she added.

The store is more than just a bait and tackle shop located at the water’s edge. There’s a growing selection of beer, a big variety of food and snack items, and a list of rental items, including boats, crab rings, clam guns, and life preservers.

“We’re excited to be here and meeting all the locals and regulars,” Lauren said. “We know the community loved Chris, and we hope they will come and share their fishing stories with us. We want to know what they think we can do to make things even better.”

Newport Marina Store & Yaquina Bay Charters are open 7 days per week. You can find the latest updates from the store on their Facebook page.

## Marine electronics business in South Beach

Matheson Marine Services, the newest tenant at the Port of Newport, specializes in the sale and installation of marine electronics like radars, chart plotters, communication equipment, fish finders, and satellite internet. The business works on both commercial and recreational vessels.

Established in 2012, owners James and Leslie Matheson, of Seal Rock, work alongside Bob Muret, of Waldport, who also specializes in mobile and electronic equipment. In 2021, the business moved into what was once the old cherry plant in South Beach.

“We had been looking for a place for quite a while,” Matheson explained. “This location is prime because we are right here at the marina. This way we can do fabrication in the shop and then go down to the water to install,” he said.

The location also allows the men to work on vessels inside the workshop and



Bob Muret (left) and James Matheson

hold boats outside as they await their installation. The location makes drop-off and pick-up of boats easier on the customer.

Offering a wide variety of marine electronic equipment, Matheson is a certified installer for Garmin, Navico, Airmar transducers, and other major brands.

To learn more about Matheson Marine Services, visit [www.mathesonmarine.com](http://www.mathesonmarine.com).



### \$10,000 Cook-Off

### It's a Battle by the Bay!

Join us at Port Dock 7 on July 23, 2022 for a wild seafood cook-off, featuring a friendly competition between fishing crews. Visitors will enjoy great food and a Rogue Ales beer garden.

Proceeds benefit Newport Fishermen's Wives and the Newport Food Pantry.

The event's major sponsors are First Interstate Bank, Pacific Seafood, and Port of Newport.

Tickets can be purchased online with Newport Fishermen's Wives or on the Port's website.