

## GRAYS HARBOR CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A project nearly 40 years in the making, the Port of Grays Harbor last week celebrated the completion of the Grays Harbor Navigation Improvement Project, in which 14.5 miles of the deep-draft channel leading to the Port's Terminal 4 was deepened to the fully authorized depth of -38 feet MLLW.

Washington State's only deep-water port directly on the Pacific Coast, the Grays Harbor Navigation Channel was authorized by Congress to a depth of -38 feet MLLW in 1986. Construction of Phase I was completed in 1991, improving the channel to a depth of -36 feet MLLW.

Efforts for Phase II, constructing the channel to its fully authorized depth of -38 feet, began in 2007 and included feasibility reports, biological assessments, impact mitigation studies, environmental assessments and a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement completed in June 2014.

The Port of Grays Harbor requested deepening the channel the additional two feet to improve the efficiency of navigation for large vessels, and better accommodate current vessel traffic for existing Port tenants and commodities as a crucial link between U.S. growers and producers and international markets.



The project was recommended by the US Army Corps of Engineers as technically feasible, environmentally justified, cost effective and in accordance with environmental statutes and public interest, and was approved for forward motion in 2015.

The deepening occurred from the South Reach upstream to Cow Point Reach where the Port of Grays Harbor Terminal 4 is located. The project deepened around half of the 27.5-mile channel, with maintenance and deepening including dredging approximately 3.5 million cubic yards of material.

Previously, an average of 1.2 million cubic yards of sediment was removed annually from the channel by the USACE, and disposed of at approved disposal sites, including open-water disposal at the Point Chehalis, South Beach, South Jetty, and Southwest disposal sites, as well as beneficial use for beach nourishment at Half Moon Bay.

Work began on October 1, 2016 and continued through December 22, 2018.

### SPOTLIGHT

**NEW SRKW TASK FORCE MEMBER:**

**STEVEN A. JOHNSTON**

**PORT OF EDMONDS**



Introducing our new WPPA representative for the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Task Force, Port of Edmonds Commissioner Steven A. Johnston.

With a 35-year background in environmental services, Johnston considers himself a "practical environmentalist," with expertise in balancing human, biological and physical environments.

Currently Commission President the Port of Edmonds, he has served in that role since 2016, and is appointed to serve through 2022.

Johnston has been connected to WPPA for 28 years, both in as an associate member through his role as Chief Executive Officer for a leading Pacific Northwest engineering and environmental services firm, and consulting with ports on facility development and industrial site remediation, along with marine resource protection measures to offset impacts. His past also includes serving as a U.S. Navy Captain for 30 years.

His experience in consulting with state and federal agencies developing environmental regulations and policies, including several where impacts to marine mammals were of primary and specific concern.

We're quite lucky to have him representing port interests on the task force.

## FASTBALLS, CURVEBALLS AND CHANGE-UPS



Last week began with four words I love to hear, and four words I hate to hear. The former is “pitchers and catchers report”, and the latter was “big snowstorm is coming”. We were clobbered with snow here, and the gritty streets of Olympia remain messy.

As we dig out of the mess, I was reflecting on one of the traits that I like so much about the port community. We are a dedicated bunch of people. Recently, I did a half-day training seminar for new port commissioners, because we ended up with eight of them being appointed across the state last year. After listening to each of these newly-minted commissioners introduce themselves, I was really struck by how long each of them had lived in their community, and how dedicated they were to making their port succeed.

For each of them, being a commissioner seemed like a way for them to give back to their community in a productive way. It ended up being a very productive afternoon – you’re going to like working with this bunch.

And our collective dedication was on full display on Wednesday of last week as well, when a bill of some concern (mostly to seaports, but to others too) was introduced and scheduled for a hearing the next day at 8 am. This almost never happens, and we had to scramble to get the right people informed and develop a position immediately. With about five hours’ notice, we had directors or senior staff from

ten ports on a conference call to go over the situation and give us direction on a position.

When you give people only five hours of notice for an event and they still turn to and participate, it shows the dedication that is sort of the secret sauce of the association. That is the stuff that keeps me going, even when I wished was down at Spring Training, instead of slogging around in the slush at the Capitol.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Clerk to the Board / Administrative Specialist

Port of Port Angeles

### Project Manager II, Engineering

Port of Tacoma

### Communications & Administrative Coordinator

Port of Grays Harbor

### Director, Engineering

Port of Tacoma

### Airport Manager

Port of Bremerton

### General Manager

Port of Newport

### Senior IT Project Manager (Limited Duration)

Port of Tacoma

### Port Attendant

Port of Bremerton

### Port Maintenance

Port of Bremerton

### Senior Planner - Recruitment

Northwest Seaport Alliance

### Marina Office Assistant

Port of Bremerton

### Project Engineer

Port of Bellingham

### Multimodal Freight Systems Planner

Washington State Department of Transportation

### Airport Manager

Port of Orcas

### Maintenance III

Port of Camas Washougal

### Public Communications / Media Coordinator

Port of Whitman County

If you would like information on any of these positions, visit: [washingtonports.org/employment-opportunities](http://washingtonports.org/employment-opportunities)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Spring Meeting

May 15-17, 2019

Davenport Hotel, Spokane

### Environmental Meeting

September 26-27

Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan

### Finance & Administration Seminar

June 12-14, 2019

Alderbrook Inn, Union

### Small Ports Seminar

October 24-25, 2019

Enzian Inn, Leavenworth

### Directors Seminar

July 11-12, 2019

Skamania Lodge, Stevenson

### Annual Meeting

November 20-22, 2019

Hotel Murano, Tacoma

### Commissioners Seminar

July 22-24, 2019

Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum