



Around the Docks

Satsop Business Park Westport Marina Coastal Innovation Zone Bowerman Airport PGH Pilotage Services

PGH Mission: To best utilize our resources to facilitate, enhance and stimulate international trade, economic development and tourism for the region.

GH Navigation Improvement Project

USACE issues Record of Decision for GH Navigation Improvement

The Grays Harbor Navigation Improvement Project reached a pivotal milestone on August 29, 2014, when U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Brigadier General John Kem of the Northwestern Division signed the Record of Decision (ROD), which officially recommends deepening the channel to -38 feet MLLW and completes the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

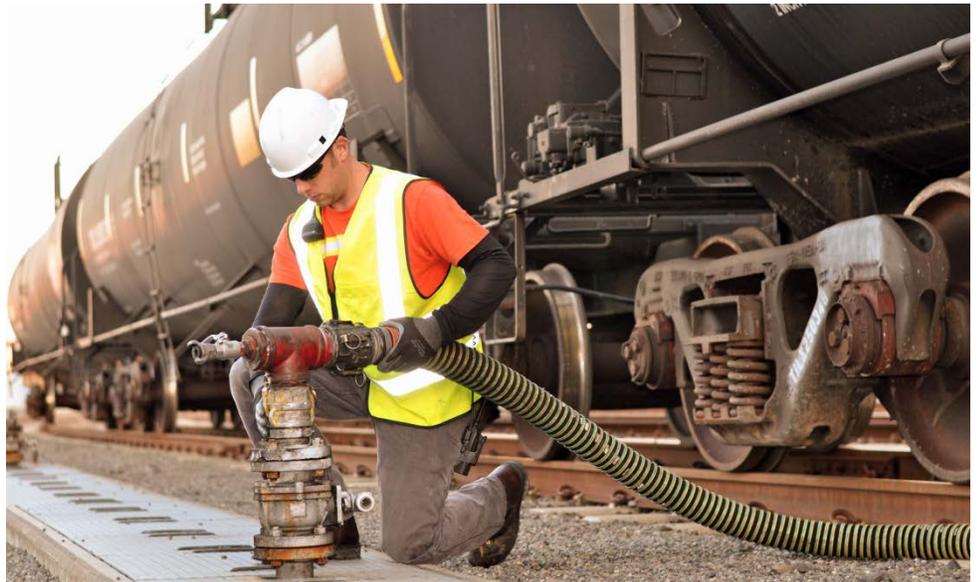
The Federal Navigation Channel was congressionally authorized to -38 feet MLLW in the 1980s but was only constructed to -36 feet in the early '90s. The Port began the process of seeking the additional two feet back in 2007. The purpose of the project is to reduce navigation transportation costs for the existing and growing traffic of deep-draft vessels, and improve efficiency and reliability of navigation to and from Grays Harbor over the next 50 years.

"As fuel prices have risen, vessel sizes have increased," said Executive Director Gary Nelson. "The additional two feet will help keep Grays Harbor competitive well into the future".



Economic Development

Increased production drives record employment and activity at Imperium



An Imperium employee prepares to load a rail tanker of biodiesel at its facility at the Port of Grays Harbor.

Good economic conditions for producing biodiesel and improved efficiencies have helped Imperium Renewables, the nation's largest BQ-9000 certified biodiesel plant, reach record employment and product transfers this summer.

Employment at Imperium's refinery at the Port of Grays Harbor is now at 43 people, one employee better than the company's pre-recession high. The company had a record 967 transfers of raw materials and finished product during August, and produced more than 20 million gallons of biodiesel during the summer months.

"The economics of making biodiesel make sense now, and

we've installed more efficient processes to improve our output," said Imperium General Manager Aaron Leatherman. "Meanwhile, our sales team is doing a great job marketing our product throughout the Pacific Northwest."

Imperium had 3,180 transfers to and from truck or train tankers from May through August, bringing canola oil in from farmers in the Pacific Northwest and sending biodiesel out to regional markets.

"We're happy to be part of the dynamic growth at the Port of Grays Harbor," Leatherman said. "We look forward to bringing more jobs and economic development to the community."

PGH Capital Improvements invest in the economy

Maintaining and sustaining waterfront and upland infrastructure is expensive and a challenge for port districts. Rural ports, with smaller population bases, especially struggle to raise the capital needed to compete in attracting global and regional customers and the jobs they generate with their operations. The Port of Grays Harbor Commissioners and staff have targeted their decisions on strategic initiatives that level the rural versus urban playing field.

"A focus on key business strategies, improvements that attract private investments, combined with responsive financial and operational management have allowed the Port of Grays Harbor to grow our revenues generated by an expanding customer base," reported PGH Director of Finance Mary Nelson at a recent Financial Planning Workshop. In five years, the Port's operating revenues, fees derived by customer charges, have grown 200% while property tax collections have

remained stagnant.

"This customer growth focused strategy allows us to invest in the infrastructure that makes us competitive, therefore attracting additional outside investment and employment opportunities. It's an economic engine."

In 2014, the Port projects capital improvements to total \$12.2 million, with more than half of that coming from net revenues, a third from grants and less than 20% coming from local taxes. "The Commissioners established a policy long ago dedicating property taxes to capital improvements," reflects Commission President Stan Pinnick. "That policy has served our community well, leveraging our public investment to attract over \$240 million in private capital investment over the past seven years. That private investment expands our local tax base and all of Grays Harbor benefits."

The Port will be presenting the 2015 preliminary budget at the October 7th meeting.

Calendar

- October 2 *Monza Express @ T4*
- October 7 PGH Commission Meeting, PGH Offices @ 9:00am. Budget Workshop @ 1pm
- October 10 *Hyundai #106 @ T4*
- October 14 PGH Special Meeting, Economic Impact Study Results/Strategic Planning Workshop PGH Offices @ 9:00am East Aberdeen Mobility Project Open House, PGH Commission Chambers 5-7pm
- October 17 *Kastro @ T2*
- October 18 *Hoegh Triton @ T4*
- October 24 *Medi Manila @ T2*



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To join our mailing list contact
Kayla Dunlap at kdunlap@portgrays.org

Friends and Sterling Landing added to the Port's waterfront public access; renovations planned for 28th Street Launch



Friend's Landing (pictured above) and nearby Sterling Landing will officially become facilities of the Port of Grays Harbor in October. Friend's Landing, near Montesano, offers 150 acres of ADA accessible recreation opportunities on the Chehalis River including hiking, fishing, camping and bird watching. The site features a 32-acre man-made lake, 1.7 miles of paved trail, an ADA accessible boat launch, along with RV and tent camping facilities with full hook-up sites available seasonally.



For more than twenty years, 28th Street Landing has provided waterfront access for all to enjoy. Complete with a boat launch, viewing tower and bank-accessible fishing opportunities, 28th Street offers something for everyone. Renovations planned at the popular launch include reconstruction of the launch ramp and replacement of the debris deflector that protects the launch.