

May, 2020



## Keeping Posted:

Here's what on GM Paula Miranda's mind

Like most of you reading this update, my time and the Port's focus of late has been spent responding to the Covid-19 crisis. While the financial impact to the Port of Newport hasn't been crippling, it is being felt and will continue to be felt into the foreseeable future. As of the end of April, we calculated that our losses were around \$20,000 but we are very aware that the full impact has yet to be felt.

As with any employer in an essential industry, our attention has been devoted to maintaining operations while putting protections in place for staff members and our customers. We've taken a number of steps, including:

- installing a glass barrier between visitors and our office staff;
- providing those employees unable to work from home with 5 extra days of paid time off so people are comfortable staying home if they feel any sign of illness;
- discouraging vessels from side-tying unless they have permission from the neighboring boat;
- providing face masks to those interacting with the public;
- adjusting work schedules to minimize the number of people in shared spaces when possible;
- using online tools, like Zoom, for meetings.

As we continue to address the impacts of Covid-19, we are thankful for our federal representatives who are seeking additional support for Ports. You can read more about that [here](#).

## Project Update:

### ARMY CORPS CHANNEL PROJECT

Late in 2019, we announced that the USACE would be considering whether or not to proceed with a project to deepen the channel in and out of the Port's commercial marina. In April, Port Director of Operations Aaron Bretz announced that a kick-off meeting had been held and things were proceeding.

### PORT DOCK 5

Title insurance, site certification, and the preparation of other documents are all being completed in anticipation of contracting - the next big step in our project. Actual construction is anticipated to start around November.



## Boat Ramp Re-Opening On May 14, 2020

On May 7, after receiving the official word from ODFW that all-depths halibut season would open on May 21, the Port of Newport decided to schedule re-opening of the South Beach boat ramp to occur on May 14.

"A gradual opening will put us in a better position to see what will happen when larger numbers of boats arrive," explained General Manager Paula Miranda. "It would have been very difficult for us to remain closed once Halibut season is open. Very difficult for us to manage the people who would have come here to fish, only to find the ramp closed."

Port employees have worked to make facility changes to prepare for re-opening. They include:

- reducing the number of water spigots at filet tables to allow more space between anglers;
- increasing signage around the ramp kiosk, filet tables, and elsewhere reminding people of social distancing requirements;
- placement of extra garbage receptacles;
- increasing cleaning schedules for bathrooms and other facilities.

Additionally, the Port has put out communication via local media, its website, and social media sites to inform users not only of the schedule for re-opening, but also of social distancing expectations, a reminder that local hotels/motels and RV parks are still closed to short-term stays, and that the ability to keep the ramp open will require their cooperation.

"It is our hope that this re-opening can go smoothly and that the opening of halibut season is met with cooperation by those using our facilities," Miranda said.

For more about the Port's plans for re-opening, read the press release [here](#).

## With Thanks and Appreciation.....



The Port of Newport extends its thanks and appreciation to Sara Skamser upon her departure from the Port Commission. Sara resigned earlier this month for personal reasons. She has served on the Port Commission since 2017 and was appointed President in July of 2019. She will be missed. Applications to fill the vacancy on the Commission are currently being accepted. More information is available on the Port's website.

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