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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Port of Newport welcomes Finance Director

(NEWPORT,OR) The Port of Newport welcomed Mark Brown to the administrative staff on August 5, 2019, when the Oregon native officially began his duties as Director of Finance and Business Services. The position had been vacant since the middle of 2017.

“We are pleased to have Mark join our staff,” said Paula Miranda, General Manager. “As we map out the future of the Port of Newport, having someone with Mark’s financial management background will be a real asset to our organization,” she noted.

Brown was previously the financial services manager at the Department of Environmental Quality’s Portland office, where he managed a staff of 27 focused on accounting, budgeting, payroll, procurement and more.

“It is a big change, but I saw this position as a chance to do something I love and combine it with the hobbies I love,” he explained, adding with a smile that he wouldn’t miss Portland traffic, either.

Those hobbies he mentions are fishing and crabbing and he looks forward to getting his 16-foot Hewescraft into the water.

“I’ve been on boats since I was 10,” he commented, saying he frequently went in and out of Depoe Bay. Born in Sheridan, Brown spent a good deal of time exploring outdoor Oregon and remembers many fond trips around the Silverton area with his grandparents. These days, he’s the granddad with outdoor adventures in store. He and wife, Debra, have a combined four children and three grandkids.

As much as he looks forward to exploring the Oregon Coast with his family, Brown will also be hunkering down over budgets and spreadsheets as he learns the ins and outs of the port world.

“This is going to be an opportunity to expand my skills and learn about how a port really operates,” he said. One of his early tasks will be evaluating new accounting software for the organization.

In addition to leading a strong team in the finance department, Brown will also oversee the staff at the RV park in South Beach.

“The Port owes special thanks to Mark Harris, accounting supervisor, for his leadership while we were without a Finance Director, as well as to Bill Hewitt, who was instrumental in RV park operations,” Miranda noted. “Both took on a great deal of extra work over the past two years.”

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