

Port of Newport Harbor News

Investing in the International Terminal

New equipment and upgrades to port property are expected to bring new customers to the Newport International Terminal (NIT) thanks to \$3.4 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Port officials learned in November that they had successfully landed MARAD's Port Infrastructure Development Program grant. The project entails grading nine acres of land adjacent to the terminal to create laydown and storage space. Additionally, part of the area will be fenced and two major pieces of equipment for moving logs and other kinds of cargo will be purchased.

"We have been trying to bring in cargo business for years, but when customers see that we don't have the equipment, they go somewhere else," said NIT Facilities Manager Don Moon. "We are working to make it more attractive to bring business here."

The port continues to see interest from forest industries, which is why two industrial log handlers will be purchased at an approximate price of \$1.4 – \$1.8 million each. This specialized equipment will be operated by longshore workers specially trained to operate the rigs.

The hefty price tag explains why neither the port nor the prospective customer can easily lease equipment in a pinch.

"These are massive machines," said Director of Operations Aaron Bretz. "The cost is why it is so hard to find one
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The port will procure two log handlers similar to the one in this stock photo.

From the desk of the Executive Director

By Paula Miranda



I want to thank the public and port users for their patience while we work to be more effective in applying our policies. Although some of them are not very popular, they are necessary

in order to preserve port assets and protect the port from certain liabilities while keeping the public safe.

The difference between a public property and a property owned by a public entity is often misunderstood. While the public may feel they are entitled to access certain areas, we manage an operating port and safety is one of our main concerns. The port follows state laws applicable to ports under the ORS 777 when implementing those policies. Meanwhile, the port and the City provide specific access points to the water and fishing, which can be found in areas along Bay Boulevard and in South Beach.

On another note, the port recently received several grants and loans for projects we have been pursuing for a while. These will help modernize certain areas of the port and attract additional customers to our area. We are grateful for Business Oregon and appreciate our State and Federal legislators for constantly working with us and supporting our projects.

Please follow us on our website and Facebook page for updates on those projects.

Sign up for email updates about Port activities at portofnewport.com

Port of Newport
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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Partnering to recycle tons of fishing gear

Since January, fishermen have been invited to dispose of “end-of-life” nets, webs, and lines via a recycling program at the Newport International Terminal (NIT).

The project started when Nicole Baker, owner of Net Your Problem LLC, reached out to Port of Newport officials. Established in 2017, the organization collects and sorts what would have previously been sent to a landfill and sells it to companies that specialize in recycling maritime waste. The key to success, however, starts with collecting the bulky items and storing them until pick-up can occur.

“Our partnership with the Port has been instrumental in allowing us to start recycling in Newport,” Baker explained.

Within the first six weeks, more than 175,000 pounds (or 87 tons) of nets and webs were collected in designated spots at NIT. The considerable storage space is provided by the port.

“It’s gone off with a bang,” said NIT Facilities Manager Don Moon. “Everyone has been pretty excited about it.”

While there is a cost to boat owners for disposing of the gear, organizers made a conscious effort to charge the same amount as it would cost to dispose at a landfill.

“Fishermen pay \$147 per metric ton,” Moon explained. “We are using our equipment to move the nets and weigh them, so that’s part of what they are billed for.”

This spring, Net Your Problem will send 40-foot containers to NIT and port staff will load the gear for shipment to a



(From left) Director of Operations Aaron Bretz and NIT Facilities Manager Don Moon kicked off the gear recycling program last fall with Net Your Problem owner Nicole Baker. (Photo courtesy of Lincoln County Leader)

sorting facility.

In addition to providing an environmentally sound solution to a waste problem, the program also frees up valuable space around the port where vessels were previously paying to store decaying gear.

“We are always searching for solutions when it comes to waste. This program provides an environmental solution at no additional cost to the fishermen or the port, other than the

use of temporary storage space. We think that’s a favorable outcome,” said Director of Operations Aaron Bretz.

To learn more about Net Your Problem and their work throughout the United States, visit netyourproblem.com.

Safe disposal of oil, bilge water

Much like an automobile, ship engines require regular maintenance, including oil changes that generate waste. Those vessels also produce bilge water and it, too, requires disposal.

Nearly 3,000 gallons of used oil and bilge water from commercial fishing vessels is handled at the Port of Newport on a monthly basis. Providing a means for vessels to discard that material in accordance with state and federal law is one of the services provided by the port.

“Mainly we collect the mixed oil and water and contract with a company from the valley that is required to dispose of it in an environmentally friendly manner,”

explained Harbormaster Kody Robinson. When possible, the third-party vendor will recover any oil that can be recycled or sold.

Under the current practice, boats offload used oil or bilge water into drums or totes, which are brought to the holding area and pumped into a 5,000-gallon tank. There it will await the twice-monthly pick-up from the contractor. Vessels pay a fee for the removal service.

Robinson says one of the potential changes that may occur when Port Dock 7 is rebuilt will be the placement of a pump station at the dock itself.

New in South Beach



The first of two new file tables has been installed at the South Beach Marina. The Port of Newport thanks **Business Oregon** for their support of this project.

Finding the beauty in old crab lines

Typical conversations about recycling waste don't usually include talk of beautiful art or household accessories. Around Newport, however, two people are breathing fresh life into fishing lines and nets by upcycling the old to create something wonderfully new.

Rebecca Hooper, a former fish biologist turned artist, is the owner of Gypsea Weaver, located in Aquarium Village. A weaver for more than 19 years, Hooper comes at her work from an artist's perspective. She creates a variety of items, including wall hangings, jellyfish, baskets, and floor mats.

"I am a weaver and I just happen to be weaving with rope right now," she explains.

Hooper estimates that she removes

roughly 5,000 pounds of rope from port dumpsters on an annual basis. That's about half of what she uses, with the other half coming via direct delivery from fishermen to her shop.

She said her items, which often come with an attached buoy tag identifying a particular vessel, "give visitors a connection. They are buying a unique piece of Newport's fishing history."

Hooper's artistry is also on display at local art shows. This summer, she will be part of an exhibition at the Pacific Maritime Heritage Center and have a solo show at the Lincoln City Cultural Center in June and July.

Kylie Williams, owner of Rip Current Weaving, remembers seeing a set of coasters at a friend's house about five years ago. They were made from new



**Kylie Williams of
Rip Current Weaving**

halibut line and that inspired her to make a set for herself. Soon someone else asked her to make them coasters and the rest was history.

Specializing in used lines and buoy tags, Williams makes and sells door mats, coasters, baskets, and decorative items. They can be purchased either online or at a variety of stores in Newport, Cannon Beach, and Tillamook.

Williams' handiwork also helps to keep old crab lines and buoy tags from ending up in landfills.

"I come to the port and get it out of the bin where they've disposed of old line. Boats will also call me," she explained. The business is the perfect fit for someone from a fishing family and a fifth generation Newport resident.

To learn more about these creative upcyclers, find Gypsea Weaver online at gypseaweaver.com and look for Rip Current Weaving on Instagram.



Rebecca Hooper of Gypsea Weaver

Investing, cont'd.

'sitting around' that could be leased."

The investment in NIT's infrastructure is good news, but it also comes at a cost for the Port of Newport.

"Getting the grant was great news, but now we must come up with our 20 percent match," explains Executive Director Paula Miranda. Additionally, some costs have increased since the application was made, which means the Port's investment is expected at \$861,000.

The addition of the equipment and laydown space will allow the terminal

to service both the fishing vessels that utilize it and prospective new timber customers.

"The International Terminal is a multi-use facility, so we are working hard to make sure all of our customers can work there together," Miranda said.

The process for obtaining the awarded grant is expected to take several months. The log handlers will be manufactured to specifications, which means the Port may not take delivery until early 2025.

A reminder from the Port of Newport:

Fishing is not allowed from Port marina docks



Per Port of Newport facilities code, fishing from marina docks is forbidden. Fishing in unauthorized areas may result in assessment of a civil penalty, exclusion from Port facilities, or both. This will be strictly enforced.

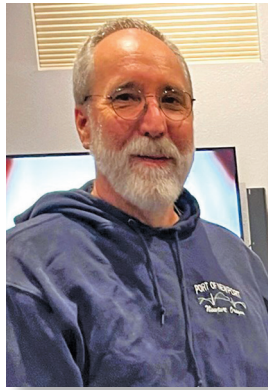
The public fishing pier in South Beach is open for public use.

People of the Port: Jim Durkee marks 20th anniversary

Jim Durkee occupies a special place at the Port of Newport. Not only does he manage the complex and technical work of keeping the NOAA facilities operating, but he is also the organization's longest serving employee. Last October, Durkee's 20 years of service was described by port officials with words like "even keeled" and "outstanding work."

His first job at the port was at the commercial marina. After 10 years, he moved to the Newport International Terminal, where he worked for two years before taking the job of facility manager for the NOAA campus.

For the past eight years, Durkee has been responsible for a laundry list of maintenance and upkeep requirements, ranging from monitoring the plumbing and electrical systems, to annual



Jim Durkee

inspections of fire suppression systems. Additionally, NOAA's lease with the Port stipulates a number of requirements, like re-painting spaces every three years, replacing the flooring every five years, and keeping the ship berths dredged to a specific depth.

For many years, he was the only employee well-versed in the needs of the port's largest leaseholder, but another employee is now trained and providing support to Durkee.

"It's been a good place to work. This is a good environment to work in and the job has lots of variety," he commented.

Durkee grew up in Colorado. He and his wife of 30 years, Mary, visited the Oregon coast regularly before making the move.

"We had come out here on vacation and just kept coming back. I had the opportunity to come here and see what we could do. We threw everything to the wind and decided to give it a try," he recalled. The Port of Newport is glad they did.

Sail into Yaquina Bay Yacht Club

Since building their own clubhouse in 2004 at 750 SE Bay Boulevard, the Yaquina Bay Yacht Club (YBYC) has been a leaseholder of the Port of Newport. The club's long history actually began in 1947, when it was originally founded to promote aquatic sports, including yachting, and preserve the traditions of navigation and seamanship.

These days, the club and its members participate in a variety of nautical pursuits, including sailboat racing, power boat navigating, rowing, crabbing, paddling, a junior sailing program, and more. Even if you know nothing about yachting or sailing, YBYC always

welcomes new members and offers sailing classes for both adults and youth.

If you have never been on a sailboat or are yearning to return to the water, plan to attend the club's "Summer Sailstice" event on June 22. All are welcome to enjoy the festivities which include a free sailboat ride around the bay.

YBYC has other events on the calendar for this year, including the Spring Regatta on May 4 and the Fall Regatta Oct. 12-13. These regattas create a beautiful spectacle for all to enjoy.

To learn more about membership or to get details on upcoming events, visit yaquinabayyachtclub.org.



Port of Newport At-A-Glance



Port Commission

- Gil Sylvia, President
- Kelley Retherford, Vice President
- Walter Chuck, Secretary/Treasurer
- Jeff Lackey, Commissioner
- Pat Ruddiman, Commissioner



Management

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



Port Facilities

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

