

Newport's Port Dock 5 Pier: A Bridge to Industry and a Gateway to the Future

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Problem: The Port Dock 5 Pier was built in the mid 1960's on creosote pilings as a bridge to the floating Port Dock 5 complex. It underwent a renovation of the superstructure in the early 1990's, but the pilings have exceeded their lifespan and are failing. Additionally, the commercial marina is over 110% capacity, and the Port has turned away 14 new annual moorage holders in the past year. This represents over \$38,000 in lost annual moorage fees to the Port, and 42 jobs that weren't added to Newport's economy.

The Port is seeking funding to begin construction on a replacement pier during the in-water work period of 2019-20. Work would begin in the fall of 2019; time is critical because the current structure is a serious safety and environmental concern. The projected total for the project is \$2.4M.

Background: The Port Dock 5 Pier is the main artery that connects the Port Dock 5 complex to the shoreline. It carries fuel lines as well as firefighting water to the docks. The replacement project will revitalize this connection to the shore and provide the infrastructure that will set the stage for reconfiguration and growth in the commercial marina in the coming years. This improved structure will allow the Port to build docks with more moorage space to accommodate new businesses.

This replacement project provides current business with the opportunity to continue operating and maintain over 300 existing jobs. It also enables the Port to continue with redesign and expansion of the commercial marina, which will add 35 fishing jobs and support over 150 jobs in Newport's maritime industry over the next 10 years.

Replacing the Port Dock 5 Pier is vital to the continuance of the fishing industry in Newport, and indeed the region. According to the Pacific Fisheries Information Network, for the past decade Newport has ranked in the top five west coast ports for annual landings of seafood. During that same time period, Lincoln County has reported that commercial fishing and aquaculture has accounted for over 19% of the total personal income in the county. Port Dock 5 is at the very heart of the fishing industry in Lincoln County. The Port Dock 5 Pier is what keeps Newport's "Working Waterfront" working.

Project Status: Draft final construction plans have been completed, and are scheduled to be finalized prior to December 14, 2018. Permitting for the project by the State and Federal government has been completed, and the Port is in possession of the required permits. Upon finalization of construction plans, they will be submitted to the City of Newport for official approval. This project will be completely "shovel-ready" prior to the start of the construction window in November, 2019.

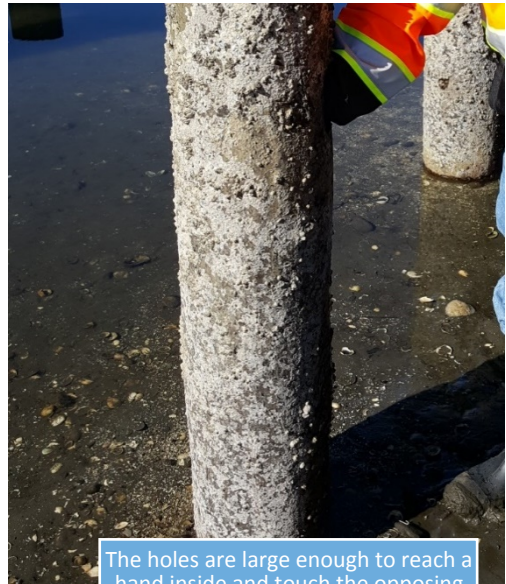
Funding Requests: The Port of Newport is completing a Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program grant request that will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration. We will also submit a BUILD Grant request to the U. S. Department of Transportation when the window for submission opens. The Port has notified the Oregon State Legislature of the project and is seeking support from our representatives.

Conclusion: As fishing vessels have continually grown in size, more and more businesses have sought to come to the Port of Newport due to the robust support network that exists in the Maritime Industry in Yaquina Bay. The Port's infrastructure is both obsolete and in disrepair, but we are at a moment of opportunity to position the Commercial Marina to support the fishing industry for the next 50 years, attract the new generation of fishing vessels, and continue to provide a home for one of the most productive fishing fleets on the west coast. The Port Dock 5 Pier replacement is a gateway project to the marina of the future that has the potential to add more businesses and jobs to the region.

The Port of Newport asks for your backing and advocacy as we seek grants for this vital project, and we hope that we can count on you for a letter of support that will help us secure funding.



Holes can be seen in the pilings beneath Port Dock 5



The holes are large enough to reach a hand inside and touch the opposing side