

I am a maritime journalist who has been covering the lower Columbia River since 1988. In the 1990's I covered several actions by the Salvage Chief , culminating with the rescue of the stranded barge Millicoma, near Cape Disappointment at the SW tip of Washington in 2005. The ability of this little ship to haul that barge off the rocks was impressive and avoided a major environmental problem.

Today, the Salvage Chief can continue to serve the region during a natural or man-made emergency thanks to the plan to refit the vessel. This would provide the region with a powerful tool to assist with removal of debris of all sorts in the Columbia, plus electrical power production, freshwater pumping, radio communications, medical services etc. This would give the state a unique and functional vehicle to respond to the need for transport, health, safety and welfare of our community.

The recent climatic event in California and earthquake in Turkey are dramatic reminders of the danger of the natural forces that could easily strike the Pacific Northwest at any time, for which our community is not prepared. The Salvage Chief would play a vital role in helping our community recover from such an event and would definitely save many lives of people in Clatsop County, if it is cut off from the rest of the state. That is why I urge you to support the efforts of The Salvage Chief foundation and SB200 to repair and upgrade the vessel and "Ready The Chief."

Sincerely,

Peter Marsh

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Peter Marsh--nautical/outdoor journalist

[Author of LibertyFactory \(Seaforth Books 2021\)](#)

The Untold Story of Henry Kaiser's Oregon Shipyards
My website is <http://sea-to-summit.net/>