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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Corps FY2012 work plan includes funding for Swinomish**

PNWA is pleased to announce over \$13 million in additional funding for navigation projects in the Pacific Northwest. This funding was part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FY2012 work plan, which was released yesterday and is part of the FY2012 omnibus spending bill passed in late December. Key projects funded include the Swinomish Channel at a level of \$2.277 million.

A total of \$173 million of "additional Operations & Maintenance" (O&M) was budgeted for projects nationwide and included \$30 million for small, remote or subsistence harbor maintenance; \$30 million for inland waterways maintenance; and \$55 million for deep draft harbor and channel harbor maintenance. Congress directed the Corps to use job creation, economic development benefits, and several other criteria in allocating these funds. PNWA worked with ports in the Pacific Northwest to gather local and regional economic data, which was submitted to the Corps to support their development of the work plan.

"Our region fared exceptionally well, and we are very pleased with the funding that was included for critical navigation projects in the Northwest," stated Kristin Meira, PNWA Executive Director. "The united efforts of our Corps districts, Congressional delegation and navigation stakeholders were key to securing additional funding for projects that enable international trade, commercial fishing, and recreational boating. This additional funding helps to ensure that our ports and their surrounding communities remain economically viable for years to come."

"It's wonderful that the federal government is recognizing the significant positive impact the Swinomish Channel has on jobs in the Skagit Valley and to the nation as a whole," said Patsy Martin, Executive Director of the Port of Skagit. "Congressman Rick Larsen has been intimately involved in our effort to save the channel for many years. He understands the importance of the channel to jobs in this region, and we deeply appreciate his contributions."

The Swinomish Channel, first dredged more than a century ago, extends through former sloughs and portions of the Skagit and Samish River delta deposits. Due to heavy sedimentation, the channel must be dredged at least every three years to maintain navigable depths for commercial and recreational vessels. The Port of Skagit has led efforts to keep the Swinomish Channel open since dedicated federal funding for dredging the channel was eliminated in the mid-1990s. In recent months, a consortium of local stakeholders -- including the Town of La Conner, the Ports of Skagit and Anacortes, the Upper Skagit and Swinomish tribes, Skagit County, Dunlap Towing and the Shelter Bay community -- has formed to consider a permanent solution for funding channel dredging.

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**About PNWA:** The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) is a non-profit trade association that advocates for federal policies and funding in support of regional economic and environmental sustainability. PNWA represents multiple industries in the public and private sectors in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California. Members include public ports, navigation, transportation, international trade, tourism, agriculture, forest products, energy and local government interests. Since its founding in 1934, PNWA led the way for development of economic infrastructure for navigation, electric power and irrigated agriculture on the Columbia and Snake River System. In 1971, PNWA expanded, adding Puget Sound and coastal port members to provide a comprehensive regional perspective. Today, PNWA works with the U.S. Congress, federal agencies and regional decision leaders on transportation, trade, tourism, energy and environmental policy to enhance economic vitality in the Pacific Northwest. You can learn more about PNWA at [www.pnwa.net](http://www.pnwa.net).

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