



Nor'Wester Newsletter

Issue #884 | November 6, 2024

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EPA Announces nearly \$3B in Grant Funding

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces nearly \$3 Billion in Clean Ports Program grant funding for ports. Congratulations to PNWA members:

- Port of Anacortes \$63.1 Million and \$1.4 Million CAQP grant,
- Port of Bellingham \$1.5 Million,
- Port of Portland \$2.8 Million,
- Northwest Seaport Alliance, \$3 Million,
- Port of Vancouver USA \$22.5 Million.

Congratulations to our members for securing over \$94.3 million in funding! This will significantly benefit ports and their surrounding communities.



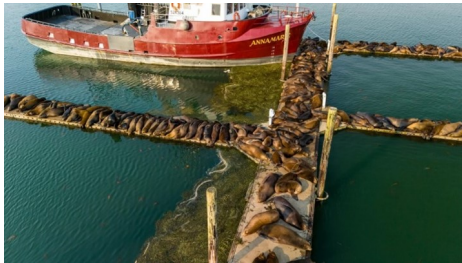
Additional Regional Grant Funding

Port of Kalama was awarded a grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation's CRISI Program to expand rail capacity to the Port of

Oregon International Port of Coos Bay has been awarded a \$25 million grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation's INFRA (Infrastructure for Rebuilding America) program, marking a pivotal step in the development of its Pacific Coast Intermodal Port (PCIP).

Shaver Transportation received funding from U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Grant in partnership with Columbia Willamette Clean Cities Coalition!

Survey on Pinnipeds and Ports



The Port of Grays Harbor recently flagged an opportunity for ports to share their concerns about interactions with marine mammals, particularly pinnipeds (sea lions). NOAA Fisheries is advised by the *Marine Fisheries Advisory Council*. The Council is currently conducting a brief survey about sea lion activity, interactions at port facilities, and

could use more feedback from impacted communities. PNWA strongly encourages our members who have experienced negative interactions and other challenges with sea lions to complete the survey as soon as possible.

According to Westport Marina General Manager Molly Bold, the Council is seeking "knowledge and perceptions about the nature of marine mammal interactions and use of deterrents currently employed by commercial, recreational, and tribal fishermen; aquaculture farmers; and marina and coastal property owners and managers. Developed in response to a request from the Office of Protected Resources, the data collected will be used to create an index to identify the relative effectiveness of different allowable deterrents used by various user groups nationwide to reduce the risk of expected losses from damage by marine mammals on various user groups nationwide. The ultimate goal is to help NOAA Fisheries identify and prioritize those marine mammal deterrents that should be tested for their effectiveness to safely deter marine mammals and protect fishing gear/catch and property."

The survey will be open until November 22, 2024. To respond to the survey, [click here](#).

PNWA Tours United Grain



PNWA staff recently toured the United Grain Vancouver Export Terminal, located on the Columbia River in Washington State. As the largest storage capacity export terminal on the U.S. West Coast, this facility handles the shipment of up to 6 million metric tons of grains and oilseeds annually, sending them via ocean-going vessels to global markets. This efficient operation is supported by United Grain's integrated Country Terminal Operations, which include 15 inland terminals for unit trains, trucks, and barges, ensuring reliable service to producers across Oregon, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

PNWA attends AAPA Annual Convention



Just prior to the AAPA Annual Convention, PNWA staff participated in the Harbors & Navigation Caucus meeting. AAPA staff noted that it was hoped that Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) negotiations could have been wrapped up by the time the elections were over. However, some issues are still being negotiated. It was hoped that WRDA could be attached to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) but that the NDAA has a must

pass timeline so if WRDA is not done by then, WRDA may have to move on its own or be attached to something else.

At the AAPA annual convention, Chett Chiasson, Executive Director of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission (Port Fourchon) was elected as the Chairman of the AAPA Board of Directors for the next two years. He previously served as Vice-Chair. The convention agenda covered a wide range of topics including port modernization, decarbonization, increasing revenue, enhancing trade, cold storage, sustainability, digitalization of shipping paperwork, cybersecurity, workforce development, supply chain management, and nearshoring to Mexico. The convention also included speakers like Rear Admiral Ann Phillips of MARAD, Jason Schenker of the Futurist Institute, and FMC Commissioner Max Vekich.

Port of Everett CEO/Executive Director Lisa Lefeber participated in a panel discussion on Modernizing Maritime Lessons: Learned from Leaders on Boosting Port Income and Mike Bomar from the Port of Vancouver delivered remarks on behalf of the graduating port professional manager (PPM) cohort. The convention was well attended by Pacific Northwest ports and the event culminated in a port industry social at Fenway Park. Congratulations again to the Port of Tacoma and the Port of Longview for winning Lighthouse Awards for Excellence in Print or Digital Media Communications!

COBALT Presentation with the U.S. Coast Guard



Neil Maunu presented at the annual learning event organized by the Columbia River Steamship Operators Association (CRSOA) for the U.S. Coast Guard. The Columbia Basin Leadership Training (COBALT) is a remarkable program aimed at helping newly arriving senior leaders in the U.S. Coast Guard gain a deeper understanding of the regional maritime industry's key issues and priorities. We were honored to

share our insights and collaborate with the region's private sector leaders and experts in this crucial learning resource. Learn more at: <https://www.crsoa.net/>

2024 Legislator of the Year Representative McMorris Rodgers



Last Thursday, PNWA proudly awarded Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5) the prestigious Legislator of the Year Award for 2024. This recognition underscores her unwavering support for the PNWA and its member companies over nearly two decades of dedicated service to the citizens of Washington and the region.

The award was presented by PNWA Executive Director Neil Maunu, who highlighted the Congresswoman's significant contributions to the region's waterways and infrastructure. Joining him in honoring McMorris Rodgers was PNWA Past President and Port of Whitman County Commissioner Tom Kammerzell, who expressed gratitude for her commitment. As a token of appreciation, Kammerzell gifted the Congresswoman a jar of wheat from his family farm, symbolizing the real people and industries positively impacted by her advocacy.

Since joining Congress in 2005, McMorris Rodgers has been a key advocate for the PNWA, including her leadership in protecting the Lower Snake River Dams. PNWA members Alex McGregor, Leslie Druffel, Casey Chumrau, Michelle Hennings, Chris Rasmussen, and Jay Backus joined us in presenting the award to the congresswoman in her Spokane office. Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers thanked PNWA and IPNG for their support to her and her staff - she was truly excited for the association but noted the hard work that continues to lie ahead.

PNWA Members Advocate for Northwest Waterways on Capitol Hill



Last week, a dedicated group of PNWA members and staff embarked on a crucial advocacy mission to Washington, D.C. on October 29th and 30th. This delegation, representing a diverse cross-section of navigation and agriculture river users, focused on two critical issues affecting our region: the Columbia River Treaty and the Lower Snake River Dams. Key members of the delegation included Anthony Peña (PNWA), Kristin Meira (American Cruise Lines), Justin LeBlanc (Desimone Consulting Group), Leslie Druffell (The McGregor Company), Michelle Hennings (Washington Association of Wheat Growers), Scott Corbitt (Port of Lewiston), and Bradley Trammell (American Waterway Operators).

The team provided updates on the current status of the Columbia River Treaty, discussing its importance for the region's water resources, hydropower generation, and flood control. They also addressed the ongoing treaty negotiations and the implications of the recent Agreement-In-Principle (AIP). Another focal point was the latest developments regarding the Lower Snake River Dams, where representatives shared insights on the implementation of the "12/14 Agreement" by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Six Sovereigns, emphasizing the dams' critical roles in transportation, clean energy production, and irrigation systems.

This advocacy trip provided an invaluable opportunity to voice PNWA members' concerns directly to policymakers, and the delegation explored potential legislative actions that could affect these crucial issues. The PNWA remains committed to working collaboratively with federal agencies, tribal nations, and other stakeholders to ensure the continued vitality of the region's waterways. We extend our gratitude to all members who participated in this important effort, reinforcing our association's role as a powerful voice for the Pacific Northwest. Stay tuned for further updates on these critical issues and future advocacy initiatives.

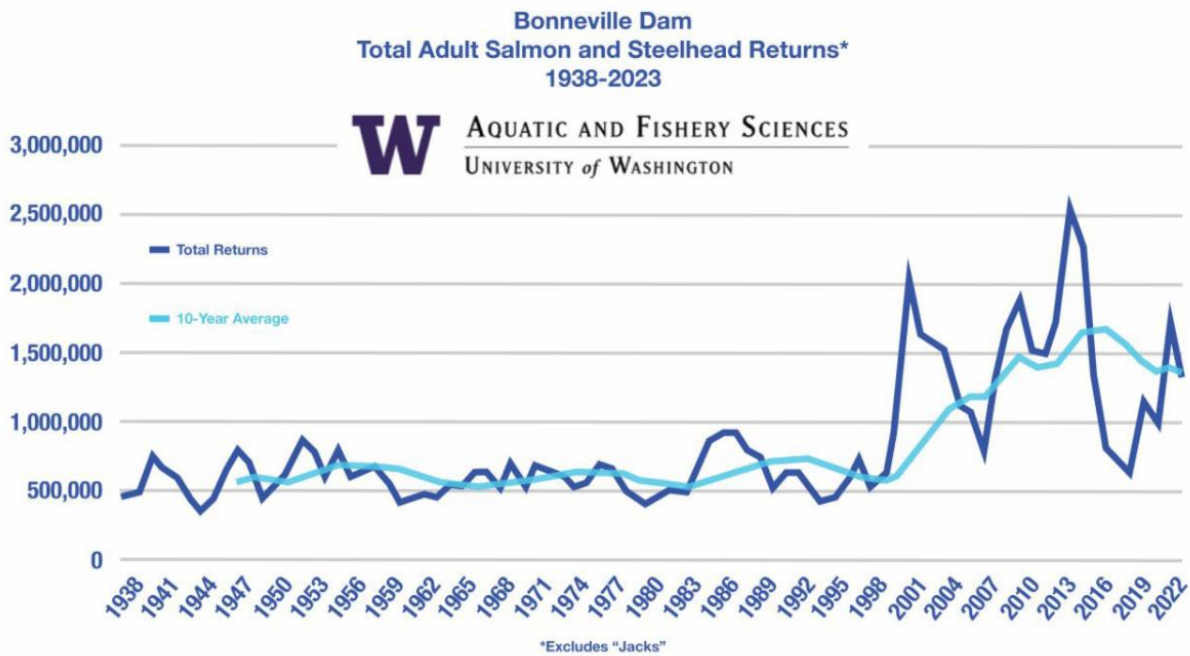
Upcoming PNWA Hill Meetings



Each year, PNWA typically does a large fly-in event to Washington, DC with 80 or more of our members in March (Mission to Washington). However, throughout the rest of the year, PNWA conducts shorter, more targeted visits with a few PNWA members. PNWA had planned to do an in-person Hill visit November 19 to

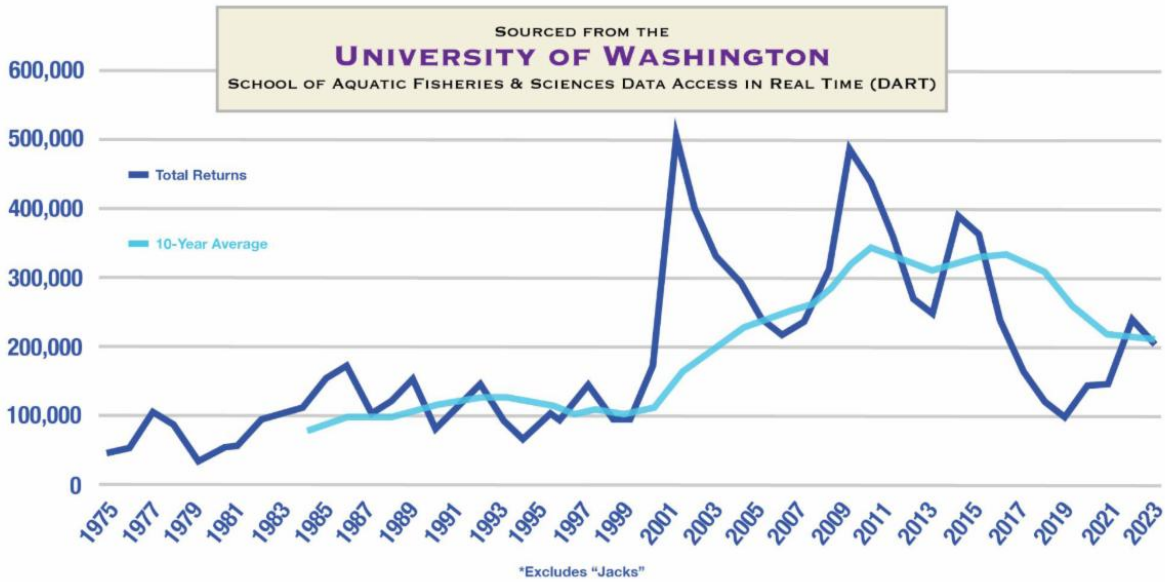
21. However, PNWA just had several folks back in DC for meetings regarding the Columbia River Treaty and Snake River Dams. While the Members of Congress are anticipated to be in Washington, DC the week of November 18th, it is going to be somewhat frantic coming back from the elections and trying to get through remaining business of FY2025 appropriations and WRDA. Also, given the challenges with heightened security between now and certification of the election in January, it is unclear if escorts would be needed to get in and out of buildings. This can add delay between meetings and lead to a less effective visit. As a result, the November 19 to 21 Hill visit will be converted to virtual meetings.

Dams & Salmon Can Coexist



The more than 1.7 million salmon and steelhead that have returned to the Columbia River this season and the uptick in returns in the 1990s reflect a correlation between federal fish and wildlife mitigation efforts.

Lower Granite Dam Total Adult Salmon and Steelhead Returns* 1975-2023



Additionally, Adult salmon returns above the uppermost dam on the lower Snake River show promising increases since completion in 1975. Make no mistake, dams do have an impact on fish, but the billions invested through public power rates are making a real difference in mitigating for those impacts. PNWA will continue to support science-based efforts that both encourage salmon recovery and meet our needs for hydropower and efficient and safe navigation.

2025 Mission to Washington, DC



Save the Date!!
March 10 - 13, 2025
Marriott Capital Hill

175 L Street NE Washington, District Of Columbia, USA,
20002

The 2025 PNWA Mission to Washington promises to be an event you will want to attend! Join us in the nation's capital as we meet with lawmakers and their offices to ensure our priorities and issues are top of mind. Throughout the program, participants will gain valuable insights and network with key federal agency officials, industry partners, and DC insiders. In addition, we will spend two days on Capitol Hill meeting with the Northwest Congressional delegation. **Make your plans to join us today!**

[Mission to Washington Event Info](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The region has a variety of career



opportunities available. Please visit their websites for more information.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration

MARAD is a Federal agency responsible for promoting the development of a strong, sustainable and safe U.S. maritime industry. Our mission is to ensure the U.S. has a strong and viable maritime industry supporting our National security and economic growth.

[Check out their job openings](#)

To submit job postings please email Mary Wiley at mary.wiley@pnwa.net

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Pacific Northwest Waterways Association



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