

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend Washington. I'm Port of Port Townsend Executive Director Eron Berg, here to provide information about the Port that may not be familiar to you.

The Port is a countywide special-purpose district created by the voters of Jefferson County in 1924 that operates differently than our other local governments, the city, and the county. Our primary missions are to create good jobs for the community and provide access to the world. In fact, ports in Washington state are the only governments whose primary mission is economic development. In addition to economic development, which is largely achieved by the operation of the boat yard, the Port also stewards iconic waterfront properties that are core to the seafaring and working waterfront culture of the community.

Port properties include beaches at Fort Worden, Quilcene, and the boat yard; transient docks and piers in downtown Port Townsend and Port Hadlock, marinas in Port Townsend and Quilcene, boat ramps, the Jefferson County International Airport, and the boat yard.

The Port of Port Townsend has a busy fall and early winter planned as it continues to work on significant capital projects. With nearly 100 years of history and significant infrastructure that was built decades ago, our capital project list is vast. Key upcoming projects of note include the Point Hudson Jetty and the boat yard stormwater projects. The Port is engaged in design and permitting on both projects so the exact timeframes are unclear, but given the scope of the projects, it makes sense to share preliminary details. The Point Hudson Jetty, which was originally constructed in the 1930s, will be replaced, hopefully starting September 2022. Our plan is to complete design and permitting this year, advertise the project for bids in early 2022, and commence work on the north jetty in September of 2022.

Working within the anticipated fish window, the demolition and reconstruction of that jetty will be completed by February of 2023. The plan is to take a similar approach with the south jetty from September of 2023 through February of 2024. During both phases of the project, the Point Hudson Marina will be closed. This will be a difficult project with significant disruptions at Point Hudson and downtown.

These activities won't go unnoticed by the general population. We are anticipating long work days and full work weeks with the contractor using heavy equipment that will create noise, light, and vibrations. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience and ask for our neighbors and downtown community's support and understanding as we work to reconstruct the jetty that is critical to maintaining Point Hudson as a viable site for coming generations.

The other project of note is our boat yard stormwater project. The boat yard is unique in its operation in Western Washington as the Port operates the travel lifts and the yard while more than 400 skilled marine tradespeople work on boats. This is a more complex method of running a yard that makes Port Townsend more attractive to boat owners and, we believe, the marine trades sector of the Jefferson County economy more resilient. Representative Tharinger spearheaded \$2.0M in funding to help us maintain clean water as it leaves the yard and this project is intended to do just that. Preliminarily, our plan is to better capture stormwater and treat it prior to discharge into the marine waters of the state. The primary toxin of concern is copper, as it is particularly unhealthy for salmon. We plan to complete this project in 2023.

The port has a series of duties and responsibilities that can be detailed and complicated. But as a public agency we do not operate autonomously, Port policy is established by three elected commissioners who meet twice monthly on the second and fourth Wednesdays. Commission business meetings always include public comments – your voices are welcome and needed as we work together on sound policies that reflect the community. Documents and agendas are always posted online at <https://portofpt.com/>, so there is plenty of opportunity to see what we are doing and to influence the process.

This is Port of Port Townsend Executive Iron Berg. Thank you for listening to KPTZ.