

News and Information from Oregon International Port of Coos Bay

For Immediate Release: February 22, 2006

Charleston Marina Launch Ramp Reopens After \$600,000 Renovation

The launch ramp at the Charleston Marina reopened for use by recreational boaters and fishermen today (February 22, 2006) following final inspection and project approval by representatives of the Oregon State Marine Board and Mike Gaul, Deputy Executive Director, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, owner/operator of the Charleston facilities.

The heavily-used launch ramp closed December 7, 2005, and local boaters were advised to use other public ramps near Empire in Coos Bay and California Street in North Bend. Within minutes of the project approval and opening, local sports fisherman were backing their boat trailers down the ramp to take advantage of good weather.

The ramp project included removal and replacement of piling, removal of deteriorated ramp sections, installation of new rock sub-base, aggregate base and new concrete ramp panels, placement of protective stone rip-rap and new floating boarding docks. The project budget also enables the Port to install a new launch ramp fee-payment station, similar to an ATM, with the capability of accepting credit/debit cards and cash.

Funding for the launch ramp rehabilitation came from a variety of sources: the Oregon State Marine Board -- \$286,000; the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife -- \$200,000; the Land Conservation & Development Commission -- \$50,000; and the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay -- \$112,000.

West Coast Contractors Inc. was the primary contractor on the project, with Coos Bay Timber Operators and Orca Divers of Reedsport provided sub-contracting services. The original project budget was \$648,000 and costs to date are approximately \$600,000, although several small change orders are pending. The final cost is expected to remain under budget.

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