

News and Information from **Oregon International Port of Coos Bay**

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Port and South Slough dedicate new paddlecraft launch for Charleston

Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) Director Louise Solliday, members of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Commission and the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay dedicated a new paddlecraft launch at the Charleston Shipyard during a recent visit by state officials.

The \$30,000 project is a partnership of the Port, South Slough and DSL to encourage the use of human-powered paddlecraft to access the South Slough area. The project was funded through a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant, in addition to utilizing Port and South Slough funds. The port-owned and managed site includes a re-engineered parking lot and improved stormwater drainage, with a boat unloading area and launching pathway.

The Port operates the Charleston Marina Complex, which provides support for a variety of vessel types. The South Slough Reserve is a 5,000-acre natural area in the Coos Bay Estuary and is popular with recreationalists using kayaks and canoes. The Reserve also plans to use the paddlecraft launch as a starting point for tours in its 24-foot-long, 250-pound replica dugout canoe.

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