

# **Proposed Vancouver Harbor Line Change**

OLYMPIA — The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is considering a relocation of the outer harbor lines at Ryan Point, River Mile 108 in Vancouver, Washington. JT Marine has requested that the Harbor Line Commission relocate portions outer harbor line to provide additional harbor area space for mooring barges and equipment required for water-dependent uses.

This proposal is being reviewed under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process. The SEPA comment period ends on September 22, 2023. See DNR's harbor lines website including a link to this proposal:

DNR is seeking community participation and invites the public to provide comments and review the proposed change to the Vancouver Harbor Area at Ryan Point, River Mile 108. The public is advised to submit comments on or before September 22, 2023.

## **DNR-managed harbor areas - water-dependent uses**

Harbor areas are established by the Harbor Line Commission and include the area between the inner and outer harbor lines in the navigable waters in front of cities, and may extend as far as one mile past city limits. Harbor areas were created to support commerce and navigation under Washington's Constitution, and are managed by DNR. Water-dependent uses—those that cannot logically exist in any location but on the water—have the highest priority for leasing harbor areas. Water-oriented commercial uses and public access facilities also may be permitted. New residential development uses are generally not allowed. The maximum lease period is 30 years.

The state Department of Natural Resources completes an evaluation of the Harbor Area relocation proposals and prepares a recommendation to the Harbor Line Commission.

## **Managing 5 million acres of lands**

DNR manages about 5 million acres of state-owned lands. Of these, 2.4 million acres are state aquatic (mostly submerged) lands, a public trust managed and protected for all the people of Washington—to provide for commerce and navigation, public access, protection of aquatic resources, and generate revenue consistent with the above. Revenue is earned from the sale of renewable resources such as geoduck and other shellfish, and leases of marinas and other buildings on state aquatic lands. The funds are used to protect the health and productivity of aquatic resources and help fund local projects that create public access to aquatic lands.

About 3 million acres are state trust lands, managed to provide revenue for specific beneficiaries and benefits for the public. Revenue helps fund the construction of public schools, and funds services in many counties, as well as contributing to the state general fund. Revenue-producing activities on state trust lands include the harvest of timber and forest products, leasing of agricultural lands, communication sites, and commercial properties.

DNR also manages a small but significant statewide system of State Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves that protect native ecosystems and the plant and animal species that depend on them, and provide access for education and low-impact public use, where appropriate.