



Press Release:

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For Immediate Release

PortofGraysHarbor.com receives honor in AAPA's 2011 Communications Award Program

Aberdeen, WA—The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), a trade group representing leading port authorities throughout the Western Hemisphere, has selected 20 seaports to be recognized for exemplary communication projects at its annual awards event later this summer. The Port of Grays Harbor, on Washington State's Pacific Coast, received an Award of Merit for the website PortofGraysHarbor.com.

Websites were judged based on the information provided by the site, organization, and overall quality of the site.

"PortofGraysHarbor.com is our 24/7 communication tool," noted Gary Nelson, Executive Director. "We designed the website to provide relevant information about our services and facilities to a variety of audiences -- from our trading partners around the world, to our citizens here in Grays Harbor. Our first priority was communicating the diverse activities and opportunities of our port in a visually pleasing and easy to use manner. This award reinforces what we have heard from our users, that the site is not only attractive, but effective."

Using input from port staff, customers and the community, PortofGraysHarbor.com was created by a team comprised of Marc Sterling of Sterling Digital and Shelli Hopsecger of Coast Controls & Automation, Inc. The site features easy to navigate pull down menus highlighting the diverse facilities of the Port of Grays Harbor. Updated regularly, highlights of the site include a running slideshow on the home page, a newsroom with the latest news and photos of port activities, a vessel schedule and minutes of the latest Commission meeting.

“Whether you are preparing for a fishing trip to the Westport Marina, planning to fly into Bowerman Airport, or wanting the latest information on trade and economic development, PortofGraysHarbor.com provides the information you need,” furthered Mr. Nelson.

Port officials will be presented their Award of Merit at a September 14 luncheon in conjunction with AAPA's 100th Annual Convention in Seattle (<https://www.aapa2011.org/main.aspx>), which runs September 11-15.

Founded in 1911, the Port of Grays Harbor is one of Washington State's oldest port districts and Washington's only deep-water port located directly on the Pacific Ocean. The Port of Grays Harbor operates 4 deepwater marine terminals, the Westport Marina, Bowerman Airport and hundreds of acres of marine industrial property. Only 1-½ vessel hours from open sea, Grays Harbor offers rail and highway access to markets throughout North America. Currently, Grays Harbor is in the midst of an \$18 million rail expansion program to accommodate the growing automobile, dry bulk and liquid bulk cargo shipments moving through the Port. More information and photographs are available at portofgraysharbor.com.