

PORT OF PORTLAND POSTPONES WEST HAYDEN ISLAND DEVELOPMENT

Port of Portland today announced the postponement of West Hayden Island marine industrial development.

In response to a recent market analysis by the Port and concerns raised by some members of the public, the Port has decided to postpone efforts to obtain development approvals for West Hayden Island. The Port's analysis predicts that the market need for future marine terminals is further out than originally anticipated—nearer the end of this decade at earliest, as opposed to 2005. Some members of the public, including the Audubon Society of Portland, have encouraged the Port to evaluate alternatives to West Hayden Island to meet that market need. The Port's recent research indicates this merits further analysis.

The postponement will allow the Port to continue to work with the Port of Vancouver to evaluate future needs for marine cargo facilities in order to maintain the region's place in the global marketplace for the 21st century. It also will allow the Port to explore whether opportunities exist to do enhancement work that could conceivably count as advance mitigation in the event West Hayden Island is developed.

"The Port's role is to take the long view of our region's future as a participant in the global market, and to do so while protecting our natural resources," said Mike Thorne, Port of Portland Executive Director.

The Port's action stops zoning and annexation requests to the City of Portland; an Environmental Impact Statement and Biological Assessment with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and federal permit approvals.

The Port will retain the West Hayden Island property as a strategic marine reserve, and will consider seeking development approvals when the region's market demand for marine cargo facilities is warranted.

Port of Portland purchased the undeveloped west end of Hayden Island in 1994 for marine facilities in preparation to meet a forecasted tripling of regional exports by 2030. The