

Westport...



Wet and Wild...

Naturally

A revitalization concept for the City of Westport and Port of Grays Harbor presented by
FOGH (Friends of Grays Harbor), Wildlife Forever of Grays Harbor
and other caring organizations and interested citizens

Making an entrance



Westport, Washington is the southern gateway city to Grays Harbor Bay and is located on the north portion of one of the last remaining open area interdunal wetlands on the West Coast. Rooted in the traditions of maritime resources, Westport has long been a major destination for tourists in their quest for fishing, crabbing, surfing, storm watching, beach combing, beach strolling, bird watching and ocean side recreation. The downtown dock area presents the visitor with a glimpse to the past and promise of the future. The varied shops, charter boat offices, working fleet of fishing boats and opportunities to wander, fish or drop a crab ring from one of the many slips entices the visitor and local resident to explore the treasures of an historical seaport community. The Westport Maritime Museum provides the link to the past, the docks help to forecast the future.

Proposing the centerpiece



The centerpiece of this concept is the celebration of the natural beauty and draw of open space, undisturbed wetlands, public access to sandy ocean beaches and the protection of interdunal wetlands and Half Moon Bay. The Westport Light State Park and Westhaven State Park are two of the most visited day parks in the State of Washington, attracting over 1.2 million visitors. The Port of Grays Harbor property that intersects these two parks is a rare and vanishing public asset. This property would remain a natural ecosystem providing shelter for wildlife during storms, public access through interpretive trails, continued recharge and protection of the aquifer, flood control during wet-weather inundation, water quality for natural resource-based industries and the conservation of increasingly rare interdunal wetlands and coastal shore pines forests. The economic value of the area is already significant and retaining the Port property as part of the undisturbed scenic experience will maintain and enhance this value.

Finding the center

The upland portions of the Port Property closest to the dock area offer unique opportunities. The concept here would be to establish the *Westport Coastal Research & Science Center*. The *Center* would be designed as a multipurpose building offering different venues to research communities and the visiting public. The core of the *Center* would be a NOAA National Weather Service Doppler Climate Installation and offices for the Westport Research Center for Northwest Fisheries, a research station for aquaculture focusing on manila clams, geoducks, oysters and other bivalve mollusks, Olympic Coast Marine Sanctuary and USGS Coastal Survey as the economic anchors. The surrounding complex would be a science center designed to enhance public involvement and education about coastal climate, erosion, anadromous and marine fishery resources and their habitats.

The *Science Center* would include exhibits, lectures, films, theatre, facility rentals, live science demonstrations, special events and school-based activities for people of all ages. It would complement the Maritime Museum, Westport Lighthouse and Westport dock area.

Benefits

Scientific & Safety Advancement

Regional Climate Research

Accurate short-term forecasts — offshore and coastal .¹

Fisheries Research

Aquaculture Research

Coastal Erosion Studies

Geologic Change Studies

Tourism

Employment

Meteorologists, Geologists, Oceanographers, Marine Biologists, Coastal Engineers, Researchers, Facilities Managers and Staff, Program Managers and Staff, Food Service Personnel, Custodians, Instructors, Visitor Services, Special Events Coordinators, Hospitality Workers and Others

¹ The lack of coastal radar seriously diminishes the ability to provide accurate short-term forecasts (covering 24 hours or less) because meteorologists don't have precise information about weather systems that lie off the coast and are headed toward land, Mass said. That has serious implications for the fishing industry, military, pleasure boaters and any traffic entering the Strait of Juan de Fuca or the Columbia River. "One bad forecast can cost what one radar installation costs," he said. "When you really analyze the costs, a bad forecast can cost millions." The problem can be solved by installation of coastal radar at Westport, Wash., and Florence, Ore., to gather reliable data offshore and along the coast. If only one can be installed, Mass would opt for Westport because that would provide coverage for both the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Columbia River.

Cliff Mass, UW atmospheric professor <http://www.atmos.washington.edu/~cliff/coastalradar.html>

Celebrate Westport
wet and wild...

