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ONE DOLLAR



## FISH TAKE A DIP

### Astoria drops below Newport in commercial catch

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

**A**storia slipped below Newport last year as the dominant West Coast port for commercial fishing.

Newport landed 124 million pounds of commercial fish, the 11th highest mark by quantity in the nation, while Astoria netted 122 million pounds, the 12th highest.

Westport, Washington, came in at 100 million pounds, or 13th highest.

The catch figures were released today by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which compiles an annual fisheries report that includes the quantity and value of commercial fishery landings.

Astoria had been the top West Coast port by quantity — and the 10th highest in the nation — since it overtook Los Angeles in 2012.

“I think it touches every corner of Clatsop County,” said Jim Knight, the executive director of the Port of Astoria. “Every part of our community is tremendously impacted because of the fishing industry.”

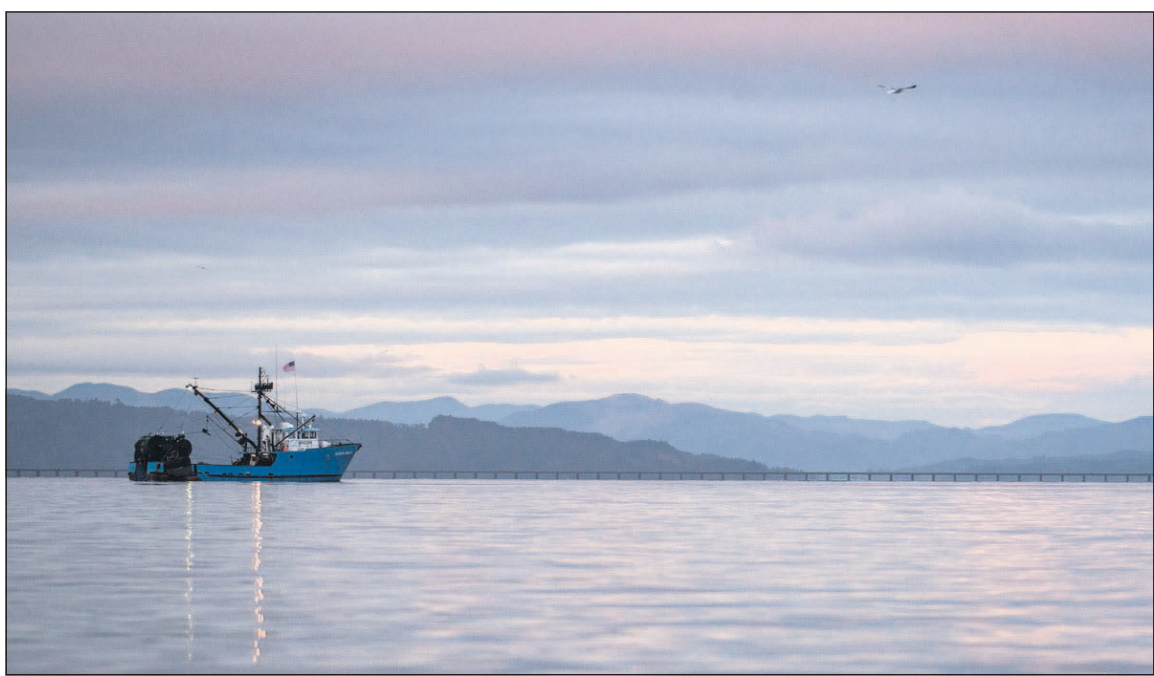
The commercial catch in Astoria last year also declined in value. Commercial fishery landings were worth \$43 million, compared to \$50 million in 2013.

The value of the commercial catch in Astoria was the 29th highest in the nation, according to the fisheries report, down from the 21st highest in 2013.

Newport also experienced a decline in value last year. The commercial catch was worth \$53 million — 23rd highest in the nation — down from \$55 million in 2013, or 19th highest.

Westport had a higher value catch — \$64 million, 15th highest in the nation — than Newport and Astoria, and was off only slightly from a \$65 million haul in 2013.

Ilwaco-Chinook, Washington,



ABOVE: The fishing vessel, The Ocean Beaut, floats up the Columbia River in September. TOP: Crews unload a fishing boat at Bornstein Seafood Wednesday.

Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

#### COMMERCIAL CATCH

The commercial fishing catch in Astoria declined by quantity last year and slipped below Newport as the dominant West Coast port. The catch also declined in value.

- **2014**  
Newport: 124 million pounds/\$53 million value  
Astoria: 122 million pounds/\$43 million value
- **2013**  
Astoria: 159 million pounds/\$50 million  
Newport: 127 million/\$55 million
- **2012**  
Astoria: 170 million pounds/\$39 million  
Newport: 80 million pounds/\$37 million
- **2011**  
Astoria: 144 million pounds/\$44 million  
Newport: 79 million pounds/\$44 million
- **2010**  
Astoria: 101 million pounds/\$31 million  
Newport: 57 million pounds/\$31 million

Source: NOAA Fisheries

had 27 million pounds of commercial fish landings last year, off from 37 million pounds in 2013. The value of the catch was \$25 million, down

from \$30 million.

While the catch figures for Astoria are weighted toward offshore fisheries, gillnet fishermen on the

Columbia River, according to Hobe Kyr, the administrator of Salmon For All, continue to be concerned about the policies put in place by former Gov. John Kitzhaber to phase out fishing on the main stem and by bird and sea lion predation and competition from sport fishermen.

The nation’s top commercial fishing port by quantity for the past several years has been Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Last year, according to the fisheries report, Dutch Harbor landed 762 million pounds of commercial fish.

The highest value has come from New Bedford, Massachusetts. Last year, the commercial catch in New Bedford was worth \$329 million.

The NOAA Fisheries report found that commercial fishermen caught 9.5 billion pounds of fish in the United States last year valued at \$5.4 billion, down from 9.9 billion valued at \$5.5 billion in 2013.

## DA fights probation release process

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County District Attorney’s Office is challenging a state law that allows those on felony probation to be released early for complying with terms of their supervision.

The earned discharge process, created by the state Legislature in 2013, is meant to reward people, often drug court graduates, who have paid their restitution and completed treatment programs. People have to serve at least half of their sentence before becoming eligible.

However, Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis said the law actually gives probation officers more authority over sentences than judges or prosecutors.

Besides the question of authority,

See CHALLENGE, Page 10A



Josh Marquis

## WAVE POWER

Company hopes to harness the motion of the ocean at Camp Rilea

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — A wave-energy company from Boston, hopes to harness the waves off the coast of Camp Rilea for electricity and desalinated water.

The Oregon Wave Energy Trust, a nonprofit promoting wave energy, hosted Bill Staby, the co-founder and CEO of Resolute Marine Energy, at Warrenton’s El Compadre restaurant Wednesday to explain the test his company hopes to launch in summer 2017.

The presentation pulled in a roomful of fishermen, ever concerned about losing access to the valuable crabbing grounds off the coast of Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center and equipment being tied up with wave-energy technology.

See POWER, Page 10A

## Orphaned cub finds mercy and apple slices

Cute but still wild, little bear will be reared in hope of eventual release

By NATALIE ST. JOHN  
EO Media Group

BEAR RIVER, Wash. — The Hazen family first noticed the unexpected visitor wandering along their quiet country road Oct. 17.

The next day, the tiny black cub was back again, peeking into Erica and Bruce Ha-

zen’s kitchen through a glass door that — appropriately — looked out on the Bear River.

That evening, Bruce’s father, Warren Hazen, who lives just up the hill, watched as the cub stood alone in the rain, looking for a way into the warmth of his son’s home. The youngest member of the family, 2-year-old Huxley, asked his parents to let the bear come inside.

To Warren Hazen, the cub seemed lonely and hungry.

“He looked like he was looking for company,” Hazen explained, as he poked red apple slices in through the holes in a big, barrel-shaped cage filled with hay. Inside,

an adorable, slightly underfed furball kept one wary eye trained on the humans as he gobbled up his snack.

After the mama failed to appear for two nights, it became clear the cub was probably an orphan.

“Something happened to his mother,” Warren Hazen said. “She could have been hit out on the highway. She could have been shot by a hunter.” Though it’s illegal to shoot female bears, it does happen from time to time, Hazen said, and the appearance of the cub coincided with the opening of bear season.



Natalie St. John/EO Media Group

This young cub, who was found wandering near the Bear River, is probably an orphan, but Fish and Wildlife staff let him spend a night in the trap, to give his mother one last chance to find him. He has been taken to a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

See CUB, Page 10A

