



Submitted Photo

The 67-foot commercial fishing vessel Persistence floats at Westhaven Marina in Westport, Wash., after sinking at its pier and releasing a potential 250 gallons of diesel and 15 gallons of oil Sunday.

Fishing boat sinks in Grays Harbor

The Daily Astorian

WESTPORT, Wash. — The U.S. Coast Guard's National Response Center and the Washington State Department of Ecology personnel responded Sunday to oil pollution from the sunken 67-foot commercial vessel Persistence at Westhaven Marina in Westport, Washington.

After receiving a report of the sinking vessel at Westhaven Sunday afternoon, the Coast Guard dispatched a 47-foot motor lifeboat from Station Grays Harbor to assess the situation. The Persistence was found submerged at the pier, with a rainbow sheen observed on the water. A containment boom was placed around the vessel to prevent the fuel from spreading.

Responders from the Coast Guard Incident Management Division in Astoria

arrived on scene Monday morning and will be working with partner agencies to monitor the situation and oversee the cleanup.

There have been no reports of affected wildlife. The owner reported there are potentially 250 gallons of diesel and 15 gallons of oil onboard the vessel.

To ensure a safe and effective pollution response, Incident Management Division personnel accessed the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and are working to hire a vessel salvage company to clean the pollution and remove the vessel.

"The Coast Guard's job is to ensure that the source of the spill is secured and that cleanup is completed efficiently," said Petty Officer 1st Class John Bennett, the watch stander who received the pollution report. "We will investigate the situation to hold the responsible party accountable."

A life remembered



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Longtime Astoria Trolley volunteer Frank Kemp, left, and Toni Mitchum, right, share a smile as they tell stories about Mitch Mitchum while holding his urn on a ceremonial trolley ride with Mitchum's family on Saturday. Mitch Mitchum, a former city public works director and prolific community volunteer, died Nov. 28 in Portland. A celebration of Mitchum's life was held Saturday.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Lt. Jake Broderick presents Toni Mitchum with a flag during a military honors ceremony at a celebration of life for Mitch Mitchum Saturday. Mitch Mitchum spent 38 years in the U.S. Navy and retired as a captain.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

William Ransome Mitchell IV, Mitch Mitchum's son, tells stories about his late father during the celebration of life ceremony Saturday.

State lawmakers ask for impacts of gross receipts tax

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau



EO Media Group

Lawmakers have asked the Legislative Revenue Office to analyze the potential economic impact of the proposed gross receipts tax.

SALEM — Economists who work for the Oregon Legislature are beginning the complicated task of analyzing how a proposed corporate sales tax measure would affect the economy.

The union-backed tax measure planned for the 2016 ballot would require certain corporations to pay a 2.5 percent tax on sales in Oregon greater than \$25 million. Republican lawmakers in particular have pushed for the Legislative Revenue Office to analyze the potential economic impact of the measure, currently referred to as initiative petition or IP 28.

Economists in the office have already projected the tax would raise an additional \$2.65 billion annually for the state, but they have yet to complete a more detailed analysis that includes the indirect impact or "behavioral response" from businesses and the broader economy.

"This is the third time I've asked this, by the way, gentlemen," state Sen. Brian Bo-

blank, 55, you name it," Bentz said.

Alternative tax measure possible

Lawmakers could also use the information to draft an alternative tax measure in the next legislative session, although it is currently unclear whether there will be enough support for a bill.

Chris Allanach, a senior economist in the Legislative Revenue Office, said the staff planned to start immediately on the analysis. Until recently, the Legislative Revenue Office was busy producing a report ordered by the Legislature on options to overhaul Oregon's state and local tax system. The office presented that report to lawmakers last week.

Legislative Revenue Officer Paul Warner said it will be complicated to analyze the impact of the proposed corporate sales tax, largely because it applies to

very specific companies: "C" corporations with more than \$25 million in sales inside Oregon. The proposed measure also contains an exemption for corporations registered with the state as "benefit companies."

Review of tax returns

Staff at the Legislative Revenue Office will have to review tax returns at the Oregon Department of Revenue to gather the detailed data they will eventually feed into a computer model. "We do have quite a bit of work to really make a decent estimate on IP 28," Warner said. "And we'd much rather do that than throw something together that we aren't confident in, and we'll end up having to change at a future time."

The Legislative Revenue Office will produce a formal research report by the time the Financial Estimate Committee or "price tag panel" meets in July

to prepare official analyses of ballot measure impacts for the voter's guide. In the meantime, Warner said the office will also share its analysis with lawmakers on a rolling basis.

The group Our Oregon is gathering the necessary 88,184 signatures ahead of a July deadline to get the measure on the November ballot. As of Dec. 1, supporters had submitted more than 4,400 signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State's office, according to agency spokeswoman Molly Woon. A majority of the signatures have not been verified.

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