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ONE DOLLAR

Port's seafood cluster may shrink to two



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Seagulls fly over the Pier 2 seafood processing warehouse. The space is leased by United Coast Seafoods, Da Yang and Bornstein Seafoods. The Port is negotiating a deal with Da Yang that would have the company take over space leased by United Coast Seafoods, which is out of business.

Da Yang Seafood again attempts to grow

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria's Pier 2 seafood processing warehouse, previously home to as many as four different processors, could soon be split between two.

The Port is negotiating a deal with Da Yang Seafood that would have the company take over space leased by the defunct United Coast Seafoods, which dissolved late last year.

Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, said the agency has been trying for months to work out a deal to expand Da Yang, which has an agreement to buy the equipment and blast freezer left in the warehouse by United Coast Seafoods.

Shane Jensen, the Port's property manager, said with seafood processors leaving over the past several years, the remaining operators need to expand and diversify to survive.

A single lease would cover Da Yang's existing space at the north end of Pier 2 and the United Coast space on the south, Jensen said, totaling up to 80,000 square feet for about \$22,000 a month.

Bornstein Seafoods controls the warehouse space in between. The Port would also pay

\$168,000 in rent credits to offset \$347,000 in emergency repairs and plant expansion Da Yang started in 2014. The Port was flagged in its most recent audit for not going out to public bid on the work, which staff said was done without the Port commission's signoff.

Jensen said the Port's lack of repairs on Pier 2 was balanced by Da Yang's not notifying the agency of its expansion beyond its original lease space, adding the Port is getting a good deal with the cost-share.

Chih Yuan Wang, CEO and president of Da Yang, said the company needs more space to store its equipment. With warm El Niño waters closing this year's sardine fishery and impacting hake (Pacific whiting), he said in an email, it's not a good time for Da Yang to acquire plants, but the United Coast space is the nearest expansion option to the company's Astoria location.

Public bidding

The Taiwanese-backed company first moved onto Pier 2 in 2005 after buying out the lease of the troubled Fremont Seafoods and has tried several times to expand its footprint.

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File Photo

Chih Yuan Wang, CEO and President of Da Yang Seafoods, said the company wants to expand its storage area as it tries to lease a space formerly occupied by United Coast Seafoods at the south end of Pier 2.

Sunset Lake in septic trouble

State sues RV park owner after warnings, penalties

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The state Department of Environmental Quality has filed suit against Resources Northwest Inc. and Kenneth Hick, the owner of the troubled Sunset Lake Resort & RV Park, to make the company immediately lower sewage flows and replace a failing septic system by September.

The park is allowed a sewage flow of 4,500 gallons per day under Resources Northwest's water pollution control facilities permit issued in 2001, although the park is advised to average half that flow.

The state has sent warning letters since 2009 about the park's sewage flow being over the permitted amount, and since 2014, three notices of civil penalties and orders to comply.

"The efforts to come into compliance by the owner have not been adequate," said Esther Westbrook, an environmental law specialist with the state.

The park uses a recirculating gravel filter and soil-absorption drain field to treat sewage. In February, inspector Gary Artman

See SUNSET LAKE, Page 7A

Corps sets its sights on birds

3,216 cormorants, others targeted

Columbia Basin Bulletin

For the second year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers a permit to begin culling cormorants in the Lower Columbia River estuary.

The goal is to reduce double-crested cormorant feeding on protected juvenile salmon migrating through the Lower Columbia River estuary to the Pacific Ocean.

The permit allows Wildlife Services, the Corps' contractor, to shoot cormorants and oil and destroy cormorant nests on East Sand Island, the open water between East Sand Island and the Astoria Bridge, and on any dredge remain islands in the lower river. East Sand Island is part of Oregon, and is just south of Chinook on the Washington side.

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Steve Ringman/The Seattle Times

Double-crested cormorants on East Sand Island in the Columbia River near Chinook, Wash., in May.

Dams come down to usher salmon back

State officials sign unusual pact to begin largest river restoration

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Endangered salmon blocked for nearly a century from hundreds of miles of the Klamath River in Oregon and California are expected to return en masse under unusual agreements signed Wednesday to tear down four hydroelectric dams.

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who signed agreements with the governors of both states, said the plan would bring about one of the largest river restoration projects in the history of the U.S.

The landmark deals also protect farmers and

See DAMS, Page 7A



Will Houston/The Times-Standard

From left, California Gov. Jerry Brown, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown sign the new Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement on Wednesday, in Klamath, Calif. Endangered salmon blocked for nearly a century from hundreds of miles of a river in Oregon and California are expected to return en masse under unusual new agreements to tear down four hydroelectric dams.



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