

Fleet: 'It's just amazing how hard the industry has been hammered'

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"Back in the day, if the weather was too rough to go out (in the Pacific), you could just go sturgeon fishing. They don't have that option anymore. It impacts people making that 100-mile trip to this area. If they can only catch one fish, it's not

worth it compared to back in the day when there were more options."

Fishery managers in Oregon and Washington state set seasons and quotas based on stock assessments to protect dwindling sturgeon and salmon species.

Increasingly, charters have begun to offer more

bottom-fishing trips as salmon and sturgeon seasons have become less dependable. However, the roughly 17-mile trek to the popular fishing grounds off Tillamook Head leaves little margin for profit.

The recreational bottom-fishing season will officially open in Washington

state waters on Saturday, but charters aren't anticipating heavy bookings until halibut starts in May.

Still, skippers are nostalgic about a different era for charter fleets on both sides of the Columbia River.

"In the mid-'70s, we were running from the 15th of April until the middle of

October just doing salmon fishing," said Pat Schenk, owner of Sea Breeze Charters in Ilwaco.

"I made 166 trips in a row in 1976. It was all salmon. It was crazy," he said. "We had an outfit called Columbia Bar Charters at the time. We had 16 boats out of our office. We were sending out 150 people

a day, making two or three trips. It was wide open."

Schenk estimated there were 150 charter boats out of Ilwaco at the time, compared to about 17 today.

"Westport had around 250 charter boats, now it's about 20," he said. "It's just amazing how hard the industry has been hammered."

Port: Staff estimates \$20 million needed for repairs

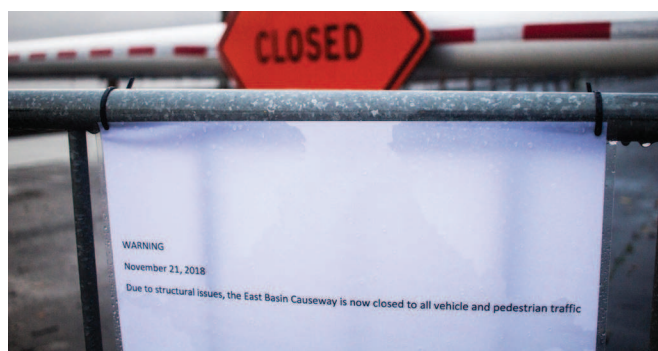
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McArthur called for reports from the Port to the state every six months, along with deliverables to ensure the agency is making progress and following the plan.

The Port is in desperate need of state help, with staff estimating \$20 million in repairs to bring its central waterfront into proper working order.

The Port recently closed the East Mooring Basin causeway after state bridge inspectors found much of the support structure rotting. The state recommended closing the east side of Pier 2 by April unless significant repairs are made.

The Port recently agreed to surrender a \$1.5 million state infrastructure grant to put a new deck on the west side of Pier 2 after learning of more foundational sinking. The agency was unable to come up with the local match after trying unsuccessfully to pair the state



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria has closed the East Mooring Basin causeway because of a rotten substructure.

grant with a larger pot of federal disaster relief funds.

McArthur's comments hit home with Port commissioners, who largely supported more oversight and accountability.

"I'd welcome some supervision," Commissioner Robert Stevens said.

The Port recently formed an ad hoc committee of regional financial experts to find ways it might make and save more money. McArthur's draft will use those recommendations. It will be

doubly important to get the community's buy-in during June and July before submitting the plan to the state, she said.

Of the original \$19.7 million in loans from Business Oregon, the Port and its tenants have paid the amount down to nearly \$11.9 million.

The loans have financed several projects to retain and grow Port tenants over the years. More than \$4.4 million was pumped into the West Mooring Basin. Nearly

\$4 million went into renovating a World War II-era hangar and utilities at the Astoria Regional Airport to keep electric tug manufacturer Lektro in Warrenton.

More than \$10 million helped relocate Bornstein Seafoods from downtown Astoria to the Port's central waterfront, part of the agency's strategic plan in the 2000s to create a seafood and boat-working cluster around processors on Pier 2 and a large boatyard on Pier 3.

The seafood and boat-working cluster on Pier 3 largely went by the wayside in a new strategic plan in 2010, after Westerlund Log Handlers approached the Port with a lucrative partnership exporting timber to China.

McArthur's document will largely be an update of the same plan, focusing on the Port's existing businesses, with a roadmap toward bringing in more revenue, she said.

Seaside: Even with OK, new challenge may be coming

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According to Kevin Cupples, the city's planning director, ODOT emailed approval of the plan shortly before Tuesday's public hearing.

The Planning Commission originally approved the application in November, but it came with a high price: a condition of no left turns in or out of the property.

With an estimated 1,300 daily trips anticipated, commissioners were wary of adding to already long traffic backups, especially in the summer.

Developers would have

needed to come up with the full cost of an estimated \$3 million to add the turn lane.

Main & Main appealed to the City Council, arguing that the cost of the turn lane would exceed the cost to build the store.

In February, the City Council sent the application back to the Planning Commission with one instruction: make left-turn requirements proportional to the project cost.

The revised proposal, prepared by the developer's traffic engineer, satisfies both the City Council and the concern related to safety and traffic impacts, attorney

Dave Phillips said on behalf of the developer.

While it is a "Band-Aid" fix, Chris Hoth, the Planning Commission chairman, said "it is a solution, and ODOT seems happy with it. I'm always reticent to do these things, but I think the conditions have been met here."

Even with the approval, a new challenge to the City Council may be in the works.

After the meeting, Karl Anuta, an attorney for Protect Pacific Northwest, called the Planning Commission's process "improper."

"The Planning Commission looked at, relied on and adopted a document that was

never given to the public before this hearing," Anuta said, referring to the ODOT email.

He said he plans to conduct a traffic analysis of the revised plan.

"If this in fact solves the problem, we won't be opposing," Anuta said. "But I can't tell you right now whether that's going to be the case or not."

Dover, meanwhile, looked to the future in a process that has already stretched almost a year.

"I'm happy we got the approval," Dover said. "We're ready to go after all the appeals periods expire."

Settlement: Kotek described investigation as 'very limited'

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The labor bureau's report in January painted an unflattering picture of many lawmakers and staff, some of whom publicly complained that the report was inaccurate and they hadn't been interviewed.

"I frankly wish he did more work," Kotek said in January. "His investigation was very limited and based on a few sources. I don't know why he didn't take more time. Maybe it had something to do with him leaving."

Amid the national #MeToo reckoning over sexual harassment, two female state senators came forward in late 2017 to allege sexual harassment by Sen. Jeff Kruse, a Republican from Roseburg.

Kruse resigned in March 2018 after an outside investigation found he touched women at work inappropriately for years without their consent.

In its January report, the labor bureau detailed what it said was substantial evidence that legislative staff and leaders didn't act appropriately or swiftly enough to curb harassment at the Capitol.

The report found that legislative leaders didn't take "immediate and appropriate corrective action, or in many cases, any action, in response to complaints of incidents of sexual harassment that they knew or should have known about, in particular

regarding former Senator Kruse but also with respect to other members of the Legislative Assembly."

The report described how several women who complained of harassment, from interns to employees, were in many cases advised by legislative officials not to discuss the allegations for fear that talking about it could be perceived as retaliatory.

"The record suggests respondents had a higher concern for people who had allegations brought against them rather than for people bringing forward complaints of inappropriate conduct they or others had experienced," the report stated.

The report also mentioned how Courtney told an employee in his office could "either resign, be fired or demoted" because he didn't like that she was dating a state representative. This person told the labor bureau that she was told that if she resigned, Courtney's office would pay her five months' salary with benefits.

Another employee, referred to as Employee A, reported that a person who was working in the Capitol — who had sexually assaulted her before they worked in the Capitol — asked her to describe her sexual relationship with another person.

Employee A "was cautioned against talking with anyone regarding the complaint, investigation, or recommenda-

tions," because it could be perceived as retaliating against the person who had inquired, by Legislative Counsel Dexter Johnson, according to the report.

Yet another employee, Employee B, reported that Courtney's communications director, Robin Maxey, offered to buy her a beer at an event, and "stood so close as to be touching the side of his body with hers," and repeated that even after she moved over to the other side of the bar. He then sent her song lyrics that she considered "sexually lewd," over Facebook. Maxey resigned after BOLI released its report.

Two interns who worked for Kruse — who were not identified in the report, but later came forward publicly — were also mentioned in the BOLI report.

The settlement states that the two will drop lawsuits they filed against the Legislature that sought \$6.7 million.

Anne Montgomery and Adrianna Martin-Wyatt interned for Kruse when they were law students during the 2017 session. They claimed in their suit that legislative leaders didn't do enough to prevent harassment or change Kruse's behavior toward them.

"Defendants expressed callous indifference to reports of Kruse's misconduct, and fostered an environment wherein complaints were discouraged with threats of retaliation,

legal exposure, and negative career implications," the lawsuit states.

According to the lawsuit, Kruse subjected both women to sexual banter and unwanted touching, and that behavior seemed common knowledge among legislators and staff.

Kruse, according to the lawsuit, addressed Montgomery as "little girl," "my baby lawyer," and "sexy," multiple times.

He asked about her sex life, touched her thighs, placed his head on hers as she sat at her desk working, and gave frequent, lingering hugs.

Kruse asked Martin-Wyatt about her sex life, asked to be invited over to her house at night, wrapped his arms around her and slid his arms down the front of her body across her breasts, touched her hips, hugged and squeezed her tightly and massaged her shoulders while she was working on the computer, according to the lawsuit.

Both women took steps to avoid Kruse's touching and comments. Martin-Wyatt obtained additional work with another state legislator, and spent half the day in that senator's office, but ultimately left her position early in the middle of the 2017 session.

Montgomery stopped wearing makeup, started wearing baggy clothes and moved her desk to work in another legislator's office.

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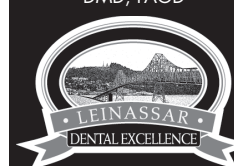
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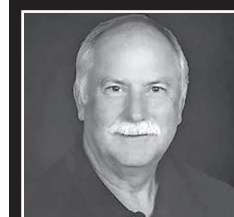
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Steve Putman

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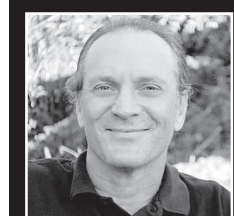
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