

Study could bring help for oyster industry

What's good for shellfish benefits all fish, scientist says

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

A study that's expected to improve conditions for shellfish in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor will also benefit the commercial fishing industry throughout the Columbia Pacific basin, according to the scientist leading the study.

"A healthy embayment that can grow healthy oysters and clams gives massive benefits for better productivity of all the other critters," said Wayne Wright, the project manager leading the study.

"What happens at the bottom of the bay is important to the entirety of it, to the health of the embayment."

Embayment is the land and sediment that form a bay.

Late last month, Wright's company, Canadian-based Stantec, was hired to conduct the \$460,000 study of the two bays.

Oysters and clams are filter feeders that remove harmful algae from the water, Wright said. The region's valuable salmon and other fisheries require a healthy filtration process for their own sustainability.

Stantec is conducting the Twin Harbors Sediment Study in partnership with the National Fisheries Conservation Center. The project will help determine how water flow impacts the oyster industry.

Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor are among the most productive shellfish

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Wright

South Jetty reconstruction begins



A graphic from the Army Corps of Engineers shows the jetties at the mouth of the Columbia.

Below: The parking lot remains open adjacent to the South Jetty viewing platform, but construction is under way behind the fences north of the parking lot.

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Construction traffic will increase through town in the next few months as preliminary work begins on the massive South Jetty project.

"There will be a little more trucking activity up front," said Scott Vandegrift, vice president of J.E. McAmis. "A lot of the materials coming across right now are to prepare the site for this first system of building a barge off-loading facility."

The off-shore dock will take in 400,000 tons of rock – each of them 4 to 40 tons -- for use in shoring up the jetty.

McAmis won the \$140.7 million contract to repair South Jetty. The company, based in Chico, Calif., was founded by John McAmis, a

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2024



Scandinavian Festival court announced for 2020

A Warrenton High School senior and three Astoria teens have been named to the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival court for 2020.

Kaisa Liljenwall is Miss Sweden. After graduating from WHS, Kaisa plans to study environmental engineering and Spanish with the goal of being an engineer for the Peace Corps. She has traveled to Europe twice, loves to ski in the winter, and backpack in the



Kaisa



Lila June



Emma



Elle

years ago and is of Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish descent. Lila is a sophomore at Astoria High School, and she enjoys longboarding and hanging out with her friends and her dog, Ruby. She plays the piano and loves to ski.

summer. She was Junior Miss Sweden in 2010.

Lila June Anderson is Miss Denmark. She moved to Astoria 2 1/2

Emma Biederman is Miss Finland. Her heritage comes from her maternal grandmother, who was 100

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