

Tall Ships Not Coming In July

The Port of Newport Commissioners discussed concerns that have arisen from the Tall Ships, the Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain, that dock in Newport. The ships are from Grays Harbor Washington and tour ports in Washington, California and Oregon. In the past the ships have arrived during off times and have not been charged for space at the docks. The requested times in Newport however have increased. The ships were last here April 17-May 1. During the two week stay there were fishermen and also other bayfront businesses that noticed difficulties with finding needed dock space and with parking on the bayfront.

Grays Harbor asked for a return of the Tall Ships in July from the 12th to the 30th. This time the port management said they would have to pay the dock fees, like everyone else. The dates rose increased concern about space for the fishing fleet, parking and problems for other bayfront businesses such as the Chelsea Rose, that sells fresh fish from the docks. Owner Cody Chase said July is one of their busiest months and this will affect their income, as customers will have a challenge finding parking and access to the docks. It was also pointed out that the popular OSU Extension Shop At The Dock program runs during that time and could be hindered by lack of parking and dock access.

There was discussion about putting the ships in South Beach, however due to the space and dredging issues only one ship would fit. There was also discussion of having them at the international terminal, but that was not deemed to be a safe option either. Port Commission President Stewart Lamerdin said they would like to have the ships here, however July was not a good time. He said it would be better to continue to have them here during the off season, suggesting perhaps they come back in October if that worked with their schedule.