



Jensen Marina Transformation

On February 14, 2021, under a foot of wet snow, the old roof structure of the Port of Friday Harbor's Jensen Marina collapsed. Thankfully no one was injured. Since then, Port staff have been diligently working to rebuild the marina. Delays due to permitting and supply chain issues made it a lengthy process. Using Port staff to rebuild the marina has saved the Port hundreds of thousands of dollars and made the covered moorage more affordable for customers than anticipated.

The reconstruction was divided into several phases: demolition of structures and moving boats, building new docks, installing electrification and water systems, and finally constructing the boathouses to cover 25 rebuilt slips.

Getting permits for new covered moorage in San Juan County is impossible. Rebuilding covered moorage here is prohibitively expensive due to environmental mitigation costs. By using environmentally friendly design and materials in the old footprint of the boathouses, the Port navigated this challenge to provide for our customers.

New grated docks throughout the marina, translucent blue polycarbonate boathouse covers, and

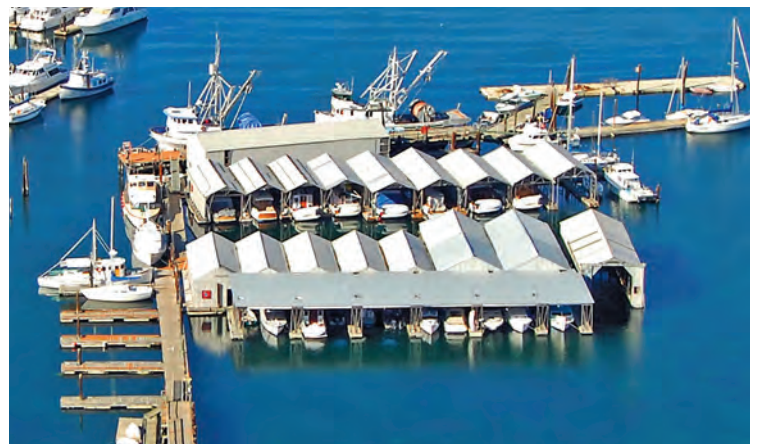
uncovered walkways allow more light to reach the water's surface. More light stimulates the growth of eelgrass and many other marine organisms. Unfortunately, the trade-off is less protection from the weather for the boats underneath.

We are now delighted to share the transformation of Jensen Marina. The entire marina has been rebuilt, apart from the breakwater, which is slated for replacement in 2025. Insurance money, grants, and the efforts of port staff have made this rebuild possible. Fun fact: The Jensen Rebuild 2021-2024 utilized \$491,952 in Port labor and benefits, all reimbursable by our insurance.

Interested in covered moorage? We encourage you to get on the waiting list while it is still short. There are: 11 slips at 30 feet, 11 slips at 40 feet, and 3 slips at 50 feet. Please call the Marina Operations team for available slip dimensions at (360) 378-2688.

Above: Rebuilt docks and covered moorage at Jensen Marina.

Right: The Jensen Marina before rebuilding.



Shipyard Demolition Makes Room for Working Waterfront

The Port purchased Jensen Shipyard and Marina in 2018 to maintain a working boatyard in the islands and clean up 100 year's of legacy pollution. Removal of dilapidated buildings expands the available space for a working boatyard, which in turn helps create jobs to fulfill the Port's mission of economic development. While we acknowledge some of the old-time nautical charm of Jensen Shipyard and Shipyard Cove Marina has disappeared with the demolition, our goal is to create a more open, publicly accessible, safer, and environmentally friendly waterfront.



The cool old boathouse at Jensen's was unsalvageable, and was torn down. However, some of its useful weathered wood was recycled.



Shipyard Cove's old "bait-house" flooded during king tide events and was torn down to increase waterfront access and boatyard space.



Blake Marine to Open at Jensen Shipyard

There was no hesitation when the Port approached Craig Blake, owner of Blake Marine Yacht Management, about offering his expertise and services at Jensen Shipyard. "Opening a chandlery store and assisting with getting the yard up and running has always been a goal," Craig stated. "Years of building client relationships and working on boats ranging from 13' to over 100' has given me an understanding of what needs to be done to keep the boating community satisfied with work done locally and ensure that money and jobs stay on the island."

Craig is no stranger to the needs of San Juan Islands boaters. He grew up boating in the Islands and Canada. Working at Roche Harbor from a young age, Craig, "knew this was where I wanted to be." He and his wife have been on the island full-time for almost 20 years and raised their children here.

"With our trained staff, we look forward to working with the community and the Port. We are thrilled to help create the future success of Jensen Shipyard and the reputation of Friday Harbor and the San Juan Islands as an excellent place to service and maintain boats," Craig related.

The Port is excited for this new expanded chapter in the evolution of its working waterfront and for an outstanding partnership with Blake Marine. The boatyard and boat lift operations will continue to be operated by the Port, ensuring equitable scheduling for all local marine contractors while maintaining the option for boatowners to perform self-work in the yard.

Bon Voyage!

**Harbormaster
Tami Hayes
Retires**



Dynamic Port of Friday Harbor Harbormaster, Tami Hayes, retired on September 13, 2024. Tami joined the Port of Friday Harbor in September 1991 as summer staff and worked her way up to the role of Harbormaster. For the last 33 years Tami has been a cornerstone of our operations.

Tami played a crucial role in the smooth operation and safety of the Friday Harbor Marina, and more recently Shipyard Cove and Jensen marinas. Her efforts in efficiently managing all three marinas made the Port a pleasure and “must-visit” destination for sailors, captains, and pilots alike.



Environmental protection, safety, and security are key aspects of a harbormaster's duties. Tami's efforts to ensure compliance with regulations and protect our local ecosystem have

helped keep the marinas clean and vibrant. Our Port was one of the first in the State to receive the coveted “Clean Marina” designation.

Tami took great pleasure in training and managing summer staff. These young employees found a role model in Hayes, who instilled in them purpose and responsibility. Many former dock staff look back fondly at their exciting first job experience.

On behalf of the entire Port of Friday Harbor family, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Tami for her unwavering commitment and contributions. We wish her bon voyage to a joyful and fulfilling retirement. While we will miss her invaluable contributions, we are excited for her to enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

What's next? Rather than replacing Tami's role with one staff member, the Port has taken a team approach with several senior staff members stepping up to fill the void left by Tami's retirement.

Diving into Science: Students Monitor Marina Water Quality

It's a gray misty day. The 5th-grade students from Friday Harbor Elementary are climbing back into the vans after collecting water samples at the Port of Friday Harbor Marina. One student asks, “Are we going to the lab now? I love this part of the science! This whole project is really cool.”

Since 2002, 5th-grade students from Friday Harbor Elementary and more recently the 6/7th grade class from Spring Street International School have been monitoring water quality at the Marina. The schools partner with the Friday Harbor Marine Laboratories and the Port of Friday Harbor.

The students test water temperature, salinity, and movement nine times a year from six sites plus a control site at the Labs. Samples are also tested in the labs for fecal coliform. Their data is shared with the Port and is compared against the high standard of Class AA (Extraordinary Quality) marine water. While most of the water in the marina consistently tests AA, the tests have identified problem areas, such as leaking holding tanks or the Spring Street stormwater outfall after heavy rain. This, in turn, helps the Port and Town find solutions.

Michelle Herko, director of the K-12 program, tells us, “In addition to students collecting and processing their own water samples in the lab, I tell them, ‘We are not just doing a field trip or a lab experiment but collecting relevant data for the Port and community.’”

This project also gives students hands-on experience in real scientific research, fostering excitement and a sense of responsibility. The Port is grateful to our young citizen scientists for helping to keep our marina pristine.





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View from My Deck *By Commissioner Gib Black whose deck overlooks Jackson Beach*

Quick question: What do these folks have in common: driftwood scavengers, dog walkers, bike riders, kayak guiders, music makers, and family re-uniter? Add in class reunions, church groups, and school groups.

Getting there? Now picture youth sailors sailing, adults with boats and trailers launching, lunchtime in-car eaters, driftwood house builders, sand diggers, totem viewers, volleyball players, kite flyers, cold plungers, and portable sauna users.

Need another clue? Think birthdays, celebrations of lives well lived, yoga classes, crabbing, hill running, cornhole playing, picnicking, and s'more making.

Still not there? Add stand-up standpaddle boarders, kitesurfers, toe dippers, outrigger canoes and Native paddlers, storm watchers and storm chasers, mechanics tuning up cars, and classic car meetups.

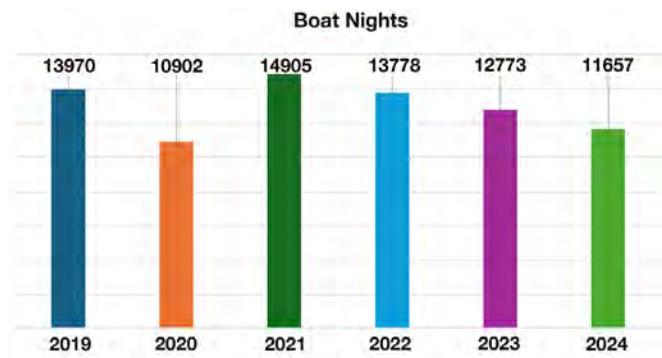
Yes, of course, I'm writing about the users of the Port's Jackson Beach. Just a mile from Town, it's a place for Islanders and guests to connect with each other and nature. If you are a Jackson Beach user or potential user, let the Port Commission or staff know how they can support your use. We aim to ensure that Jackson Beach remains a place for all Islanders to enjoy.

By the Numbers

As a designed "Clean Marina," the Port's priority is to keep waste out of the water. We do this by making it easy for customers to have their holding tanks pumped by "Pumpty Dumpty" the Port's pump-out boat. From 2020-2024 the Port pumped 647,575 gallons of waste from boats in and near the marina. Holy s__ that's a lot! Washington Clean Vessel Act reimbursed this program \$40,330 last year, alone.

Keeping derelict boats from sinking is another way the Port keeps our waters clean. In 2024, the Port deconstructed roughly 30 vessels, with 14 of those happening during DNR's Vessel Turn-In event. DNR reimbursed the Port over \$33,000 for removal work.

Statewide and locally, tourism was down in 2024. The boat nights graph below reflects this downturn. Port permanent moorage waiting lists remain strong, however.



Please find the Port Citizen's Budget guide here: <https://www.portfridayharbor.org/your-port/financial-information/>

New Bonus Policy for Summer Staff

Summer staffing is always a challenge for the Port. To keep marina operations running smoothly requires a seasonal staff of 10-12 youth. Taking reservations, checking in boats, assigning slips, and answering questions from visitors are among dock staff duties. During May through September the Port averages 2,417 moorage guests each month.

The new Summer Staff Bonus Program not only encourages staff to complete the season, it incentivizes trained staff to return for multiple summers. And, it's a way to attract new qualified and enthusiastic staff.

A staff person may collect either a generous cash bonus or a stipend towards secondary education at a college or trades school when a full season is completed.

The bonus program aligns with the Port's mission of economic development by providing on-the-job training and promoting further education for island young people. Many return to the Islands and secure employment at the Port or elsewhere. At the end of 2024, a total of \$5,000 was awarded to two college-bound individuals. For information about joining our summer dock staff, please call our Marina Operations Team at (360) 378-2688.