



# Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary Executive Work Group

6/24/2016



**Recreational Boating  
Association of  
Washington**

**The Voice of Northwest Boating**

# RECREATIONAL BOATER ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

- ▶ **Recreational Boaters Association of Washington (RBAW)**
- ▶ **Who is RBAW:**
  - ▶ 9000 members representing 229,000 WA State Boaters
  - ▶ 95% of the boats are under 26', such as ski boats, fishing boats, and small sailboats.
  - ▶ 17,256 boating related jobs, many of which depend on a viable sport fishing industry
- ▶ **RBAW is representing maritime boating interests in Budd Inlet**
- ▶ **Introductions:**
  - ▶ Wayne Gilham – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
  - ▶ Steve Finney – Director and Delegate for Olympia Yacht Club



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# ECONOMIC IMPACT

- ▶ Economic Impact of Boating in WA State: \$3.2B
- ▶ DNR Leasehold Tax: \$300,000/year
- ▶ Example: Swantown Marina and Boatworks
  - ▶ Jobs: 180
  - ▶ Personal Income: \$10.4 m
  - ▶ Business Revenue: \$ 7.0 m
  - ▶ Local Purchases: \$ 4.2 m
  - ▶ Tax generation: \$ 1.0 m



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# SOCIAL IMPACT

- ▶ Over \$40M in strategic waterfront investments to enhance tourism and downtown revenue:
  1. Percival Landing
  2. West Bay Park
  3. Public Art
  4. Heritage Fountain
  5. 4th Ave Bridge enhancement
  6. Moorage for 1500 boats
  7. Community waterfront events:
    - a. Wooden Boat Festival
    - b. Harbor Days
    - c. Lighted Ship Parade
    - d. Special People Cruise Christmas Cruise
    - e. Opening day
    - f. Sandman Tug: 4,500 visitors/year
  
- ▶ *The investments not likely to happen if not for the existing theme of Olympia maritime*



Photo by Janine Unsoeld/Little Hollywood Photography

# POLITICAL IMPACT

- ▶ RBAW strongly supports Governor Inslee's initiative
  - ▶ "We need to get more children into the great outdoors." Under the theme of "No Child Left Inside". Gov. Inslee:  
<<http://blog.seattlepi.com/seattlepolitics/2014/09/23/washingtons-outdoor-recreation-goal-no-child-left-inside/>>
  - ▶ Blue Ribbon Task force to promote outdoor recreation for kindergarten through 12th grades
  - ▶ Olympia Yacht Club partners with the City of Olympia Parks and Recreation to support the highly successful and competitive Junior Sailing Program
    - ▶ Involving over 300 coed children ages 6-18



# POLLUTION AWARENESS AND SAFETY

- ▶ Boat owners more conscientious than ever before. Holding tank investments.
- ▶ An estuary would have currents running faster than the Tacoma Narrows
  - ▶ Significant dangers associated with the fast flooding estuary and deep mud.
  - ▶ Three Points of Danger
    - ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and I-5 Bridges
    - ▶ Railroad Trestle
- ▶ RBAW finds this risk unacceptable for general recreational use of the estuary



# OPTION 1: REMOVE THE DAM

- ▶ Allows the silt to run into Budd Inlet and replace Capitol Lake with a non-usable mudflat.
- ▶ Requires a complex dredging plan for Budd Inlet,
- ▶ Create a time consuming and expensive permitting process.
  - ▶ OYC dredging involved interaction with 9 different agencies and 1 tribe, over 3 years.
- ▶ Highest dredging cost.



# OPTION 2: MAINTAIN CAPITOL LAKE

- ▶ Support “No Child Left Inside”
- ▶ Allow plant-life to act as a filter that would absorb excess nitrogen, then harvested.
  - ▶ Increasing water quality prior to entering Budd Inlet.
- ▶ Single agency coordination with a predictable shared and lowest cost dredging model.
- ▶ RBAW believes that Option 2 is the only viable alternative.



# THANK YOU

