



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACTS:

Dan Williams – [206-616-6353](tel:206-616-6353) <tel:206-616-6353>

or dw7@uw.edu <mailto:dw7@u.washington.edu>

Nicole Faghin – [206-685-8286](tel:206-685-8286) <tel:206-685-8286> or faghin@uw.edu

National Symposium Will Address Access to, Uses of Working Waterfronts

Working waterfronts are getting squeezed.

Shifting demographics, declining fisheries, fluctuating economic trends, environmental changes — all these, and many other factors, are putting pressure on working waterfronts and waterways. Traditional activities once considered vital to coastal communities — for example, boat building, fishing, recreational boating and aquaculture — now must compete for limited space with uses such as energy production and residential development. All these activities, new and old, depend on shoreline access for their survival.

Across the United States, coastal communities are seeking creative solutions to evolving waterfront challenges. This March 25-28, people representing a broad range of coastal interests will meet in Tacoma, Wash., to share common dilemmas and solutions at the third National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium.

“Coastal communities have begun taking a fresh look at shoreline issues, particularly since Hurricane Sandy hit the mid-Atlantic coast,” said Nicole Faghin, coastal management specialist for Washington Sea Grant and coordinator of the symposium. “Should devastated areas be redeveloped? If so, how? What are the best uses for waterfront land? These are the types of questions the symposium in Tacoma will address.”

The list of speakers includes:

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (invited)

Washington State Sen. Kevin Ranker (invited)

Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council Chair Ron Sims (former deputy director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Development and former King County Executive)

Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland.

Washington Sea Grant is sponsoring the symposium in coordination with Oregon Sea Grant. Attendees will include planning professionals, elected officials, interested citizens and others, who will learn first-hand about:

- Economic and social impacts of and on working waterfronts
- Successful local, regional, state and federal strategies to address working waterfront issues
- The future of working waterfronts, including potential impacts of changing uses and climates
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Keeping waterfront industries commercially viable.

The symposium begins March 25 with a full day of field trips around the Tacoma waterfront and the region. For more information, visit the symposium website — <http://depts.washington.edu/uwconf/workingwaterfronts/> — or contact Nicole Faghin at wwaters2013@uw.edu or [206-685-8286](tel:206-685-8286) <tel:[206-685-8286](tel:206-685-8286)> .

Based at the University of Washington, Washington Sea Grant provides statewide marine research, outreach and education services. The National Sea Grant College Program is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce. <http://www.wsg.washington.edu/>