

Emergency dredging at Port of Kalama will commence Monday, August 7 to ensure safety and smooth sailing for all

The impact of Mother Nature and Old Man Winter has taken its toll in the Columbia River at the Port creating unusually large volume of sediment flowing in the river

With the 100+ degree days we're experiencing it's hard to remember that grueling wet winter we endured. But the impact of the winter's heavy precipitation and higher than usual river flows have reached the Port of Kalama marine terminals and shoreline. The high raging rivers of spring have produced a much larger volume of sediment flowing along the bed of the Columbia River here which has caused increasing challenges for river traffic and commerce.

Usual routine dredging would commence in the fall, but due to recent navigation challenges to vessels at the Port, immediate action is required. Dredging at the TEMCO grain elevator will begin on August 7th. The majority of dredge material will be placed in-water along the beaches at Ahles Point and the southern half of Rasmussen Park, however some material may be placed on the beach. Port of Kalama day use parks will remain open for recreation. Should beach placement occur, work areas of the beach will be temporarily closed and signage will be placed to alert visitors.

The Port is sorry for any inconvenience this causes recreational visitors but ensuring public safety and a navigable river is of utmost importance at this time. The dredging is expected to take place into early September. Maps of other recreational sites and beach access areas are available at the Port administration offices.

For additional information, please call us at 360.673.2325 or visit www.PortofKalama.com.