

# FOSS WATERWAY SEAPORT

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## Foss Waterway Seaport Docks and Floats Moorage Policy

### Introduction

The Foss Waterway Seaport manages the Pier A and North Moorage floats in front of the Balfour Dock Building, Site 12, and the Dock Building as part of the Foss Waterway Seaport campus. The Seaport operates the docks under a Dock Supervision Agreement with the Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA). Management and maintenance costs of the docks and floats are supported solely by moorage revenues.

Our goal is to aggressively promote the use of these facilities to enhance the Tacoma waterfront, make the waterfront more user friendly, and subsequently attract more visitors and events to Tacoma and to the Seaport campus. The Seaport seeks to promote year round boating, education and maritime-related activities and events, and enhance public access to Puget Sound.

The Seaport docks are strategically positioned at the entrance to the Thea Foss Waterway. The 1,200 linear feet of north moorage floats provide excellent safe transient moorage for visiting recreational and small commercial vessels as well as superb moorage space for maritime-related events open to the public. The floats are the center point of the Seaport marine and environmental science boat-based learning activities which are key components of the Seaport's education program. Pier A, located at the south end of the Balfour Dock Building perpendicular to the waterfront public esplanade, affords limited permanent moorage space and serves as a location for sailing education programs and other specialized on water activities. Use of Pier A for events or visiting vessels is restricted and provided only at the discretion of the Seaport Executive Director.

The Seaport's floats are subject to bedlands lease provisions with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Moorage rates are set in a manner consistent with Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requirements and State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) policy. Power, water, and pump out facilities are provided on the north moorage floats. Current moorage, pump out and power rates are published on the Seaport website: [www.fosswaterwayseaport.org](http://www.fosswaterwayseaport.org).

The Seaport reserves the right to deny moorage and services to operators who do not manage their vessels in a safe manner or who fail to observe dock use policies.

## **Moorage Policies**

### **Transient Moorage**

Open to all recreational boaters on a first come, first served basis. Transient stays are limited to 14 consecutive days. Moorage under 4 hours is free. Small commercial vessels are welcomed based on the approval by the Seaport Executive Director or designee.

### **Event Moorage**

The Seaport is one of the South Sound's largest waterfront venues for special and public events. The Seaport is a strong supporter of activities that bring people and economic benefit to the waterfront and the community; however, we are not authorized to provide free moorage/power/pump out services to vessels participating in these events.

Recreational Boating Group Events: Subject to the Seaport's transient moorage policies.

Special events: The Seaport's agreements with the FWDA/DNR/RCO noted above guide the use of our docks and require us to collect moorage fees for any overnight moorage, or for periods longer than 4 hours. Special consideration may be given to vessels that are at our docks participating in special events and festivals such as tall ships, educational seminars, boat shows, or regattas. Consideration for adjustments to moorage rates will be based on an event-by-event basis at the discretion of the Seaport Executive Director.

The adjusted rate for the dates identified will apply to any boat tied up on North moorage floats on those dates.

The Seaport encourages event organizers to gather sponsorships to defray the costs of event moorage at the Seaport docks. The Seaport is working with other community groups on a program to make available "in hand local sponsorships" to offset moorage costs for major events on a case-by-case basis.

Rafting: Rafting is permitted; two boats maximum. Regular moorage rates apply.

Nonprofit educational vessel visits: The Seaport's docks frequently receive vessel visits from historic and educational nonprofit organizations. These vessels usually provide public access while they are docked. In many cases these vessels charge their co-sponsors or customers for their visits as well as provide opportunities for the public, their clients, and customers to pay for excursions.

If the nonprofit organization's vessel allows free public access aboard the vessel for a minimum of 4 hours per day during the period of 10:00am to 8:00pm, the Seaport will waive the nightly moorage fee. Power/pump out charges will still apply. If the vessel does not allow free public access, moorage fees will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Seaport Executive Director. Vessels at the docks for a visit sponsored by the Seaport will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Insurance: All vessels participating in special events that involve boarding access to and from the docks must supply to the Seaport in advance of their visit proof of insurance naming the Foss Waterway Development Authority, the Foss Waterway Seaport, the Foss Waterway Owners Association, the City of Tacoma and the Port of Tacoma as additional insureds. Event organizers are urged to consult their insurance carriers about this requirement early in their event planning cycle; insurance carriers are familiar with and can provide the required certification of insurance coverage.

## **Use of Services**

Vessels with holding tanks of less than 100 gallon capacity may use the Seaport's pump out facilities. Vessels with holding tanks larger than 100 gallon capacity or those with non-compatible fittings are prohibited from using the Seaport's pump out facilities and must seek alternative pump out services from nearby providers on the Thea Foss Waterway.

## **Inquiries**

For more information about Foss Waterway Seaport's moorage policies, please call 253-272-2750.