



Station Grays Harbor

Active Duty Personnel: 42

Reserve Personnel: 21

Civilian Personnel: 0

Mailing Address:

Commander

USCG Station Grays Harbor
Westport, WA 98595
(360) 268-0121

For more information on the Coast

Guard, visit the Internet at

<http://www.uscg.mil>. For recruiting information call 1-877-NOW-USCG.

Established: The first Coast Guard presence in the area came with the establishment of a lighthouse at the entrance to Willapa Bay in 1858. In 1898, another lighthouse was built near Westport. About the same time, a station was built near-by. The original boats were on horse drawn carriages and launched through the surf and rowed to the scene of the distress. In 1914, the first motorized lifeboats arrived, and the station was moved to a newly-built pier inside of Grays Harbor. After several more reconstructions in the 1930s and 1940s, the current station was built on the east end of the Westhaven Marina in 1973. Today their assets consist of a 52-foot motor lifeboat, two 47-foot motor lifeboats and one 23-foot utility boat.

What we do: Grays Harbor's area of responsibility extends more than 63 miles along the Washington coastline from the Queets River in the north, to Ocean Park in the south and 50 miles offshore. Seventy-five percent of the station's mission is search and rescue. The other 25 percent is law enforcement, marine environmental protection, and [recreational boating safety](#).

Accomplished Operations: During search and rescue seasons, which begins with the opening of coastal recreational salmon season and extends through its closing, the unit answers three to five cases each day. When the recreational salmon fishing season was strong, the unit would average 600-700 search and rescue cases a year. When the salmon seasons started getting shorter and shorter, the number of cases steadily dropped and it is now rare to receive over 300 calls for assistance a year. However, every year during the stormy winter months during commercial dungeness crab season, the station can expect to receive several calls involving capsizing, sinking, or rough bar escorts.



Photo taken by: YN1 Bruce Borthwick Date: '99 High resolution copy can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/images.html>

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