



Celebrating 100 years serving Clallam County

P.O. Box 1350
338 West First Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
360.457.8527

Board of Commissioners
Steven Burke, President
Colleen McAleer, Vice President
Connie Beauvais, Secretary
Executive Director
Paul Jarkiewicz

To: Port Angeles Boat Haven Tenants
From: Port of Port Angeles – Marine Trades Department
Re: Environmental Compliance and Boathouse Flotation Standards
Date: August 27, 2025

NOTICE OF PORT OF PORT ANGELES POLICY CHANGE PHASE-OUT OF UNENCAPSULATED STYROFOAM FLOTATION

Dear Port Angeles Boat Haven Tenant,

The Port of Port Angeles is committed to preserving the health of Port Angeles Harbor and ensuring that our marine facilities reflect responsible stewardship of the environment on which we all depend.

To reduce the long-term risk of microplastic pollution and to align with State and Federal law, the Port is implementing a new policy that **prohibits the use of unencapsulated Styrofoam flotation (expanded polystyrene or “EPS”)** on boathouses and overwater structures at the Port Angeles Boat Haven.

This serves as formal notice of the policy and outlines your responsibilities moving forward.

Policy Summary and Timeline	
Action	Date
Policy Issued	August 26, 2025
Use of Unencapsulated EPS Prohibited	Effective Immediately
Final Deadline to Remove Existing EPS	September 1, 2027
Immediate Repairs Required for Shedding EPS	Effective Immediately

Policy Details

1. Unencapsulated EPS Use Is Prohibited – Effective Immediately

The use of unencapsulated Styrofoam (EPS) for new or replacement flotation systems is prohibited. All flotation materials used from the date of this notice forward must be **fully encapsulated and environmentally compliant** as provided in state regulations WAC 220-660-380(5)(h) and incorporated in WSR 24-12-003, Permanent Rules for the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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Acceptable materials include:

- Foam flotation that is fully sealed within rigid, waterproof plastic or concrete shells. i.e., flotation systems containing expanded or extruded plastic foam must be enclosed in a shell made of plastic with a minimum thickness of 0.15 inches, concrete, aluminum, or steel. The shell must prevent breakup or loss of the flotation material into the water. The shell must not be readily subject to damage by ultraviolet light and abrasion.
- Closed-cell high-density plastic (HDPE) tanks or chambers suitable for marine use
- Other non-shedding, durable flotation approved by the Port

The introduction of **unencapsulated EPS** into any boathouse structure is **not allowed under any circumstances**.

This requirement is consistent with **WAC 220-660-380(5)(h) and (9)(f)** and environmental best management practices.

2. Two-Year Transition for Existing Boathouses

To facilitate orderly compliance, the Port is granting a two-year moratorium for tenants with existing unencapsulated EPS flotation systems to remove and replace those materials, **provided the flotation has not degraded or begun to shed**.

By **September 1st, 2027**, all such non-compliant flotation systems must be entirely removed and replaced with compliant materials.

3. Immediate Action Required if Flotation Is Shedding

If your existing flotation is **shedding foam particles into the harbor**, that constitutes a **current environmental violation**, in accordance with:

- **RCW 90.48.080** (Washington Water Pollution Control Act), and
- **Section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1311)**.¹

The Port and Port tenants are obligated to prevent further discharge of pollutants into the water. If such shedding is observed, enforcement may take the form of:

- Notice to the tenant requiring repair or replacement
- Requirements for containment or cleanup efforts
- Penalties of up to ten thousand dollars a day for every such violation.

There is **no grace period** for a flotation that is visibly degrading or polluting the waterway.

¹ **RCW 90.48.080**: "It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge into any waters of the state any matter that causes or tends to cause pollution."
Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1311): Prohibits the discharge of pollutants (including debris and solid waste) to navigable waters without a permit.
WAC 220-660-380(5)(h) and (9)(f): Washington Hydraulic Code prohibits the use of exposed foam flotation in overwater structures.



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Why This Matters

Unencapsulated Styrofoam breaks down over time, releasing harmful microplastics into our harbor. These particles damage habitat, harm marine life, and degrade water quality. This policy helps us all mitigate that risk while maintaining safe and clean conditions for current and future generations.

Questions or Support

The Port is preparing a list of compliant flotation materials. Please contact us if you'd like assistance in evaluating your structure or planning an overhaul or retrofit.

Marty Marchant
Marine Trades Manager
Port of Port Angeles
(360) 457-8527 | martinm@portofpa.com

Thank you for your shared commitment to the care and sustainability of our working waterfront. We appreciate your partnership as we make this important transition together.

Sincerely,

Paul Jarkiewicz
Executive Director
Port of Port Angeles

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