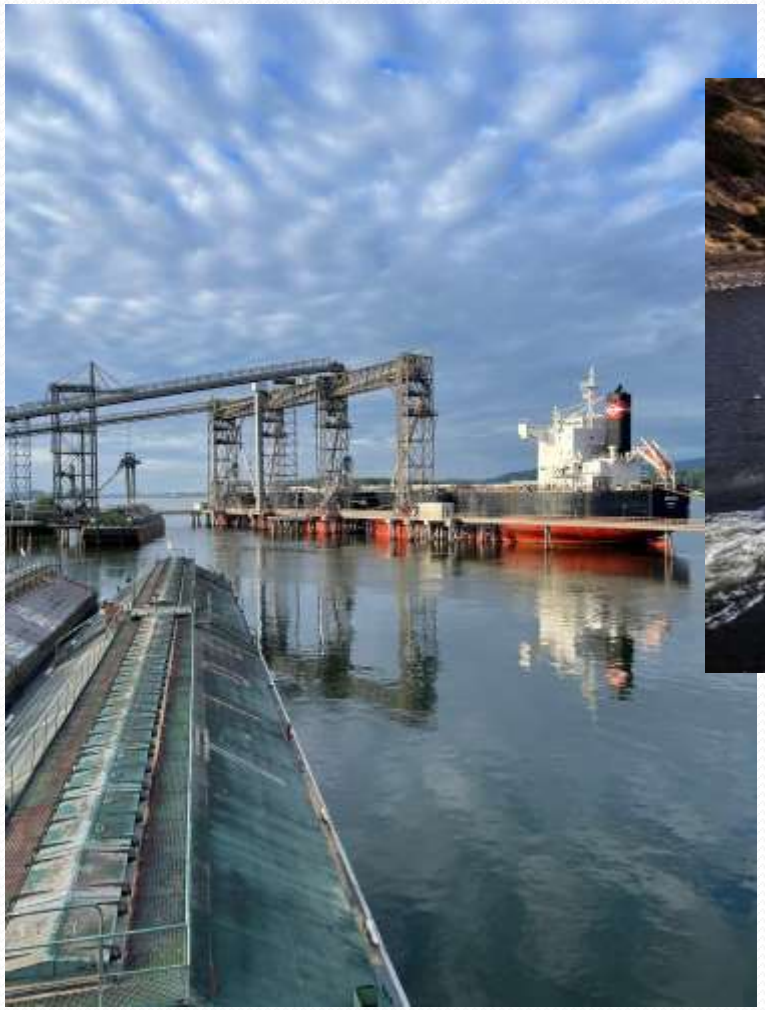
CRSOA COBALT ’26



COLUMBIA RIVER TOWBOAT ASSOCIATION

"The CRTA promotes the common interests of it's members in commercial navigation on the Columbia/Snake river system."

COLUMBIA RIVER
TOWBOAT ASSOCIATION

CRSOA COBALT ’26

- Who we are and what we do!
- Inland towing on the CSR
  - “Upriver” characteristics
  - Locks
  - Bridges
  - Weather
- Challenges
- Collective efforts

Who We Are

HARBOR ASSIST

Project Work

OCEAN TOWING INTO THE RIVER

CRTA Membership

- Advanced American Construction, Inc
- Bernert Barge Lines
- Diversified Marine Inc
- Foss Maritime
- Sause Bros
- Shaver Transportation
- Tidewater Barge Lines
- PNWA
- Brusco Tug & Barge

- **TIDEWATER TRANSPORTATION AND TERMINALS: UPRIVER TRANSPORT, TERMINALS, DOWNRIVER PRODUCTS TRANSPORT.**

- **SHAVER TRANSPORTATION COMPANY: UPRIVER TRANSPORT, SHIP ASSIST, AND HARBOR SERVICE.**

SHAVER

- **FOSS MARITIME: SHIP ASSIST, HARBOR SERVICES, AND UPRIVER PROJECT CARGOES. PILOT LAUNCH IN ASTORIA.**

- **BERNERT BARGE LINES: UP AND DOWN RIVER WOOD PRODUCTS AND AGGREGATE BARGING.**

- **SAUSE BROS. OCEAN TOWING: OFFSHORE BARGE TOWING.**
  - **Black hull white house ocean towing tugs**

- **ADVANCED AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION**
  - **HEAVY CIVIL AND MARINE CONSTRUCTION**
    - **DERRICK/CRANE BARGES, BLUE PUSH TUGS**

Advanced American Construction, Inc.

COLUMBIA SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM

- 465 miles from Astoria to Lewiston, ID.
- 8 navigation lock and dams between.
- Over 1300 barge tows per year.
- 27 upriver grain barge terminals feed 7 deep draft export terminals.

Downriver vs upriver!

- Vancouver to Tri Cities = 223 miles
- Tri Cities to Clearwater confluence = 139
- Upriver navigation channel is *300' wide and maintained to 14' deep at MOP
- Upriver traffic is limited by Lock and Dams, as well as overhead heights at fixed bridges
- Upriver is a mix of narrow channels and wide pools, rock outcroppings and soft gravel bottoms, gradual shorelines and steep banks rising high above the water.

Upper River

Upper River

Upper River

COLUMBIA SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM

Average speed for barge tows:
11 mph all empty / 7 to 8mph all loaded

- Vancouver to Bonneville (mile 145) = 6 hours
- Bonneville to The Dalles (mile 192) = 6 hours
- The Dalles to John Day (mile 216) = 3 hours
- John Day to McNary (mile 292) = 8 hours
- McNary to Tri Cities (mile 323) = 3.5 hours

- Tri Cities to Ice harbor (SN mile 10) = 1 hour
- Ice harbor to Lower Monumental (SN mile 41) = 3 hours
- Lower Monumental to Little Goose (SN mile 70) = 3 hours
- Little Goose to Lower Granite (SN mile 107) = 4 hours
- Lower Granite to Lewiston/Clarkston (SN mile 139) = 3 hours

COLUMBIA SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM

Round Trips:

Vancouver > Tri Cities > Vancouver = 2.5 days with stops
Tri Cities > Lewiston > Tri Cities = 2 days with stops
Vancouver > Lewiston > Vancouver = 5-day turnaround

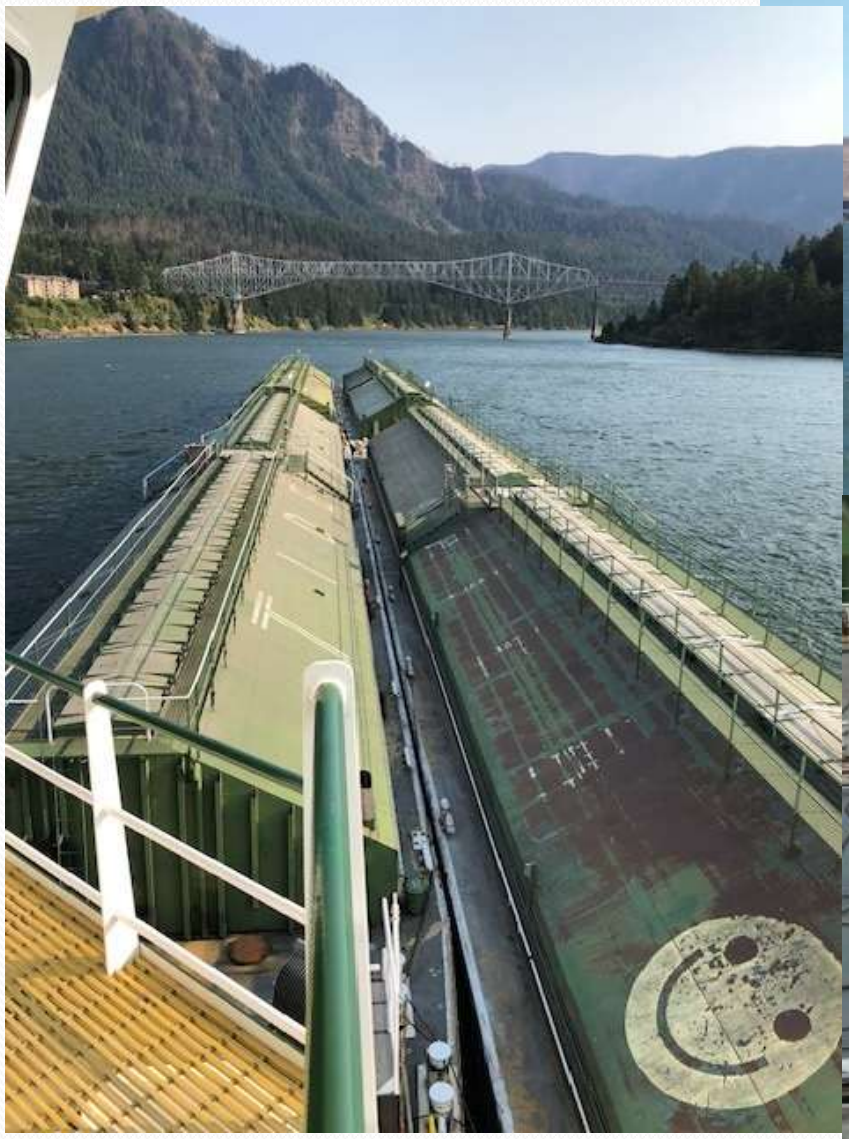
Lower river runs:

Vancouver > Kalama = 3 hours
Vancouver > Longview = 4 hours
Vancouver > Astoria = 10 hours
Vancouver > Portland waterfront = 1.5 hours

UPRIVER BARGE TOWS

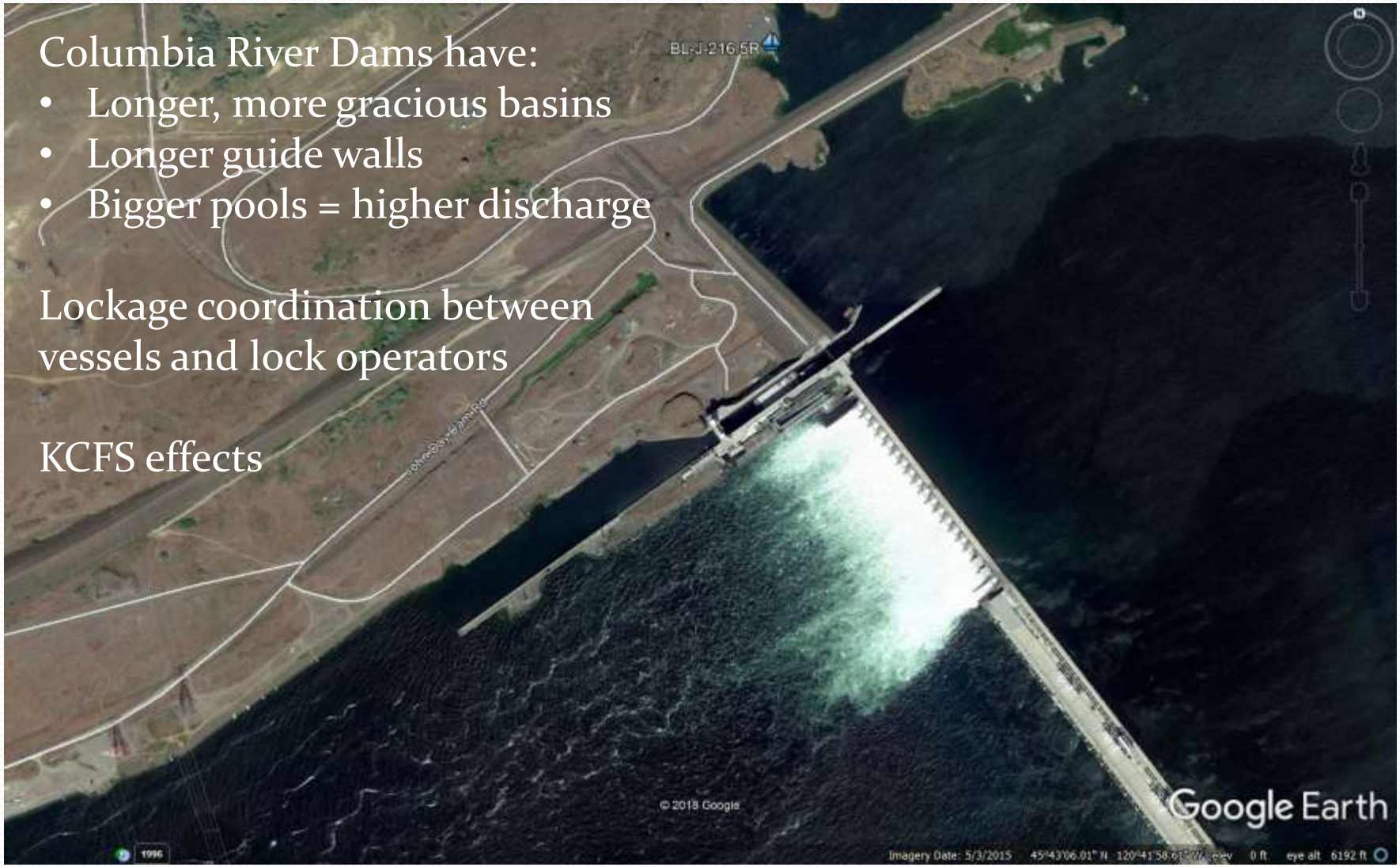
650’ long x 84’ wide
14’ maximum draft
Empty barges vs loaded barges
Line of sight vs stopping distances

UPRIVER BARGE TOWS



Upriver Grain Terminals

Locks and Dams

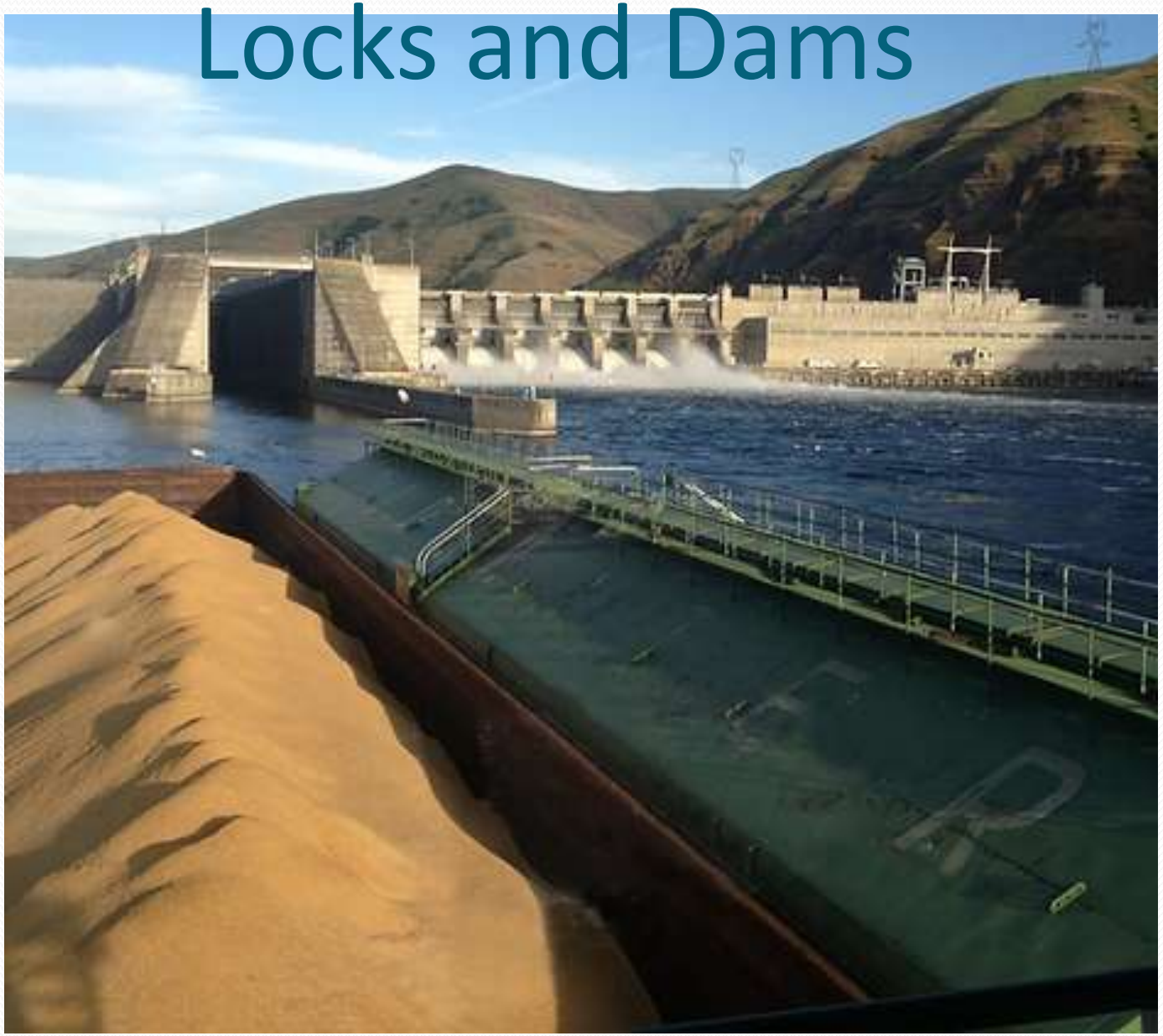


Locks and Dams

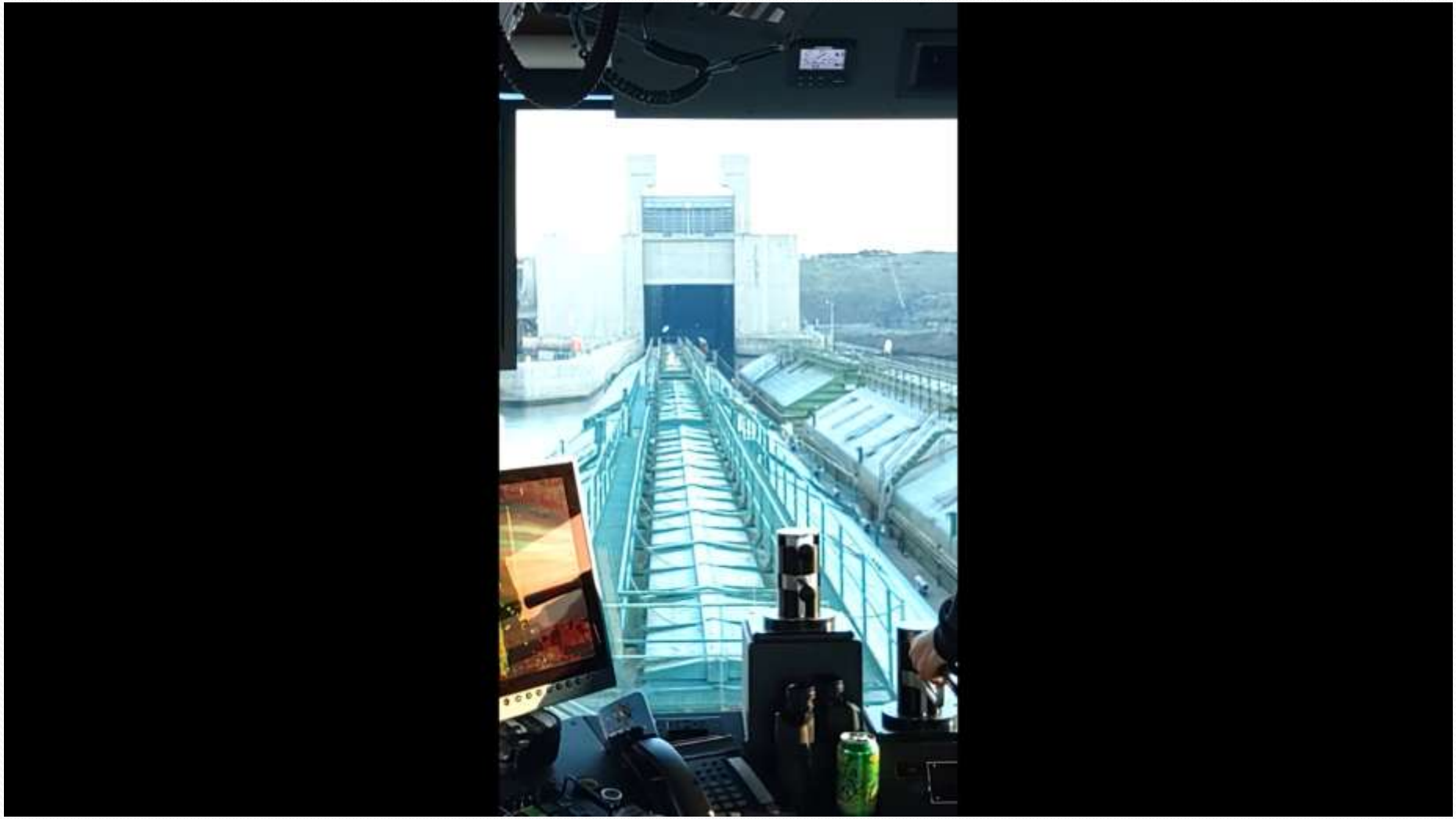
Locks and Dams

Locks and Dams

Locks and Dams



Locks and Dams



Bridges

- (20) bridges between Astoria and Lewiston (not counting Willamette River)
- (6) of these bridges require a lift/swing if not already open

Lowest Fixed Bridge is Tucannon R/R bridge at 52’

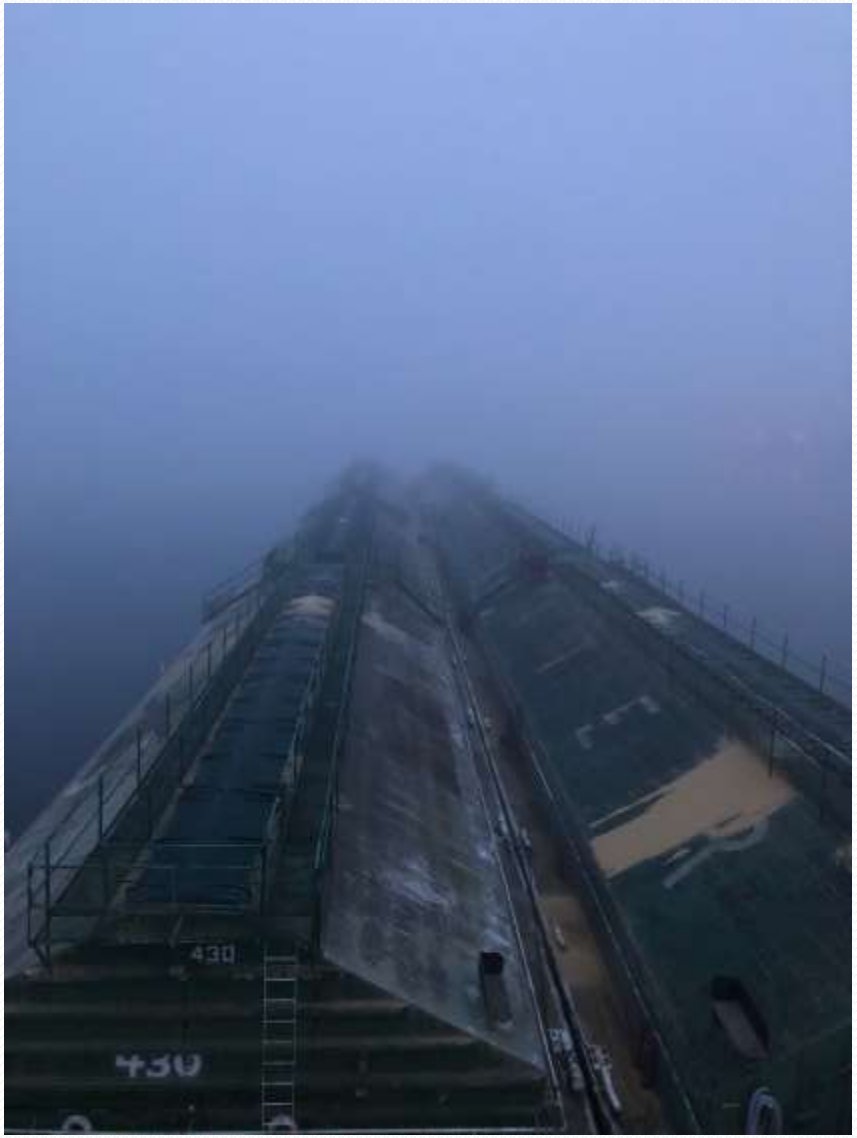
Narrowest bridge opening is Lyons Ferry R/R bridge at 144’ horizontal clearance

Bridges

Weather

Weather

Weather



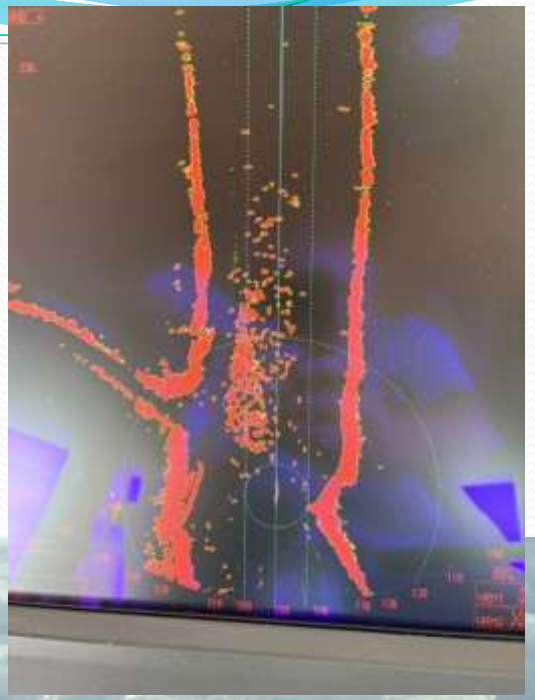
Challenges

- Make Way
- High Water
- UKC
- Infrastructure R&M / Investment
- Coordination of shared resources
- Competing priorities between states, federal government, all stakeholders

Make Way

Make Way

Make Way

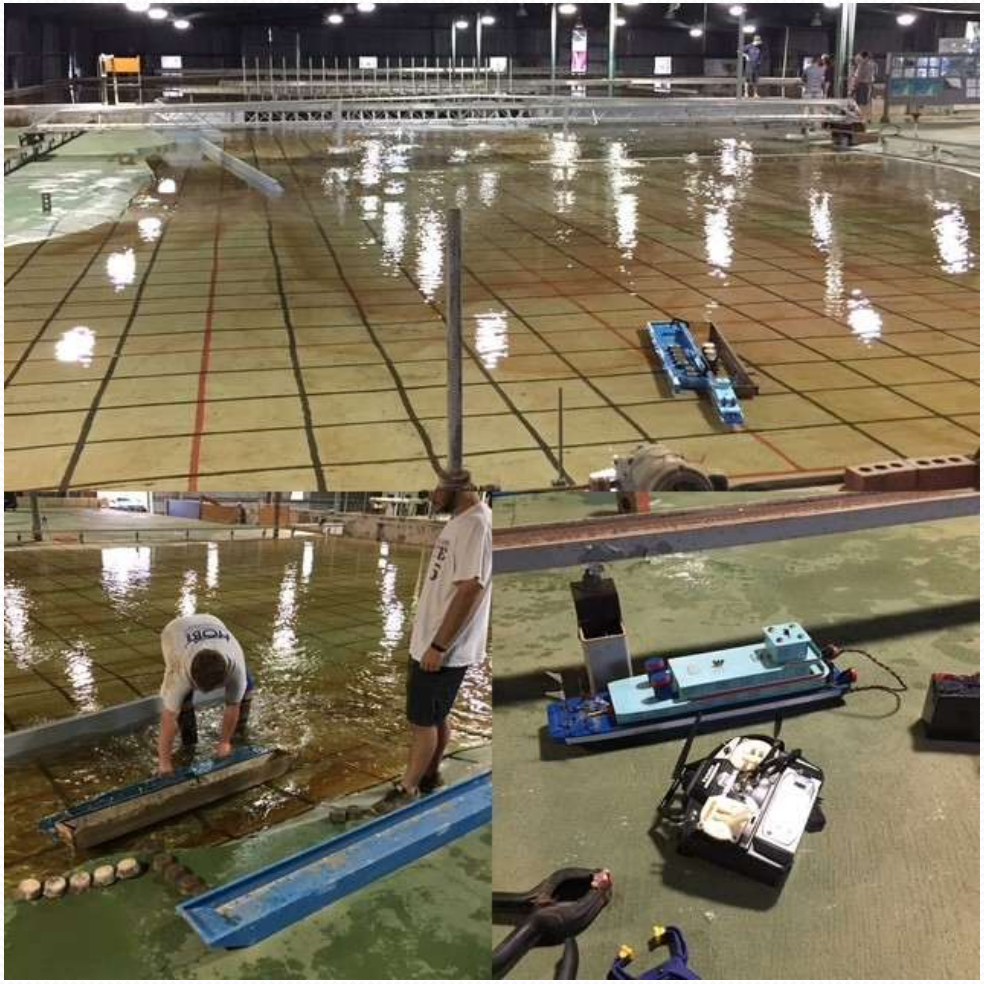


High Water

Assist to Bonneville

Discharge Operations at Dams

ERDC

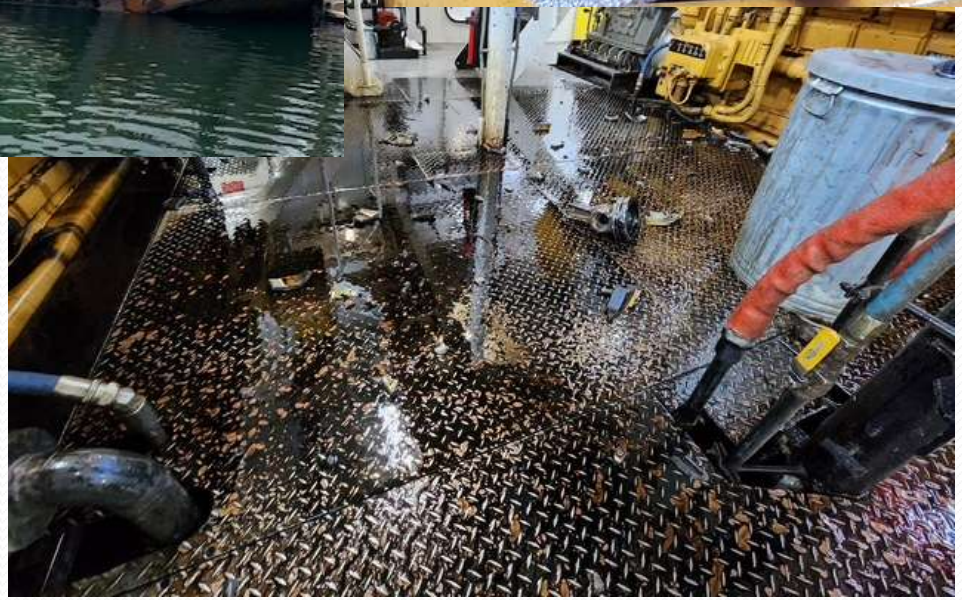


CRTA Industry Efforts (via PNWA?)

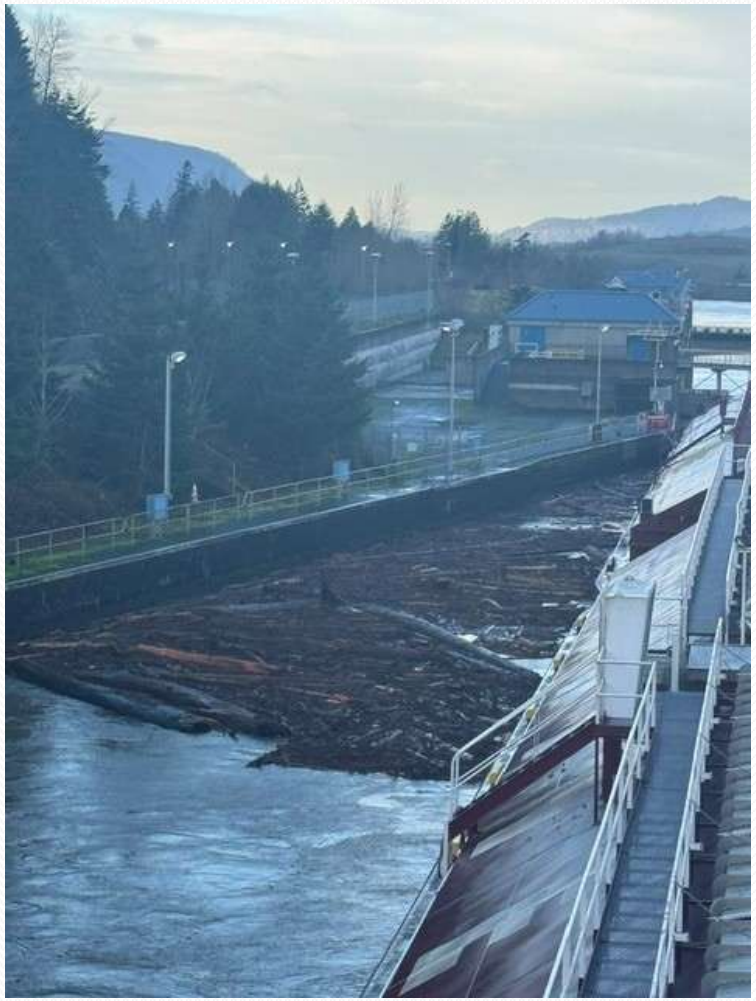
CRTA Letters

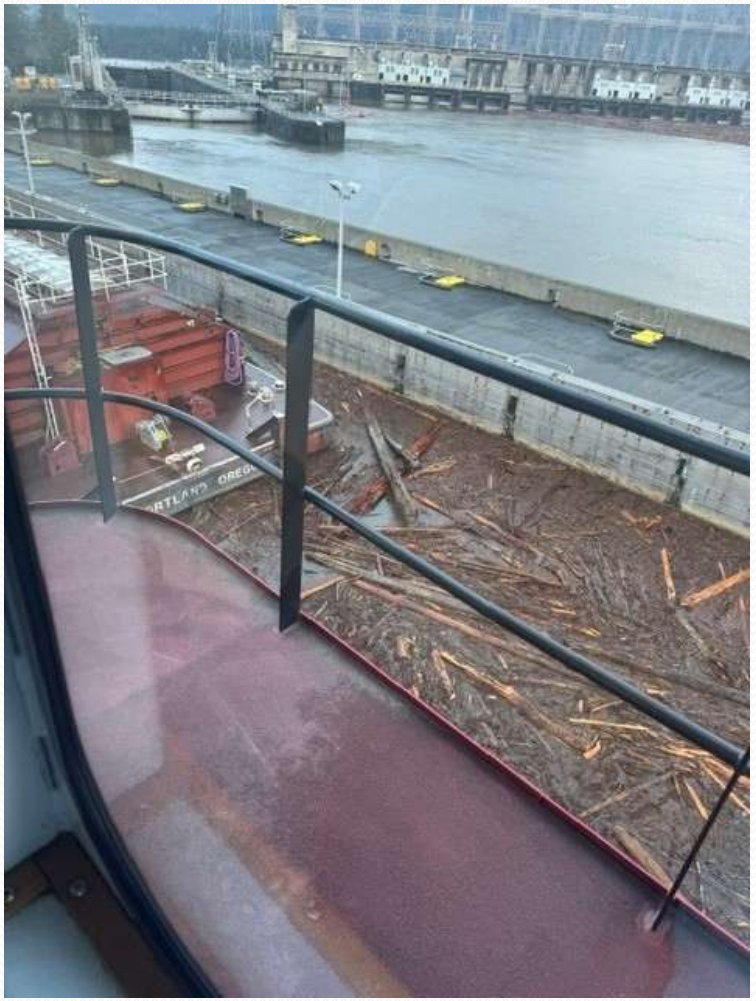
- Dredge Material Mgmt
- Hood River Bridge Replacement
- IBR public comment
- Safe navigation passage
- Channel realignments

All the things….



Bonneville Debris Field December 2025





Rescues on the Water!