

## **WPPA Maritime Industrial Base Coalition - Charter**

**Overview:** On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the WPPA Executive Committee approved the formation of the Maritime Industrial Base Coalition, to be led by the Washington Public Ports Association and a steering committee comprised of port members. The primary goal of the WPPA Maritime Industrial Base Working Group is to restore Washington's primacy in maritime manufacturing and prepare ports and partners for significant federal investment in domestic shipbuilding, repair, and maintenance.

The Maritime Industrial Base Coalition will execute on a draft scope of work developed by WPPA staff in consultation with members, with the majority of the scope being undertaken by a consultant team hired by WPPA.

The Coalition will be overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of port members who sign a Memorandum of Agreement outlining the basic engagement principles and responsibilities of Steering Committee members. Funding for consultant support will be primarily borne by members of the Steering Committee through special dues assessments paid to WPPA.

**Background:** In fall 2025, WPPA was approached by port members with concerns about Washington's maritime manufacturing industry and the ability of ports and our tenants and partners to compete for publicly funded investments in shipbuilding, repair, and maintenance. The State of Washington's award of a lucrative ferry construction contract to a Florida shipbuilder was a catalyzing event, as was the federal government's announcement of several areas of potential investment in maritime manufacturing and their stated goal to "revitalize and rebuild domestic maritime industries and workforce."

Following initial conversations with port members who suggested WPPA lead convening work, we contacted executive directors at ports with active shipbuilding operations as tenants to gauge their interest. While all voiced concern that certain structural factors pose a substantial challenge – from labor costs to permitting regulations – there was general consensus that the current federal focus and recent state decisions did suggest we should step into a leadership role in this conversation. The Port of Seattle volunteered resources to support an initial phase of convening, undertaken through a consultant contract, and remaining ports indicated a willingness to engage and meaningfully participate in the current phase and provide financial support in future phases. The scope of work to direct the consultant across an initial three phases of work was developed jointly by WPPA and prospective Steering Committee members.

**Membership:**

Convener:

Washington Public Ports Association

Proposed Steering Committee members:

*Invited as of 2.26.26*

Port of Anacortes

Port of Bellingham

Port of Bremerton

Port of Everett

Port of Grays Harbor

Port of Kalama

Port of Longview

Port of Olympia

Port of Port Angeles

Port of Port Townsend

Port of Seattle

Port of Skagit

Port of Tacoma

Port of Vancouver USA

*Timeline:*

Fall 2025 – WPPA begins member conversations

November 2025 – Initial conversation at WPPA Executive Committee regarding member interest

January 2026 – Scope of Work finalized by WPPA and member ports

January 26, 2026 – WPPA Executive Committee votes on recommendation to form Coalition

January 31, 2026 – WPPA hires consultant to manage Coalition and execute Scope of Work

December 2026 – MIBC Steering Committee receives recommendation on Phase III work from consultant team