



SPRING CONFERENCE 2026

“From Vision to Victory: Revitalizing the Modern Marina”

April 20–22, 2026 • Hilton Garden Inn • Emeryville, California

Monday, April 20

9:00 to Noon	Board Meeting
Noon to 1:00 pm	Conference Registration
1:00 to 1:30 pm	Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Business Meeting with Elections Announcement Scott Grindy, President, Pacific Coast Congress of Harbormasters and Port Managers
1:30 to 2:15 pm	Sponsors & Exhibitor Introductions & Demonstrations
2:15 to 2:45 pm	Sustaining Members Welcome and Introductions
2:45 to 3:00 pm	Networking Break
3:00 to 3:30 pm	Session 1: "Changing Lives Through Sailing: Blue Water Foundation" Empowering Bay Area youth one voyage at a time! Capt. Scott Barnes, Battalion Chief (retired), Blue Water Foundation Since 1992, the Blue Water Foundation has taken over 35,000 at-risk and underrepresented youth onto San Francisco Bay, transforming lives through the power of sailing. This all-volunteer organization provides incarcerated students, juvenile probation participants, and community groups with experiences in teamwork, leadership, and self-confidence—often for young people who have never set foot on a boat. Attendees will learn how marinas and waterfront facilities play a vital role in supporting youth development programs that give children a chance to see life through a different lens.
3:30 to 4:30 pm	Session 2: “Plug In, Cast Off: Electric Work Boats and the Future of Marina Operations” Zero emissions, full performance — how electric propulsion is transforming the working waterfront Nigel Watkins, MIET, Naval Architect, VITA Power Scott Canning, VP Business Development, Aqua superPower Electric work boats are no longer a concept on the horizon — they're pulling into slips right now. VITA Power's fully electric commercial RIBs hit cruising speeds of 20 knots and top speeds exceeding 30 knots, supercharging from 10% to 90% in under an hour. No fumes. No noise. No fuel spills. Just instant torque, clean water, and a better working environment for your crew. Scott Canning of Aqua superPower brings the other half of the equation — the shoreside charging infrastructure that makes it all possible, from dock-side power delivery to network compatibility. Leave this session with a clear-eyed view of the performance, economics, and infrastructure behind the electric working fleet that's already reshaping harbors and marinas around the world.
4:30 to 6:00 pm	Welcome Reception

“From Vision to Victory: Revitalizing the Modern Marina”

Tuesday, April 21

7:30 to 8:30 am

Breakfast & Registration

8:30 to 9:00 am

Announcements and Business – Elections 2nd Call

9:00 to 10:00 am

[Session 3: “Anchored in Stewardship: Navigating Clean Marina Certification”](#)

Eric Kretsch, Clean Marina Coordinator, Association of Marina Industries

Ken Brown, Director of Health and Safety, Safe Harbors

Clean Marina certification has become a nationally recognized mark of environmental leadership for marinas, boatyards, and port facilities. Through voluntary adoption of Best Management Practices — covering stormwater runoff, petroleum control, sewage handling, waste management, aquatic invasive species, and more — certified marinas demonstrate a measurable commitment to protecting the waterways their businesses depend on. While program specifics vary by state, they share a common framework rooted in environmental stewardship and continuous improvement. This session will walk attendees through what Clean Marina certification looks like and the practical steps any marina can take to begin the certification journey, from initial self-assessment and staff training to maintaining certification over time.

10:00 to 10:15 am

Networking Break

10:15 to 11:00

[Session 4: “Standing the Test of Tides” Case studies of approaches to preserving historic waterfront facilities that define our maritime heritage — and our operational future.](#)

Brad Porter, Marine Engineer, Moffatt & Nichol

Justin Estrada, Civil Associate II, Moffatt & Nichol

America's historic waterfront facilities are irreplaceable assets — built with purpose, rich with character, and attract visitors from around the world.. Yet too many are quietly deteriorating while operators struggle with deferred maintenance and the question of where to begin. In this session, Brad Porter and Justin Estrada of Moffatt & Nichol present various approaches and results to preserve and maintain several famous waterfront facilities they have encountered in their work. Drawing on Moffatt & Nichol's decades of expertise in marine structural engineering and waterfront rehabilitation, Brad and Justin will share their experiences in striving to maintain and preserve historic structures in the harsh marine environment.

11:00 to Noon

Call of the Ports – Facilitator – Mike (Turk) Turkington

Noon to 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 to 2:00 pm

[Session 5: "When Nature Strikes: Harbor Resilience from Tsunamis to Snowstorms”](#)

Mike Rademaker, Harbor Master, Crescent City Harbor District

Angela Thrower, Harbor Operations Supervisor, City and Borough of Juneau

This session presents two case studies from 2025 demonstrating how Pacific Coast harbors managed unprecedented natural disasters and the critical lessons learned. Together, these presentations offer harbor managers actionable strategies for disaster preparedness, infrastructure decisions, and operational resilience.

The first presentation examines Crescent City Harbor's response to two major tsunami events—the catastrophic 2011 Tōhoku tsunami that caused \$50 million in damage and the 2025 Kamchatka earthquake tsunami. Learn how Crescent City rebuilt with tsunami-

“From Vision to Victory: Revitalizing the Modern Marina”

resistant infrastructure and implemented tsunami-resistant engineering and emergency protocols to have a better outcome following the second tsunami.

The second presentation details Juneau's historic December 2025 snowfall—over 80 inches in one month. Harbor operations coordinated vessel rescues, environmental response, and maintained port functionality under extreme conditions. Discover strategies for snow load management, emergency response, and operational continuity during extended weather events.

2:00 to 3:00 pm

Session 6: “Keeping Your Docks Shipshape: Essential Maintenance & Beyond”

Keith Korthuis, Project Development Manager, Bellingham Marine Industries

From routine inspections to major infrastructure overhauls, dock maintenance is the foundation of safe, efficient marina operations. This session explores essential preventive maintenance strategies, common failure points that demand immediate attention, and the critical balance between day-to-day upkeep and long-term capital planning. You'll gain practical insights into extending asset life, prioritizing repairs within budget constraints, and recognizing when maintenance crosses into replacement. Join us for an honest discussion about the challenges of keeping waterfront infrastructure operational, compliant, and safe for the boating public.

3:00 to 3:15 pm

Networking Break

3:15 to 4:30 pm

Call of the Ports Continued

Wednesday, April 22

7:30 to 8:30 am

Breakfast

8:30 to 9:00 am

PCC Business - Elections

9:00 to 9:45 am

Session 7: “Beyond the Breakers: Next-Gen Marina Power”

Trevor Burgess, Co-Founder & CEO, VoltSafe, Inc.

This presentation will cover the concepts of an efficient, economical, and safe marina electrical system and provide a better understanding of the 2023 updates to NEC Article 555 and NFPA 303, including new ground fault protection and testing requirements. Through real-world examples and interactive discussion, the presenters will break down what these changes mean in practice, why traditional solutions are falling short, and how innovative approaches to shore power infrastructure can help you meet safety requirements without costly overhauls. This session offers practical, code-informed guidance to help you make smarter, safer infrastructure decisions, without compromising your bottom line.

9:45 to 10:00 am

Networking Break

10:00 to 11:00 am

Session 8: “Data, Docks & Digital Innovation: Navigating Industry Change with AI”

Brent Wierson, Vice President of Sales and Services, Storable Marine Division

Shifting economic conditions, changing boater demographics, and rising customer expectations are reshaping how waterfront businesses operate and compete. This session will first explore the data behind today's trends and what they mean for marinas, boat rental operations, and service yards.

Next, whether you're exploring AI for the first time or already experimenting with digital tools, learn more about how artificial intelligence can help your team:

- Improve customer communication without increasing workload

“From Vision to Victory: Revitalizing the Modern Marina”

- Streamline operations and reduce unnecessary costs
- Turn everyday operational data into clearer, faster decisions
- Elevate the guest experience from first inquiry to long-term loyalty

11:00 to 11:10 am

Networking Break

11:10 to Noon

Session 9: “Emery Cove Yacht Harbor Redevelopment” – From Concept to Ribbon-Cutting

Diane Isley, Harbormaster, Emery Cove Yacht Harbor

This session traces the full arc of Emery Cove Yacht Harbor's landmark redevelopment — from the planning decisions made by its membership and board, through construction, to successful completion. The project replaced all 430 floating docks, headwalks, and main walkways with Structurmarine Structure 80 aluminum docks and Ipe hardwood decking. It also included a new wave attenuator, upgraded power infrastructure, and service improvements built to meet the facility's long-term needs. Remarkably, the marina remained fully operational throughout — a logistical challenge that shaped nearly every decision along the way. This session draws out the lessons learned on phasing, member communication, contractor coordination, and keeping a live facility running through major capital construction — essential insights for any harbor facing a similar undertaking.

Noon to 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 to 2:00 pm

Walking Tour – Emery Cove Yacht Harbor

2:00 to 4:00 pm

San Francisco Bay Boat Tour Aboard GUARDIAN, 88' 1951 Fireboat (retired)

5:00 to 8:00 pm

Closing Reception, Gala Dinner, and Entertainment

~ End ~