



COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Item No. 11a

BRIEFING ITEM

Date of Meeting September 22, 2026

DATE: August 12, 2026

TO: Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

FROM: Stephanie Jones Stebbins, Managing Director Maritime
Sarah Ogier, Director, Maritime Environment & Sustainability
Jon Sloan, Sr. Manager, Environmental Programs
Mike DeSota, Sr. Env. Program Manager, Maritime Environment & Sustainability

SUBJECT: Green Marine International Environmental Certification Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Green Marine International is a voluntary environmental certification program developed specifically for the maritime industry. The program provides ports, ship owners, terminals, shipyards, and other maritime organizations with a structured and transparent framework for measuring environmental performance, implementing best practices, and demonstrating continual improvement beyond regulatory compliance. The Port of Seattle has participated in Green Marine since 2013 and was the first U.S. West Coast port to achieve Green Marine certification. Through annual evaluations and periodic independent verification, the program provides an objective framework to benchmark environmental performance and identify opportunities for continued improvement. This briefing will provide the Commission with an overview of the Green Marine program, the Port's participation and performance over time, and opportunities for continued environmental improvement. No Commission authorization or funding action is requested.

GREEN MARINE PROGRAM AND PORT PARTICIPATION

Green Marine provides a transparent framework for measuring maritime environmental performance beyond regulatory compliance. The Port has consistently demonstrated strong performance across applicable environmental performance indicators addressing greenhouse gas and air emissions, spill prevention, stormwater management, aquatic ecosystems, waste management, community relations, environmental leadership, and underwater noise.

Port Environmental Performance

The Port's Green Marine performance is one of the highest scores among all ports participating in the program and it reflects the Port's continued investment in shore power and maritime electrification, habitat restoration, stormwater management, spill prevention, community engagement, and efforts to better understand and reduce underwater noise. Green Marine participation supports the Port's broader environmental and sustainability objectives and aligns

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with the Century Agenda goal of positioning the Port of Seattle as one of the greenest and most energy-efficient ports in North America. Tables 1 and 2 illustrate the Port's Green Marine Performance from 2013 to 2025. Achieving Level 5 - the program's highest rating requires participants to demonstrate environmental excellence and leadership through rigorous, measurable criteria that go beyond regulatory compliance.

Table 1. Port of Seattle – Green Marine Performance (2025)

GREEN MARINE INDICATOR	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	CURRENT PORT SCORE
 Air Emissions – GHG & Air Pollutants	Measures efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions through inventories, reduction strategies, cleaner technologies, fuels, and electrification.	5
 Aquatic Ecosystems	Measures actions to protect and improve aquatic ecosystems, habitat, water quality, and biodiversity within and beyond the Port's area of influence.	5
 Community Impacts	Addresses impacts of port activities on nearby communities, including noise, dust, odors, lighting, and other operational impacts.	4
 Community Relations	Evaluates engagement with communities and stakeholders through open communication, consultation, transparency, and opportunities for meaningful participation.	5
 Environmental Leadership	Recognizes environmental management, innovation, partnerships, and the Port's influence on the environmental practices of tenants and other port users.	5
 Spill Prevention & Stormwater Management	Measures practices to prevent spills and pollutant releases and manage stormwater to minimize contamination of land and water.	5
 Underwater Noise	Evaluates efforts to understand, manage, and reduce underwater noise associated with port operations, vessel activity, construction, and maintenance to reduce impacts on marine mammals.	3
 Waste Management	Measures efforts to reduce waste generated by administrative and operational activities while increasing reuse, recycling, and responsible waste management.	5



Green Marine performance scale: 1 = Monitoring of Regulations | 5 = Excellence & Leadership

Table 2. Port of Seattle- Green Marine Performance (2013-2025)

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ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Eleanor Kirtley, Ph.D., of Green Marine International will provide an overview of the program, with Port staff available to discuss the Port's performance, programs, and ongoing environmental initiatives. Results are publicly reported annually and independently verified every two years, providing Commissioners, customers, community members, and other stakeholders with an external measure of the Port's environmental performance.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING

- (1) Presentation slides