



## Constructing a new casting basin facility

### How would WSDOT build a casting facility?

1. Excavate a deep work area (or basin), drive piles, and pour a concrete slab at the bottom.
2. Stabilize the sides of the basin with concrete walls and seal off the work area from open water with a gate.
3. Construct the support facilities (i.e., construction offices, cranes).
4. Excavate the launch channel to connect the facility with the deep water navigation channel.
5. Reinforce the existing shoreline berm to protect the facility.



*Pontoon construction for the Hood Canal Bridge pontoons.*



## Building pontoons

### How would WSDOT build the pontoons?

1. Form the box-like shape of the pontoons by assembling wood forms around a steel framework.
2. Pour concrete into the forms to create the pontoon floors, walls and top slabs.



*Crews construct a test pontoon at Satsop Business Park.*



## Transporting pontoons from the casting basin

### How do pontoons leave the casting basin?

1. Fill the basin with water once the pontoons are complete and ready to launch.
2. Open the gate and use tugboats to tow the pontoons to the moorage location
3. Drain the basin and repeat the process for other pontoons.



*A tugboat towing a Hood Canal Bridge pontoon.*



## Storing the pontoons

- When pontoon construction is complete, the pontoons will be stored in Grays Harbor or used for the proposed SR 520 bridge replacement.
- The ocean towing window is from March 1 to November 1 of every year.
- Based on the availability of finished pontoons, WSDOT could moor up to 33 pontoons in Grays Harbor. These pontoons would have a total surface area of 15 acres.

### How will WSDOT ensure safe moorage?

- We will use monitoring sensors and inspections to ensure safety and an anchor system to limit drifting.



- Proposed pontoon moorage location
- Build Alternative Site
- Navigation channel
- City limits



# Maintaining the Grays Harbor facility

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When the casting basin facility is no longer needed to build SR 520 bridge pontoons, WSDOT would maintain the facility while adhering to environmental regulations applicable to the site and facility until decisions are made about the facility's future.

## **Potential future options for using the casting facility include:**

- Reopen the facility for future (currently unplanned) WSDOT pontoons or other types of construction projects.
- Sell the property with the improvements.
- Decommission the facility and restore the site to as close to its original condition as possible before selling it.

Any future uses of the facility (including decommissioning) will require a new and separate environmental and permitting process with public input.