



# USCGC Station Grays Harbor

**Unit Information:** Active Duty Personnel: 44  
Reserve Personnel: 08

**Mailing Address:**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard Station Grays Harbor  
P.O. Box 568  
Westport, WA 98595  
(360) 268-0121

**AOR:** On the Washington Coast from N. Queets River to S. Ocean Park including the Willapa Bay and inland from Grays Harbor: Point Chehalis to Preachers Slough

**Established:** The first Coast Guard presence in the area came with the establishment of a lighthouse at the entrance to Willapa Bay in 1858. In 1898, another lighthouse was built near Westport. About the same time, a station was built near-by. The original boats were on horse drawn carriages and launched through the surf and rowed to the scene of distress. In 1914, the first motorized lifeboats arrived, and the station was moved to a newly-built pier inside of Grays Harbor. After several more reconstructions in the 1930s and 1940s, the current station was built on the east end of the West haven Marina in 1973. Today their assets consist of two 47-foot motor lifeboats, one 25-foot RBS boat, and the 52' MLB "INVINCIBLE".



**What we do:** Coast Guard Station Grays Harbor is located in the middle of the town of Westport, Washington, just 80 miles southwest of Seattle. It is the northern-most station in Group Astoria. The current station was established in 1974, although there has been a Coast Guard station in the area since the mid 1800s. Grays Harbor is a large commercial and recreational fishing port. Facilities include the dining, Administration/Operations building, boathouse, barracks for 6 people, and 17 family housing units.

**Accomplished Operations:** During the search and rescue seasons, which begins with the opening of coastal recreational salmon season and extends through its closing, the unit answers many cases each day. When the recreational salmon fishing season was strong, the unit would average 400-500 search and rescue cases a year. When the salmon seasons started getting shorter and shorter, the number of cases steadily dropped and it is now rare to receive over 300 calls for assistance a year. However, every year during the stormy winter months during commercial Dungeness crab season, the station can expect to receive several calls involving capsizing, sinking, or rough bar escorts.

**Major Events:**

**COMREL:** Due to the remote location, Station Grays Harbor Crew works closely with the Community to provide support during holidays special community events, storms, and blood drives. Additionally, the station works directly with the Ocosta School District, VFW, and the senior center in all community outreach programs. The unit also provides a burial at sea ceremony for those families who have lost a loved ones and many Color Guards for special events. With support from the local Auxiliary Flotilla Boating Safety information, education and inspections are conducted for the area.

**Unit Website:** <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/units/gruastoria/gh.htm>