

Green Marine Verification Port of Bellingham



Green Marine Verification	
<i>Company</i>	<i>Port of Bellingham</i>
<i>Address</i>	<i>100 Commercial Ave., Bellingham, WA 98221</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>www.PortofBellingham.com</i>
<i>Contact person for Green Marine Verification</i>	<i>Adrienne Douglass-Scott, Sustainability Program Manager</i>
Verifier	
<i>Verifier's Name</i>	<i>Captain Katharine Sweeney</i>
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<i>Verification Date</i>	<i>April 18, 2024</i>
<i>Name of primary company representative</i>	<i>Adrienne Douglass-Scott, Sustainability Program Manager</i>
<i>Date of Previous Verification</i>	<i>First Verification</i>

Executive Summary:

The Green Marine Verification of the Port of Bellingham's Self Evaluation (based on the calendar year 2023) was completed on April 18, 2024. Prior to verification, the Port submitted their Evaluation Summary Report Form to Green Marine (GM) by the due date utilizing GM's online Smart Guide program. As a participant of GM, the Port is mandated to have their self-evaluation results validated by a third-party GM Verifier every other calendar year. This verification process is based on evidence provided by Port and evaluated to ensure it meets the criteria to attain the performance indicator level of each environmental issue in the GM program, and to confirm the levels reported to GM are effectively achieved. The verification results summary (listed below) indicates that the verifier deemed the criteria for each environmental issue of the self-evaluation was met or justified at each level, given the evidence provided by the Port at the time of the verification. These results were sent to GM via the Smart Guide, before the due date of May 3, 2024. The Port of Bellingham became a participant of Green Marine in 2023, and this is their first verification. The Verifier would like to thank the Port for their commitment to the Green Marine program as well as to other environmental programs.

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Introduction:

The Port of Bellingham was established by Whatcom County voters in 1920 to develop and maintain critical infrastructure for the Washington State community. The port's mission is to promote sustainable economic development, optimize transportation gateways, and manage publicly owned land and facilities for the benefit of Whatcom County's population. The port operates the Bellingham Cruise Terminal, Bellingham Shipping Terminal, Fairhaven Transportation Station, Squalicum and Blaine Harbors, the Bellingham Airport, various business and industrial developments, as well as a network of parks and public trails. The port is committed to achieving a high standard of environmental excellence and administers a sustainability program to guide decision-making and balance a wide range of economic, environmental, and community objectives.

Purpose, Scope, and Methodologies:

The purpose of the verification was to provide an independent third-party review of the Port of Bellingham's self-evaluation to ensure the performance indicator levels listed on the "Self-Evaluation Summary Report Form Ports 2023," submitted by the Port to GM were achieved. The scope of the verification process includes where the Port has active management and control off.

The verification is a sampling process. It is not part of the verifier's mandate to verify the participant's compliance with any environmental laws or regulations. However, the verification process did verify Port does have a process in place to ensure it maintains a reasonable knowledge of its legal and regulatory obligations. There were no specific exclusions to the verification process noted. Most of the documentation needed for the verification had been uploaded to the Smart Guide. Additional items or clarifications were asked by the verifier to ensure each Performance Indicator was met. The Port of Bellingham has been sent a final version of the Smart Guide with Verifier's Comments and should be used in addition to this report.

Summary of Verification

2023 PORT OF BELLINGHAM Evaluation Summary Report Form		
Established Criteria	Port of Bellingham	GM Verifier Results
#1 Aquatic Invasive Species	1	1
#2 Green House Gas and Air Pollutants	3	1
#3 Spill Prevention and Stormwater Management	3	2
#4 Dry Bulk Handling and Storage	1	N.A.
#5 Community Impacts	2	2
#6 Environmental Leadership	3	3
#7 Waste Management	2	2
#8 Underwater Noise	1	1
#9 Community Relations	3	1
#10 Aquatic Ecosystems	N.A.	N.A.

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Verifying Levels Claimed:

Green Marine Verification of Self-Assessment Summary (2023)
Environmental Issue #1 Aquatic Invasive Species
Level 1 achieved: This level was optional for 2023 The Port supports research and sampling on port territory, such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife monitoring of Green Crabs. This Performance indicator was marked as a level zero on the report form however was listed as being at a level 1 on the smart guide.
This performance indicator is being included in Aquatic Ecosystems (see below).
Environmental Issue #2 Green House Gas and Air Pollutants
Level 1 achieved: The Port actively monitors regulations and actively monitors its impact on air emissions. There were two applicable criteria at Level 2 that had not been implemented in 2023, and reason for the downgrade.
There are no changes to this PI to meet the same level for 2024
Environmental Issue #3 Spill Prevention and Stormwater Management
Level 2 achieved – The Port met 60 percent of the required criteria for level 2, however did not have in place a Water and Land Pollution Prevention Plan for BCT or C Street Terminal, and did not have a registry of equipment (3.3.4) which was optional prior to 2023.
There are no changes to the PI to meet the same level for 2024
Environmental Issue #4 Dry Bulk Handling and Storage
It was determined that the Port does not handle Bulk Cargo as defined by Green Marine. This Performance Indicator will need to be reviewed should pelletized or granular cargo be handled in the future.
Environmental Issue #5 Community Impacts
Level 2 achieved: The Port actively monitors regulations regarding the Port's impact on the community by attending workshops and conferences, holding coordination meetings with local elected officials. The Port is also a member of the Washington Public Ports Association. Five out of the eight applicable criteria at level 2 were met, in excess of the 51% required.
There are no changes to this PI to meet the same level for 2024
Environmental Issue #6 Environmental Leadership
Level 3 achieved: The Port's website publicly communicates its environmental policy and has a page dedicated to its participation in Green Marine. The Port includes extensive environmental conditions in new and updated leases and tenant agreements and had an Environmental Compliance Assessment Program audit completed in 2023.
There are no changes to this PI for 2024
Environmental Issue #7 Waste Management
Level 2 achieved: The Port meets all but one of the nine of applicable criteria for level 2, in excess of the 51% required. The Port equips workspaces and facilities with appropriately labeled recycling bins and waste sorting bins in locations throughout the facilities. Waste disposal points are clearly labeled and marked for tenants and staff. Port staff have been trained in waste disposal, including hazardous waste clean-up and disposal Reusable, recyclable, and/or compostable supplies are utilized when appropriate, and tenants, contractors, and clients are encouraged to minimize waste and to recycle. Post-consumer recycled paper for office use is purchased and paper use is minimized.
There are no changes to this PI for 2024
Environmental Issue #8 Underwater Noise
Level 1 achieved: The Port maintains awareness of requirements for underwater noise monitoring requirements.

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There are no changes to this PI for 2024
Environmental Issue #9 Community Relations
Level 1 achieved: During the site visit it was found that while concerns and complaints are followed up on, there was no <u>documented procedure</u> as required by 9.2.2, and so level 2 could not be claimed. However, four of the criteria in level 3 were met, in excess of the 3 required to meet level 3.
There are no changes to this PI for 2024
Environmental Issue #10 Aquatic Ecosystems
Level 1 achieved: The Port actively monitors regulations regarding the Port's activities through a myriad of resources.
There are no changes to this PI for 2024

Conclusion/Summary:

There were three Performance Indicators verified at a lower level than reported by Port of Bellingham, (see table above). For a first year verification such changes are often misunderstandings of the program guide as to what is required to show the criteria has been met, and in no way should reflect poorly on the participant. Rather it reinforces the verification process as guidance that the Green Marine program is working as designed. It is a sampling process and is intended to ensure the stated required criteria are being met. The verification process, like any system auditing function, is designed to confirm the program is working as planned, ensuring any oversights are found and corrected. The Port of Bellingham should continue to "promote sustainable economic development, optimize transportation gateways, and manage publicly owned land and facilities for the benefit of Whatcom County's population."

Respectfully,

Captain Katharine Sweeney

Captain Katharine Sweeney
Green Marine Verifier
ISM ISO 9001 & 14001 Lead Auditor