

Mapping Portland's Working Waterfront: A Spatial History
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In 1987, Portland voters approved a zoning referendum, with a 2:1 margin, declaring that only buildings dedicated for marine activity are permitted on the waterfront. Since then, the city zoning has undergone several changes to its newest form, mandating that over half of the ground floor space on the central wharves is used for marine activity. These regulations are monumental in shaping the waterfront we recognize today. Since this referendum, the City of Portland has reinvested in its waterfront space to keep its harbor functional, and at the same time, has dramatically redeveloped its private real estate for economic growth. Its current form reflects the tension between new, rapid development and the effort to preserve a working waterfront.

This summer, I have been conducting archival and social research to gather a history of the waterfront since the 1940s. I have been exploring the shifting role of the harbor as an industrial hub, a commercial