

NEWS RELEASE
February 14, 2006

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE
OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Latimers Landing

The February 11th windstorm did extensive damage to the boarding floats at the Latimers Landing boat ramp located next to the Harstine Island bridge. The combination of high tides with strong current flow and winds tore the main float apart from the structure causing the remaining floats to list to the right. For public safety, it was necessary to pull the remaining floats. After a further inspection of the concrete floats, several cracks were found and the structure was deemed a total loss.

The loss of the floats will effect not only boat ramp use by the public, but also the State and Squaxin Tribal Fisheries who use Latimers Landing to off-load fish. The Mason County Parks Department has notified both entities and hopes for a joint effort that will help expedite the permitting process for a replacement float.

Latimers Landing was already scheduled for redevelopment in 2006 by the Mason County Parks Department. Currently, the County is in negotiations with a waterfront consultant to design and develop the site. This project will be funded by the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 2).

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