



## AAPA Lighthouse Award Project Highlight *"From Catch to Commerce"*

### *Squid Relocation Connecting Ports & People for Prosperity*



**Port of Hueneme  
Port Hueneme, California**

### Project Overview

**Title:** From Catch to Commerce: Squid Relocation Connecting Ports & People for Prosperity

**Award Category:** Excellence in Studies, Plans and/or Designs

**Completion Date:** 5/31/2028

### Description & Inspiration

In January 2023, the Port of Hueneme extended an invitation to the Ventura Port District to join as a sub-applicant in the State of California's Port & Freight Infrastructure Program (PFIP) grant application for the relocation of the Commercial Fish Landing Modernization Project to fund the modernization of Ventura Harbor's commercial fish offloading facilities. This project is pivotal in improving cargo efficiency at the Port of Hueneme by relocating its commercial fishing activities to Ventura Harbor and deconflicting the backland cargo area of the Port of Hueneme. The PFIP grant will fund the development of a brand-new facility, designed to improve and increase the squid landing capacity including absorbing the fish offloading activities transitioning from the Port of Hueneme, which will keep commerce and jobs in the region. The project underscores both agencies' commitment to ensuring Ventura County remains a competitive and thriving hub for commercial fishing and increased cargo commerce.

## Challenges

Relocating active squid operations from the Port of Hueneme to Ventura Harbor District involves logistical challenges, including equipment transfer and ensuring uninterrupted commerce. Before construction begins, the Port of Hueneme and Ventura Port District must undergo rigorous environmental assessments to comply with state regulations. Designing a facility that meets the needs of both squid landing operations and broader commercial fishing is technically demanding. The Port worked closely with the Ventura Port District to procure environmental review and engineering design services early in the process to overcome the challenges.

## Lessons Learned

The partnership between two distinct port authorities—one focused on cargo (Port of Hueneme), the other on fishing (Ventura Port District)—demonstrates how shared goals can lead to mutually beneficial outcomes. By aligning their interests, the ports were able to secure significant funding and amplify their regional economic impact. This also highlights how infrastructure projects can be designed not just for efficiency, but for economic resilience and workforce preservation.

## Value

The value of the Commercial Fish Landing Modernization Project is both economic and strategic, with ripple effects across Ventura County and California's maritime infrastructure. This project isn't just a port upgrade; it's a blueprint for how smart infrastructure investment can fuel sustainable growth.

## Quotes

"I would like to express my thanks to the team for pulling this project together. Both agencies (Port of Hueneme and Ventura Port District) fully embraced this vision for a project that was mutually beneficial."

— Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director, Port of Hueneme

## Additional Information

The future of the Commercial Fish Landing Modernization Project is shaping up to be transformative for Ventura County's maritime infrastructure. This project is a strategic evolution of how Ventura County handles maritime trade, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

## Contact

Contact Person: Letitia Austin

Title: Public & Government Relations Manager

Email: [laustin@portofh.org](mailto:laustin@portofh.org)

Phone: (805) 816-8324

## Resources

Add any Links to videos or additional resources