



Western Head Lighthouse & fog horn
Credit: NSLPS May 2025



Western Head radio beacon
Credit: NSLPS May 2025

“What are those four circular posts each topped with a cone?” is the one question that our Society keeps getting about the Western Head Lighthouse. This lighthouse was not erected until 1962 although there had been a fog alarm on site since 1924. Over the years, a radio beacon tower, a weather station, a fuel supply and refueling pad for Coast Guard helicopters were added. In the late 1990s a set of four DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) receivers was installed next to the lighthouse and used to make the navigational signals sent by the radio beacon more accurate. Now 25 years later, these receivers are no longer in service due to technological advances. Yet Western Head Lighthouse keeps shining its night at night and the fog horn blowing as aids to navigation. One example of equipment used since the 19th century and outlasting that used in the 21st century!



Western Head DGPS Receivers
Credit: NSLPS May 2025