Starfish Space (Tukwila): Otter & Otter Pup 2 / Remora Demonstrated RPO vs. Roadmap

Pillar: WA Servicing & Habitats | **Basis:** Operator Releases & Agency Contracts | **Primary Source:** Starfish Space / NASA / USSF SDA | **As Of:** As of Nov 2026 (Otter Pup 2 Jun 2025; Remora Dec 2025)

Tukwila-based Starfish Space demonstrated autonomous rendezvous and proximity operations (RPO) on Otter Pup 2 (launched June 23, 2025) and Remora (December 2025) and raised $100M+ Series B in April 2026—while its full-scale Otter commercial/SDA/NASA servicing missions remain 2026–2027 roadmap deployments.

Documented Instrument & Engineering Record

• Demonstrated record (not roadmap): Otter Pup 2 launched June 23, 2025 aboard SpaceX Transporter-14 to attempt docking with an unprepared D-Orbit ION satellite; in December 2025, Starfish and Impulse Space completed the Remora autonomous single-camera RPO mission in LEO.

• Roadmap boundary (planned, not yet accomplished): Full-scale Otter servicing vehicles—supporting U.S. Space Force Space Development Agency (SDA) end-of-life constellation disposal, NASA, and commercial GEO operators (SES/Intelsat)—are contracted roadmap missions slated for 2026–2027.

• Capture mechanism: Starfish's Nautilus capture mechanism targets unprepared client satellites without requiring pre-installed docking rings or refueling ports.

• WA footprint: Headquartered and manufacturing in Tukwila, WA (665 Andover Park W), backed by a $100M+ Series B announced in April 2026.

Starfish Space: Demonstrated Flight Record vs. Contracted Roadmap

Program / Mission	Status (Nov 2026)	Mission Scope
Otter Pup 1 (2023)	Demonstrated (with anomalies)	Initial RPO & docking pathfinder
Otter Pup 2 (Jun 2025)	Demonstrated (Launched)	LEO RPO & unprepared D-Orbit ION docking test
Remora (Dec 2025)	Demonstrated (Completed)	Autonomous closed-loop RPO w/ Impulse Space
Full-Scale Otter (SDA/NASA/SES)	Planned Roadmap (2026–2027)	End-of-life disposal & GEO life extension

Mission Designer, Compliance Lead & Founder Takeaways

• Compliance teams evaluating Starfish Space for backup deorbit coverage must distinguish demonstrated RPO software from yet-to-fly full-scale Otter vehicles.

• FCC 5-year disposal rules create direct commercial demand for third-party tug/disposal contracts when a constellation satellite loses propulsion before EOL.

• Link servicing vendor contracts carefully to FCC ODMP contingency plans—a servicing agreement does not automatically waive primary spacecraft passivation.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **Starfish Space (Tukwila) Census Profile:** https://bcesg.org/starfish-space-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **In-Space Servicing Segment Overview:** https://bcesg.org/wa-in-space-servicing-segment-overview/

• **In-Space Servicing RPO & Habitats:** https://bcesg.org/wa-in-space-servicing-rpo-habitats-resources/

• **Starfish Space Official Site:** https://www.starfishspace.com/

• **eCFR: 47 CFR § 25.283 (5-Year Disposal):**
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-25/subpart-D/section-25.283

Provenance Note: Distinguishes demonstrated 2025 missions (Otter Pup 2, Remora) from 2026–2027 planned full-scale Otter missions as of 2026-11-16.