



INFORMATION RELEASE
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UAS and CBJ reach agreement to share Auke Bay Marine Station

UAS to boost science teaching and research, Docks & Harbors to improve Statter Harbor

The University of Alaska Southeast and City and Borough of Juneau Docks & Harbors have reached an agreement to subdivide the Auke Bay Marine Station. The agreement has been signed and will be submitted to the federal government, which currently owns the facility.

“This agreement between UAS and CBJ to partition the Auke Bay Marine Station property is good for Juneau because it both supports marine education and research at UAS, and allows for future harbor expansion. This is a ‘win-win’ for all involved,” UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield said

The Auke Bay Marine Station is a 4-acre facility overlooking Statter Harbor. It’s the original location of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Auke Bay Laboratories. When NOAA built the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute in Lena Point in 2005, research functions gradually moved there. The federal General Services Administration put the marine station up for surplus in 2016. Last August, CBJ’s Docks & Harbors and UAS submitted separate applications to acquire the facility. The federal government identified both proposals as benefiting the public and eligible to receive the property and its facilities free of cost. Since then, the two entities have been working on an agreement to share the Auke Bay Marine Station by subdividing it.

UAS, which has its main campus in Auke Bay, plans to use the former NOAA Lab building to further develop research and educational programs in marine biology, biology, environmental science and geography. Docks & Harbors will make moorage facilities available to UAS and intends to improve Statter Harbor with a new, larger breakwater and enhanced moorage.

“We reached a goal to jointly acquire the facility, and now we’ll wait for GSA to go through its process,” CBJ Port Engineer Gary Gillette said. “We’re hoping to get it all taken care of so both UAS and CBJ can move forward with their plans.”

Currently, the U.S. Coast Guard leases parts of the facility. Gillette said GSA has indicated November 1 as being a target date to turn over the Auke Bay Marine Station to the two entities.

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