



INFORMATION RELEASE

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UAS and Docks & Harbors to propose subdividing Auke Bay Marine Station

The University of Alaska Southeast and City and Borough of Juneau Docks & Harbors are working on a joint proposal to submit to the federal General Services Administration that would subdivide the Auke Bay Marine Station.

“People of good will have come together and are figuring out a compromise that benefits both entities and the community. We think it’s important that the University and Docks & Harbors have this opportunity to both get this property and expand,” CBJ Port Engineer Gary Gillette said.

“I’m hopeful that we will get to a final proposal that serves Juneau well,” UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield added.

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. GSA put the facility up for surplus last year. In August, CBJ’s Docks & Harbors and UAS each submitted applications to acquire the facility.

GSA identified both proposals as benefiting the public and eligible to receive the property and its facilities free of cost. The two entities are proposing to subdivide the Auke Bay Marine Station, allowing each to still accomplish its goals.

UAS, which has its main campus in Auke Bay, plans to use the facility, adjacent dock and moorage facilities to further develop research and educational programs in marine biology, biology, environmental science and geography.

Docks & Harbors plans to expand Statter Harbor to nearly double its current capacity. Plans include building a larger breakwater and more moorage.

“We’d expand to get larger and more boats, and to address the different needs that have been out there for fishermen, luxury yachts, the small pocket cruisers, and the Coast Guard,” Gillette said. “We believe that we have a long-range vision that will serve the community for years to come.”

UAS and CBJ Docks & Harbors are working toward signing a Memorandum of Acquisition Agreement, which will be submitted to GSA for approval. The agreement would subdivide the 4-acre facility. In general terms, UAS would have the southeast portion of the marine station, while CBJ would obtain the northwest portion.

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