Docks & Harbors

The Tide Line

December 2012

Port Directors Corner

As we move towards 2013, Docks & Harbors staff is working hard to improve accessibility to harbor services. We hope to have in place on-line launch ramp permits available for harbor patrons to purchase annual and daily permit by January 1st. In reviewing the past 2 years of harbor violations, three-quarters of all tickets issued by harbor officers have been for launch ramp violations. Listening to patrons’ concerns it was clear, the public wanted to be afforded the convenience to purchase launch permits without the task of coming into a Harbor Office. It is our goal to reduce the number of violations by providing greater opportunity to be compliant with harbor regulations. Several harbor patrons were unaware that daily permits are available for $14.70, tax included. Annual permits can be purchased for $94.50.

At the November 20th Docks & Harbors regular Board meeting, an action item regarding standardization of fees accessed to recreational boat launch fees will be considered. The Board is not creating a new fee structure but rather will deliberate the policy of how multiple recreational boat launch permits are issued to trailer owners. The regulation governing Recreational Boat Launch Fees (05 CBJAC 20.060) does not authorize multiple launch permits to single owners but the policy of issuing permits has been inconsistent in recent years. Additionally, the Board will consider the current policy on waiving boat launch fees for government vessels. The interested public is welcome to attend the 7 pm meeting in Assembly Chambers.

Dehart’s Marina - has been demolished as the contractor Pacific Pile and Marine of Seattle continue the construction project to install new floats and make repairs to the existing concrete floats at Don Statter Harbor. Video of the on-going project will be placed on the Docks & Harbors website.

USS Juneau Memorial – Docks & Harbors dedicated the new USS JUNEAU Memorial on the 70th Anniversary of the sinking and loss of 687 sailors. Randy Wanamaker, the US Navy and US Air Force personnel, Docks & Harbors, and local veteran groups participated in a ceremony on November 13th. Here are two links to the ceremony.  


Christmas Boat Lighting Contest. – The Juneau Chamber of Commerce, the Juneau Yacht Club, the Juneau Radio Center and the CBJ Docks and Harbors announces sponsorship of the 2012 harbors Christmas Boat Lighting Contest. The eligibility location is not intended to be exclusive and any vessel in Juneau waters will be provided consideration, provided the judges are made aware. Last year 20 vessels competed for $1270 in cash and prizes in two categories – commercial/government and recreational. Judging will be conducted by sponsor representatives from 5PM to 10PM on the 22nd and 23rd of December. Criteria will include creativity, detail, Christmas spirit, luminescence and imagination. There is nothing to sign up for and only requires vessel owners to add some “Christmas Cheer” for the holidays. Cash and prizes will be awarded to the top 3 winners in each category on December 24th. Richard Burns of the Juneau Radio Center indicated cash and prizes will exceed 2011 levels, adding “that boaters aren’t necessarily in it for the money but certainly the bonus of prizes increases the competitive and fun spirit this contest provides to the Juneau Community”. Commodore Richard Knapp of the Juneau Yacht Club said, “Decorating your boat is lots of fun and a great way for the boating community to show holiday spirit. We are encouraging all JYC members to participate.”

Last year’s recreational grand prize went to Dan Gowdy with the Lady Irene in the Aurora Harbor. The commercial grand prize winner was Matt Cole with Chan III in Harris Harbor.
Departing Docks & Harbors Employee. Please join us in wishing Ms. Heidi Allison well as she transitions to Sitka, AK. Heidi has been a valued employee since April 2008 working as an Administration Assistant III and she will be missed by all. Her last day will be December 21st.

The United Way Day of Caring was held on Wednesday October 3rd. It started with a kickoff breakfast at DIPAC at 8:00 am and from there individuals went to their assigned work locations for the various projects assigned to CBJ. CBJ employees helped clean up Big Brothers Big Sisters’ stretch of Adopt-a-Highway, stuffed envelopes for upcoming fundraisers and helped with organizing a storage unit at Catholic Community Service-Hospice and Home Care, weeded garden beds at JAMHI’s Salmon Creek Campus, Rebuilt a fire pit and landscaped the backyard of residential treatment facility at Juneau Youth Services, and put together packets for NAMI Juneau.

Teena Scovill from Docks & Harbors, Anna Percival from Human Resources and Elizabeth Eskelin from Community Development Department are shown in picture left at JAMHI’s Salmon Creek Campus in efforts to improve the Juneau Community. Thank you for your efforts!

Vessel Capacity –
Check the Capacity Plate:
Always check the capacity plate to make sure you don’t swamp or capsize your vessel by overloading it. This plate is usually found near the operator’s position or on the vessel’s transom. It indicates the maximum weight capacity, maximum number of people the vessel can carry safely, and maximum horsepower. The vessel operator is responsible for loading and powering the vessel safely and may not exceed any of the capacity limits. This requirement also applies to vessel owners who are allowing others to operate the vessel. The limits on a vessel’s capacity plate are strictly enforced.

Vessels Without a Capacity Plate
Personal watercraft (PWCs) and some other vessels are not required to have a capacity plate. Always follow the recommended capacity in the owner’s manual and on the manufacturer’s warning decal.
You can use the following rule of thumb to calculate the number of persons (weighing 150 lbs. each, on average) that the vessel can carry safely in good weather conditions. Number of people = vessel length (ft.) x vessel width (ft.) ÷ 15
When determining the number of people on board a vessel, persons on water skis, inner tubes, or similar devices are counted as passengers even when they are being towed and must be included in the maximum number of people allowed.

Commercial Fisheries Factoid (courtesy of ADF&G)
Alaska’s commercial fisheries are diverse, valuable, harvest a variety of finfish and shellfish species, and include both large and small vessels. Catcher processors over 300 feet in length operate in the Bering Sea pollock fishery while open skiffs of 20 feet fish for salmon, herring, and halibut close to shore. In between all sizes and configurations of vessels work their respective fishing grounds.
Alaska’s largest and most valuable fisheries target salmon, pollock, crab, herring, halibut, shrimp, sablefish, and Pacific cod. The total value of Alaska’s commercial fisheries is $1.5 billion to the fishermen; with a wholesale value of $3.6 billion. Economists have estimated the seafood industry to contribute $5.8 billion and 78,500 jobs to the Alaskan economy. Fisheries management in Alaska is based on scientific assessments and monitoring of harvested populations and is regarded as a model of successful natural resource stewardship.

Echo Cove Launch Ramp
Docks and Harbors has hired Miller Construction to add several boulder rocks to the Echo Cove launch ramp. These rocks will be partially buried on either side of the ramp, about halfway down, to fill a gap that is allowing wheelers to undermine the ramp. This will help to reduce unauthorized ATV access from the Docks & Harbors Echo Cove Launch Ramp.

Safety Tip- Boating under the influence can ruin a great day on the water. 19% of boating fatalities are a result of alcohol use. Show your support to end boating under the influence by pledging to make good decisions by not drinking and boating.