Port Director’s Corner

On June 25th, the Planning Commission voted 7-1 to approve a “conditional use” permit enabling Docks & Harbors to proceed with design and construction of a new two-lane boat launch and associated parking at Auke Bay. The Planning Commissioners assigned six conditions with the approval: (1) lighting requires “full cutoff” design; (2) project requires 100-year storm design; (3) new permit is required for parking lot storage; (4) parking lot shall be paved; (5) construction limited to 7 am to 8 pm Monday - Friday & 9 am to 8 pm on weekends; and, (6) detailed requirements for a vegetated buffer.

Docks & Harbors appreciates the action and decision of the Commissioners to provide this opportunity which will benefit the Juneau maritime and boating community for decades to come. We are equally thankful for the numerous harbor patrons who showed up to testify and submitted letters of support for this much needed project.

The project now moves into the final design phase. A construction start date has not yet been project. However, it is anticipated that the project will run for 18 months. The Tideline will update the schedule in coming months.

Aurora Harbor Rebuild Public Meeting July 24. The public is invited to a 33% Design Update Meeting for the Aurora Harbor project at the Juneau Yacht Club. This meeting will provide an overview briefing with an opportunity for the public to provide input as we move forward with this much needed harbor infrastructure project. The meeting will commence at 5 pm, with a presentation, followed by public participation. All harbor patrons are welcomed and cordially invited.

Docks and Harbors Board Membership: On June 6th, the Assembly re-appointed Greg Busch, and appointed Michael Peterson, and Robert “Bob” Janes to three year terms on the Docks and Harbors Board for terms beginning July 1, 2013 and expiring June 30, 2016. At its June 27th meeting, the Board took time to congratulate and thank outgoing board members Eric Kueffner and Michael Williams for their service to Docks & Harbors and to the Juneau Community. Mr. Kueffner served for 9-years and Mr. Williams for over 6 years.

At its July 25th meeting, the Board will elect a Chairman and assign leadership positions for the three committees in accordance with its bylaws.

Opportunities for greater commercial activity at Auke Bay Loading Facility: At Docks and Harbors Special Meeting on July 2nd, the Board voted in favor of allowing the Commercial Launch Ramp permit holders with business licenses to use the launch ramp without additional freight fees in an effort to promote greater use and relieve some of the congestion at Statter Harbor. Vessels hauled out may also use the ABLF for same-day vessel maintenance at no charge. Maintenance such as fluid changes and minor hull work (zincs, transducers, etc) would be acceptable. This action will be in effect for the remainder of 2013.

The 40th annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be in Fairbanks at the Princess Lodge from October 7-11. The theme of the meeting is:

The Practice of Fisheries: Celebrating all who work toward sustainable fisheries in Alaska

Meet the Staff.
Lawrence Love is a newly promoted Harbor Officer working at the Port/Field Office. He was born in Ketchikan and grew up going back and forth between Alaska and Oregon. At the age of 17 he joined the Army and during the course of his service, he was stationed in Germany, Kansas and Texas. Lawrence left the military in Texas, and met his wife who was still in the Army. Wanting to move back to Alaska, Lawrence moved to Juneau and worked with Senator Stevens to help his wife transfer to Fort Richardson. When his wife was transferred, he then moved to Anchorage and attended the Anchorage Community College for Automotive Diesel Technology. He moved back to Juneau with his wife in 1979 and has worked numerous seasonal jobs since. Lawrence’s first Docks and Harbors seasonal hire as a Harbor Technician was in 1980 for two summers, and then he came back to work for Docks and Harbors again in 2008 to current. He said he believes in his constitutional rights and his right to have firearms. He enjoys hunting, fishing and hiking. He has two daughters, one that lives in Anchorage and one that lives in South Dakota with her four children. Lawrence said he loves Alaska and has no intentions of ever leaving Juneau. Lawrence invites you to stop by and meet him at the Port/Field Office.

Docks & Harbors’ changes.
John Forchemer was chosen to fill the full time Harbor Officer and will remain assigned to working at Statter Harbor. Lawrence Love and William Hodge were promoted through a selection process to fill the seasonal Harbor Officer positions. Lawrence will remain at the Port /Field Office and William will begin working at Statter Harbor.

Docks & Harbors Job Opportunities.
Currently there is three Harbor Technician openings. Applications are being accepted until 4:30 p.m. on July 12th. For more information go to; http://www.juneau.org/personnel/documents/14-409HarborTechnician.pdf

Statter Harbor
As we move into the height of the commercial fishing season, Auke Bay is experiencing unprecedented numbers of seiners and gillnetters. This picture demonstrates the willingness of the commercial fleet to efficiently raft outboard, sometimes as deep as 8 vessels along the Auke Bay Breakwater. All harbor patrons should follow the commercial fishermen’s lead by using the minimum transient moorage space necessary and move-up/tighten up when possible.

Marine Mammals – To report injured or stranded whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals and sea lions, or to report incidents of marine mammal harassment, please call NOAA’s 24/7 hotline at 1-800-853-1964. Safety First: Whales in distress may act unpredictably, close approach is not advised. Do no attempt disentanglement without training and authorization. Try to get video or photos showing the entangling gear.

Safety Tip for Dogs on Boats - Although many canine breeds are naturally good swimmers, extra precautions should be made while boating with dogs on boats. Consider buying a snug fitting dog life jacket with a handle or doggie flotation device. If your canine falls in the water unexpectedly, or needs assistance getting out of the water, the handle will help get your canine safety out of the water. Keeping your canine on a leash is helpful on deck, but dogs should not be tied to the boat in event of an emergency. With preparation and focus on dog safety, having your furry friend onboard your boat can make for a great boating experience.

2012 Alaska Boating Statistics
In 2012 there were 22 recreational boating deaths, two cases alcohol was a contributing factor, and 5 reported injuries.

For Maritime Emergencies: Contact the U. S. Coast Guard by VHF radio CH 16 or call *CG from your Alaska registered cellular telephone.