**Port Director’s Corner**

**Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from Docks & Harbors!**

Although the mild weather generally bodes well for vessels, we have had boats which have been in distress within our harbors. Please follow the recommendations for winter vessel moorage and periodically check up on the condition of your vessel.

Docks & Harbors remains extremely busy overseeing construction projects, preparing plans & specifications for future projects and the administrative review of several of our regulations. Earlier this month, Notice to Proceed was issued to Miller Construction Company of Juneau to build the Statter Harbor Launch Ramp. The $11.2M project will create approximately 100 vehicle and trailer parking and 84 vehicular parking spaces. The contractual completion date requires substantial completion by 1 June 2016. It is anticipated that Miller Construction will begin extracting shot rock from Stabler’s Quarry in the coming weeks before mobilizing on site. During construction, the Horton Lot will not be available for trailer and vehicular parking. Docks & Harbors is negotiating with a local property owner for some relief to the loss of parking. It is unlikely however, that Docks & Harbors will be able to completely mitigate this short term loss.

**Aurora Harbor Update** The Aurora Harbor project remains on target for a May 31st, 2015 substantial completion date. Northern Construction Services has been manufacturing the floats at their Junction City, OR plant and the first load has arrived at AML in Juneau. Trucano Construction has mobilized and has begun driving piles in support of South Approach Dock before installation of the new floats. One change which may affect some of the patrons on the new Aurora floats is the requirement for new National Electrical Code (NEC) in the design. The national standards will require power pedestals to employ GFI (Ground Fault Interrupter) devices. Docks & Harbors will be hosting an evening community meeting on January 20th to explain how the new NEC requirements may affect our patrons and what action may be required.

**CBJ Marine Passenger Fees.** In 1999, City and Borough of Juneau voters passed Proposition 1, assigning a tax of $5 per cruise ship passenger to assist in funding projects that enhance the tourism experience and offset community impacts created by the cruise ship industry. Federal law requires that any project funded with these fees must address both the “safety and accessibility” of cruise ship passengers. In 2008, the Assembly amended the ordinance to provide for the solicitation to be issued by posting on the CBJ website and disestablished the Marine Passenger Fee Proceeds Committee.

The City Manager annually develops a proposed list of Marine Passenger Fee Proceeds funded projects through requests from the industry, city departments, individual businesses, and citizens. All proposals received for Marine Passenger Fee project requests will be forwarded with the City Manager’s proposed list to the Assembly Finance Committee. The deadline to be considered for FY16 funding is December 31st, 2014. Docks & Harbors requested list will be available in the December Board Meeting minutes.
Employee of the Quarter: Mr. Dennis Holloway was recognized from the period of July to October 2014 as the Docks & Harbors Employee of the Quarter. Dennis was instrumental in the process to coordinate, advise, notify and relocate over 100 vessels impacted and displaced by the Aurora Harbor Rebuild Phase I construction project. His efforts ensured a timely entrance and mobilization by the contractor to begin demolition of the aging facility. Dennis is a long tenured and extremely valuable and proficient employee. His dedicated service to Docks & Harbors is commendable and worthy of recognition as Employee of the Quarter.

ADF&G Grant: Docks & Harbors has recently accepted a $50,000 grant from ADF&G to research, permit and design a new fish cleaning float at Amalga Harbor. Updates to this project will be made at Docks & Harbors meeting as well as in the Tideline. Should a viable project be presented, Docks & Harbors and ADF&G will share the construction cost in a 25/75 percent split.

Harbor Customer Code of Conduct: One of the many administrative tasks which Docks & Harbors is working toward is a “harbor customer code of conduct”. It is anticipated that the Board will adopt, after public input, a set of defined guidelines which harbor customers, including pet owners, will be expected to abide by to remain qualified in a CBJ harbor. Please refer to the December Docks & Harbors Board Agenda to see the draft “harbor customer code of conduct.”

Go Green with Docks & Harbors. If you are interested in having your statement sent via email, please send an email to dolly.raster@juneau.org

Don’t Forget to Winterize your vessel!
The U.S. Coast Guard is reminding Alaskan mariners to winterize their vessels and is providing a handy check-list for how to do it.
Coast Guard personnel in Juneau will be working with local harbormasters to patrol small boat harbors to identify boats in danger of sinking due to snow build up.
Here’s a few preventative measures you can take to make sure that doesn’t happen to you:
- Remove snow and ice accumulation, including keeping scuppers clear of blockage
- Check shaft packing for excess leakage
- Perform routine checks for signs of loose or deteriorating planks on wooden hulled vessels
- Conduct a routine inspection of your automatic bilge pump
- Visually inspect all thru-hull fittings for damage or loose connections
- Remove all unnecessary fuel from your boat if you are planning to be away for an extended period of time
- Verify and update your contact information with the small boat harbor
- Arrange reliable snow removal for both your boat and the finger pier which it occupies

2015 Annual launch ramp permits are available for purchase at the Statter Harbor, Aurora Harbor, or online at www.juneauharbors.com

Coffee with the Docks & Harbors Staff
The Port Director & Harbormaster welcomes harbor patrons to stop by the Yacht Club on Friday, December 19th between 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM for coffee and a doughnut. Docks & Harbors has a lot of projects underway and several administrative initiatives which are discussed in a series of formal meetings. This outreach opportunity is an informal opportunity to meet the Port Director and Harbormaster. The public is welcome to stop by to chat or inquire about any and all things Docks & Harbors.