Port Director’s Corner

Recently, there has been discussion to the implementation of SB92 (Derelict Vessels) which was signed into law in October 2018. The efforts to appropriately deal with derelict vessels was strongly supported by the Alaska Association of Harbormasters & Port Administrators (AAHPA). A multi-agency Derelict Vessel Task Force worked for two years on establishing what Alaska needed to be more effective in managing derelict vessels, preventing them, and ultimately holding people responsible for their messes.

The Task Force proposed stronger legislation but was reduced to be less onerous on the responsible boating community as possible. This bill was a great compromise, as it still gives better tracking tools to the state, municipalities, and private businesses to hold boat owners accountable if they try to abandon their vessels.

This is good legislation with poor execution. The regulations and requirements were not rolled out in a timely manner. United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) petitioned the State for a delay of implementation but the Commissioner of Administration encourages the actions necessary to register or title vessels to be compliant. Here is what one needs to know:

http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/reg/boat.htm

- Vessel Under 24' = no title required.
- USCG documented = no state title required
- Previous law required all undocumented motor boats to be registered
- New law expands registration to include documented boats and barges
- No registration required if in AK waters less than 90 days
- Registration = $24 every 3 years
- Title = $20 one-time (just like your car, or boat trailer)

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

Help stop theft in our Harbors! If you see something, say something. Call suspicious activity to JPD Non-Emergency Line at 907-586-0600 and report to the Harbor Office at 907-586-5255.

Port Director Uchytil (pictured with Senator Murkowki) had the opportunity to visit Washington DC to meet with various federal agencies and the elected delegation. He met with senior officials from NOAA, US Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Management & Budget, Maritime Administration (MARAD), US Department of Transportation, the Alaska Governor’s Office and American Association of Port Authorities. The purpose was to ensure decision makers were aware of unmet Docks & Harbors needs in Juneau and advocate for additional NOAA assets to our Capital City.
Amalga Harbor Update: At the June 27th Docks & Harbors Board meeting, the Board approved a motion to proceed with a plan to install a 75-foot float extension and to remove the existing fish cleaning station. The Board believed the installation of an additional float would be a positive improvement for the community but also heard the concerns from the local residents of problems associated with fish waste. The local media captured the discussion accurately:  
The Docks & Harbors Operations Planning Committee is expected to discuss timing and potential new regulations associated with the removal of the fish cleaning station at its July 17th meeting. The majority of the funding for improvements will be provided by ADF&G through Dingell-Johnson Sportfish grant funding which requires Assembly approval.

Archipelago (aka Downtown Waterfront Improvement) Project: is currently out for bid with an expected opening date of July 16th. This estimated $13.7M is phase I to construct a retaining wall, build bus staging area and expand a gathering area along the downtown waterfront.

Statter Phase IIIA Project: is currently out for bid with an expected opening date of July 17th. This $3M estimated project will dredge 25K cubic yards of material necessary to construct “for hire floats” to accommodate the charter vessels at Statter Harbor.

Operation Dry Water: Is a national Boating Under the Influence (BUI) awareness and enforcement campaign. Please see more at http://www.operationdrywater.org/