



The Kodiak Brailer



LANDING SMALL LOADS OF INFORMATION IN KODIAK HARBOR

Fall 2023

Harbormaster's Update



Dave Johnson
Harbormaster

I came into this position knowing St Herman Harbor was in dire need of replacement, having been a tenant of the harbor for several years before coming into the job. Since day one I have picked up where my predecessors left off and have focused on rebuilding St Herman Harbor to serve our community for the next 50 years. I often say a world class fleet deserves a world class harbor; we're only going to get one chance in our lifetimes to do this so we need to make sure it is done right. Progress feels slow at first, we have to find the capital, complete the design and apply for permits all before any construction can begin. Some surveying work has been completed and we anticipate council awarding the first layout design contract in November. There will be ample opportunity for public input throughout the process, please come in any time to discuss ideas with your harbor staff! Our sincere hope is during that process we will identify the capital necessary for the project and begin construction no later than 2026. So, while the progress is not yet visible, we are moving in the right direction. In the meantime, knowing St Herman Harbor needs replacement has not kept us from working hard to maintain what we still have. This year staff repaired over 300 feet of bullrail, replaced four pedestals, changed out over sixty light fixtures, three finger floats rebuilt and six derelict or abandoned vessels have been removed from the harbor.

-Dave

Winter is Coming

Now is a great time to clear off the finger floats and get your vessel and slip ready for winter. While city code normally prohibits items to be left on the finger floats, we try to relax the policy during the busy summer months to an extent. With termination dust on the mountains, it's a good time to get the fingers cleared for the winter. Auxiliary skiffs must be out of the water by November 15th. Harbor officers have responded to a number of skiffs flooding and partially submerged this fall. Please ensure your vessel has an operational bilge pump if it is left in the harbor. We are watching the temperatures closely and will be securing water as soon as we start to see overnight freezing temperatures. Fresh water will still be available



at the Ferry Dock, Pier II and the water float in St Paul Harbor. If you are planning to pull your boat for the winter,



please remember to let harbor staff know so it can be used for the large number of transient fishing vessels we host during the winter months.

****We're putting together a list of individuals willing to be on-call hires for snow removal. Please contact the harbor office to get your name on the list and we will share it with vessel owners who need snow removal services provided.****

Rules of the Road

Common city code violations

18.28.230 Occupancy of vessels (a) No person may use or occupy a vessel moored at boat harbor facilities as a place of residence, nor may a person rent or lease such a vessel as a place of residence, utilize it as a rooming house, or

permit it to be occupied for any period of more than five days by any person other than the normal crew of the vessel .

18.28.300 Fire hazards prohibited
No person may store, deposit, or leave on any float, dock, or other harbor facility any gasoline, lubricating oil, or other combustible liquid of any nature or description, except for temporary purposes

in conjunction with the loading or unloading of a vessel.

18.28.340 Regulation of signs

No person may write or post any written or printed matter in any place within the Kodiak harbor except upon bulletin boards constructed for that purpose and only after obtaining permission by the harbormaster.

Kids Don't Float

We know how quickly things can go wrong on the water. We encourage all children visiting the harbor to wear life-jackets and will continue the positive reinforcement of this practice by offering free ice cream to children "caught" wearing life jackets in the harbor. Harbor Officers carry the gift cards and will hand them out at their discretion to reward such behaviors.

New Program Alert!

As we are reminded every year during the Norm Holm Memorial Survival Suit Race, an immersion suit is the most realistic way to survive any prolonged exposure in our frigid waters. For families with small children this can be especially challenging as the suits are expensive to purchase and we know how kids tend to outgrow everything as soon as it is purchased. To further increase the safety of our users the harbor is going to begin offering a free survival suit loaner program for child-sized suits. We will be soliciting donations from the community and building up an inventory of suits to check out when you're making that trip a little further away from home and would like the additional piece of mind.



Boating Safety and Regulations Update

This summer we were visited by a detachment of Coast Guard law enforcement personnel from Seattle, WA. Some vessels were cited and others had their voyage terminated for various violations of state and/or federal law. For the convenience of our fleet, we have attached the Alaska requirements summary to review to ensure your next adventure will go off without a hitch.

Update your registration

As was discussed in our last edition, we are starting to enforce registration requirements for vessels in the harbor. This is to protect our users; unregistered vessels are difficult to trace back to a responsible party and they are the ones most often left abandoned which then require destruction, paid for by our user fees. It costs an exorbitant amount of money to dispose of a vessel, a cost which again, is borne by our harbor users. Additionally, an abandoned vessel represents a large opportunity cost whether it is in the impound lot or still in the water as that is space that could be used to generate revenue.

ALASKA REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY				
Requirements	Boats under 16 feet	Boats 16 feet to less than 26 feet	Boats 26 feet to less than 40 feet	Boats 40 feet to less than 65 feet
Life Jackets	One U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket for each person on board. Must be in serviceable condition, approved for the activity, and worn in accordance with the label and owner's manual. Persons under 13 must wear a life jacket when in an open boat, on the deck of a boat, or when being towed (i.e. tubing, waterskiing).			
Throwable Devices	Recommended but not mandatory.	Except for canoes and kayaks, one U.S. Coast Guard approved throwable device (i.e. seat cushion or throw ring).		
Sound Producing Devices	Boats less than 39.4 feet (12 meters) in length must be able to make an efficient sound signal (such as that made with a whistle or horn) to signal intentions and to signal position in periods of reduced visibility.			Boats 39.4 feet (12 meters) or more in length, a whistle or horn.
Visual Distress Signals	Night signals meeting federal requirements (33 CFR 175.110) between sunset and sunrise.	Signals meeting federal requirements (33 CFR 175.110) for both day and night-time use. Exception: boats and open sailboats not equipped with mechanical propulsion and under 26 feet in length are not required to carry day signals. <i>Note: Pyrotechnic devices, if used to meet this requirement, must be current, serviceable and readily accessible. At the minimum, a total of three day/night combination devices or three day and three night devices must be carried.</i>		
Fire Extinguishers	At least one U.S. Coast Guard approved B-I required for boats with inboard engines, living spaces, permanent fuel tanks or enclosed storage areas or hull voids not sealed or filled with flotation material.		At least two B-I or one B-II U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguishers.	At least three B-I or one B-II and one B-II U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguishers.
Navigation Lights	Display required between sunset and sunrise and when visibility is restricted. International configuration required (varies with length and mode of operation). See the International Navigation Rules.			
Backfire Flame Arrestors	One U.S. Coast Guard approved backfire control device on each carburetor of all inboard gasoline engines.			
Ventilation	Boats with permanently installed engines, closed compartments, or permanent fuel tanks must have efficient natural or mechanical ventilation.			
Registration	A boat placed on state waters that is equipped with mechanical propulsion (gas, diesel, or steam engines, and electric motors) and any vessel used in sport fishing charter activities must be registered and numbered with the Division of Motor Vehicles (AS 05.25.53). Certificate of Number must be carried onboard. Registration numbers and validation decals must be properly displayed on hull of boat.			

Waitlist update

Our waitlist currently sits at 112 vessels. After reviewing the entire list and our vacant slips we are in the process of offering permanent slips to 55 of those customers. What that means to our users is that if you are currently hot bunking a slip there is a chance you will be asked to move. Many of our long term hot bunk vessels are going to be offered the slips they are currently using, others will be required to move and a couple of slips will be reassigned to better manage slip availability. We look forward to accommodating these new exclusive slip holders. If you have questions whether or not you are on the waitlist, please check with harbor staff.

Never miss a payment again with autopay! Stop by the harbor office to get an authorization form (we can mail or email these as well). Be sure to contact the office at 486-8080 if any card information changes, including the expiration date, as we need it to process your payment.

From the Office Staff

Autopay errors have been an ongoing challenge this fall, multiple accounts have expired or cancelled cards on file. Please remember to update your credit card information with the office if you would like to stay on autopay. Check your bill, we will work with vessel owners to the maximum extent possible when they are proactive about managing their moorage, but once it goes beyond 90 days of no payment there is a \$500 fee attached to the account to offset the labor in collecting.

Update Your Contact Info

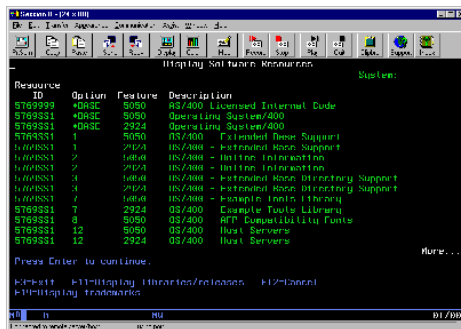
Moved? New phone number? If we don't know about it, we can't get a hold of you! Boat owners are responsible for making sure their information on file at the harbor office is current and accurate.

Get a Caretaker

If you are a transient vessel, you must be able to move within two hour's notice at all times. If harbor staff are required to move a vessel it results in a service charge of several hundred dollars. Vessel owners who repeatedly fail to respond may see their mooring privileges revoked.

New Software Coming Soon

Anyone who has been a customer of the harbor more than a month knows the difficulty we have with our software. Our financial management software was designed in 1988 and our vessel tracking and management software was last updated in 2009. Several attempts to replace the software over the years have failed for various reasons. Working close with the finance and IT departments, we have selected a vendor and are in the process of adapting the new system for our use. Our hope is to go live on November 1st of this year. We cannot express how appreciative of the patience and understanding our customers have shown with all of our billing difficulties this year. We expect that once our new system is operational it will bring an end to the confusion and will better operate our berthing management and billing.



This is what our system looks like

Pull Your Skiff

If your auxiliary skiff has been in the water all summer, remember that per city ordinance it must be removed by November 15 to avoid being charged. Additional requirements for auxiliary vessels are as follows: an auxiliary vessel may not exceed one-half the overall length of the primary vessel and not exceed a maximum length of 25 feet. Auxiliary vessels may not have an enclosed cabin and must be consistent with and designed to support the type of fishery or operation engaged in by the primary vessel.

Schedule Dock Space

Pier and dock space is limited this time of year. Exclusive vessels are authorized a free day of dock use *when scheduled in advance*, this is critical to manage availability around the scheduling of cruise ships and the ferries. In addition, please moor as closely as possible to neighboring vessels to maximize dock space.

Welcome New PHAB Members

The Ports and Harbors Advisory Board (PHAB) is back to full strength. Congratulations to recent appointees Sara Fraser, Ryan Cross, Kori Allen and Alexis Kwachka. They are joining incumbents Marty Owen, Jack Everich, Nick Szabo, Christopher Johnson, and Oliver Holm. These are your direct conduits to Port and Harbor policy, priorities and strategic direction. Your harbor staff are always willing to discuss issues with customers, but the PHAB membership is also a great resource to use if you have questions or ideas that you would like addressed. Full contact information is available at: <https://www.city.kodiak.ak.us/phab>

Dumpsters

For the fiscal year ending June 30th, harbor customers spent \$190, 953 to dispose of harbor garbage. Amazingly this is 48% of the harbor discretionary budget. We have to consider ways to better account for the waste coming out of the harbor and fairly distribute the cost to users. Ideas under consideration include surcharges, or physical controls to ensure garbage being dumped in the harbor represents harbor refuse. If you have additional ideas to better manage harbor garbage please let staff or one of your PHAB members know.

Harbor Contact Information

Dave Johnson, Harbormaster and Port Director: 486-8086

Cell: 907-654-5994

E-mail: djohnson@city.kodiak.ak.us

Monte Anderson, Deputy Harbormaster: 486-8092

Cell: 907-942-1384

E-mail: manderson@city.kodiak.ak.us

Dock/Pier Scheduling: 486-8080

Slip Assignment: 486-8081

Kodiak Police Department: 486-8000

USCG Marine Safety Detachment: 486-5918

Oil Spill Response Center: 1-800-424-8802

Ferry Office: 486-3800

Petro Marine Services: 486-3421

North Pacific Fuel: 486-3245