



# The Kodiak Brailer



LANDING SMALL LOADS OF INFORMATION IN KODIAK HARBOR

Summer 2023

## Derelict Vessels, A Statewide Problem



**Dave Johnson**  
Harbormaster

**C**ustomers have been asking why harbor staff are tagging vessels with expired Alaska registrations? In 2019 the Legislature passed the Derelict Vessels Act, one of the few outcomes of the law was the requirement for all non-exempt vessels to be registered with the State of Alaska. The idea behind the requirement is that when a vessel is abandoned a current registration will allow the harbor to locate a responsible party. As we begin gearing up to replace St Herman Harbor, every vessel will need to be moved to accommodate the rebuild. This will be much easier to accomplish if all vessels in the harbor are in an operational (seaworthy) state as required by Kodiak City Code. In anticipation of this effort Harbor staff will require current registrations for all users and vessels that have not moved in a year or more will be required to demonstrate seaworthiness to remain in the harbor. Please contact the harbor office with any questions.

*-Dave*

## Fair Winds and Following Seas

On July 7th, we bid farewell to Elke Bartsch-Carros after over five years of faithful service to the Port and Harbors Department. She was a critical member of the harbor staff and will be greatly missed! Elke was responsible for slip assignments and billing. Until a new administrative specialist is found the Harbor Office will be operating at reduced hours.



Are you interested in working at the Port and Harbors department? We have openings for a Harbor Officer and an Administrative Specialist. Harbor Officers work 8-hour shifts and provide harbor security and code enforcement 24/7. The Administrative specialist will be responsible for billing, slip assignments and other duties as required. Proficiency with the Microsoft office suite and basic computer skills are critical to the position. To see the full job descriptions or to apply, both positions can be viewed at: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/kodiak>

If either positions interests you, contact the harbor office and we will be glad to answer any questions you might have.

### Rules of the Road

*Common city code violations*

#### 18.28.330 Wheeled vehicles prohibited

No person may drive any bicycle or any motorized wheeled or tracked equipment upon any float facility without first obtaining the consent of the harbormaster.

#### 18.28.310 Responsibility for animals

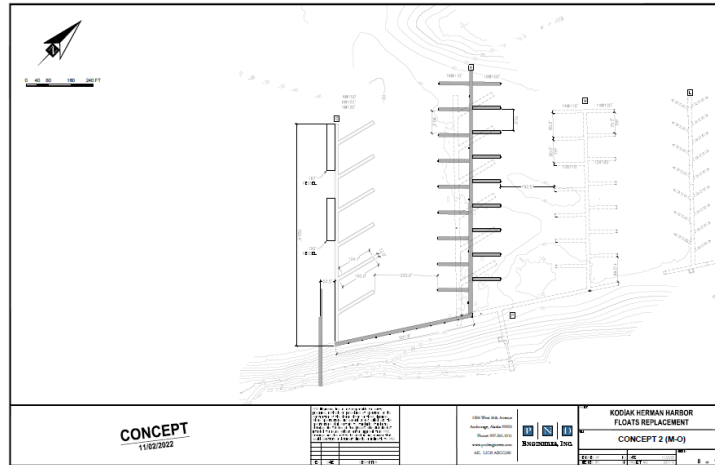
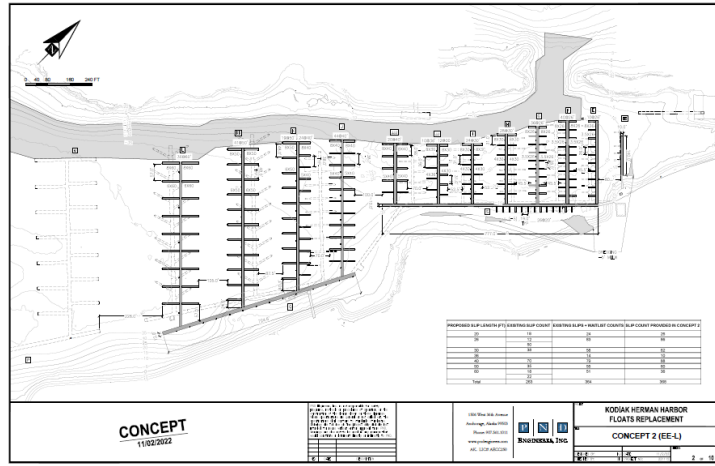
- (a) A person owning or in charge of any animal within the Kodiak harbor shall keep that animal restrained on a leash not more than five feet in length.
- (b) The owner or person in charge of any animal shall be responsible for removing and disposing of any feces deposited by the animal on any small boat harbor.

#### 18.28.340 Regulation of signs

- (a) 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.

# St Herman(Dog Bay) Harbor conceptual drawings

We will be continuing the planning effort to rebuild St Herman Harbor later this summer. The initial focus will be to somewhat solidify the layout which will determine the number of pilings that need to be driven. We will then pursue the environmental permits necessary to begin work as the permits can take upwards of a year to approve once submitted. Actual designs for the harbor will come at a much later stage, but the layout will determine the slip configuration for the next 50 years. All eight current concepts are available for viewing at the harbor office and we are eager for any feedback to make sure the new design works for as many vessel owners as possible. Because of feedback received, we have already made changes to better accommodate our fleet.

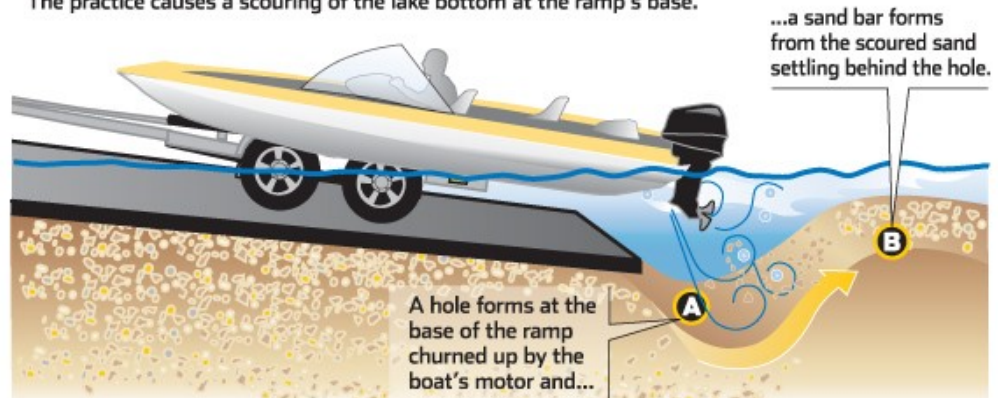


## Power loading, what is it and why is it prohibited?

Power loading describes the process of using engine power to drive a boat up the trailer as opposed to lowering the trailer sufficiently in the water to allow for the winch to pull it in. Power loading causes significant erosion and damage to the boat launch itself. The prop wash creates waves and turbulence, which erode the launch area, disrupt the sediment, and can destroy both the ramp and trailers attempting to use it. Last summer boat owners suffered a broken wheel and a broken axle due to holes at the bottom of the launch ramp in St Herman Harbor. Additionally, almost \$100 thousand dollars was spent from the harbor fund repairing the damaged ramp in St Paul Harbor that had broken free due to the hole at the base of the ramp where the riprap had washed away. The prohibition against power loading is posted in both harbors. Any use of engines beyond clutching in is considered power loading. Failure to comply with the posted regulations can result in fines or denial of harbor facility use. Please practice safe and responsible boating.

### Boat ramps and 'power loading'

The practice causes a scouring of the lake bottom at the ramp's base.



Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Information Center

PIONEER PRESS

## Highliner Contest:

The Harbor is pleased to announce a highliner contest for this commercial fishing season. The homeported seiner who has the largest single-day haul of the season (prove by sending a copy of your weight ticket to [djohnson@city.kodiak.ak.us](mailto:djohnson@city.kodiak.ak.us) or texting to (907)654-5994. Leaders will be posted in the harbor office and the winner

of the contest will be announced on November 1st and receive Harbor swag for the entire crew.



Photos from the Harbor archive believed to be from Marion Owen



## New Fee Taking Effect July 1, 2023

There is an old adage that 5% of the people cause 95% of the problems. That is certainly the case when it comes to delinquent payments in the harbor. By the time a vessel is placed on the denied use list, the owner of the vessel will have received four invoices, three to four phone calls and a personalized letter reminding them to pay their bill. This amounts to an incredible use of staff time that could be better spent. To accurately capture the labor hours that go into collecting on these accounts there will be a new fee of \$500 placed on each account that has a lien filed, which is only done after a minimum 90 days of no payment.

**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.**

There have been no changes to slip fees the last two fiscal years. The Harbormaster's intent is to freeze large vessel fees for at least two more years and adjust small vessel fees to better reflect South-central Alaska price structures.

## From the Office Staff

Salmon season is in full swing and the harbor is as busy as ever. To make sure we have your slip ready for your return please notify the office with as much lead time as possible. Likewise, if you are planning to vacate your slip for more than a few days please remember to let the office know per the mooring agreement.

### 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 leaving town and keeping your boat in the harbor, the Kodiak Harbor requires you to provide contact information for a local caretaker who is able to tend to your vessel in case of emergency. Please note that those listed in a caretaker capacity must be willing to

## New Carts Delivered

In May Harbor Staff took delivery of two prototype aluminum harbor carts fabricated by the Kodiak High School welding program. These carts will be used for the summer and if successful more will be ordered when school reconvenes. Please let harbor staff know if you have any feedback on the performance and design of the carts.



respond to calls from the harbor office and check vessel if needed, so ensure your caretaker is aware of the responsibility. If you are a transient vessel, you must be able to move within two hour's notice at all times.

### 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.

### 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.

### Questions?

Your office staff is here to help! We're open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 486-8080 during business hours or VHF Ch 12 after hours or on the weekend.

## Electrical Compliance

As with the seaworthiness of vessels, harbor staff will be paying extra attention to the condition of shore ties in the upcoming year. **NFPA 303** requires that shore ties be free of tape and splices and neutral current shall not flow through the ground connection. When St Herman (Dog Bay) Harbor is rebuilt it will be to code, which will render vessels wired as such unable to use shore power. Channel Transient Float is built to current code so if you would like to check your shore tie there to see if your vessel is compliant, a member of the harbor staff will be glad to help.



This is how you get a "hot" harbor

## Harbor Contact Information

**Dave Johnson, Harbormaster and Port Director: 486-8086**

Cell: 907-654-5994

E-mail: [djohnson@city.kodiak.ak.us](mailto:djohnson@city.kodiak.ak.us)

**Monte Anderson, Deputy Harbormaster: 486-8092**

Cell: 907-942-1384

E-mail: [manderson@city.kodiak.ak.us](mailto: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**