Port Director’s Corner:
Generally, my October Tide Line reflects back on the summer and the efforts of the Docks & Harbors staff to accommodate numerous competing interests in providing stellar customer service to several diverse user groups. This summer, despite zero cruise ships and a pandemic, was widely successful by every standard metric. First, we were able to finish the FY20 year financially operating in the black for both the Harbors Enterprise and Docks Enterprise. This was done so without receiving any COVID CARES funding. Docks & Harbors was able to pivot on the needs of the community to bring back a responsible number of seasonal employees but reduce overall expenditures to remain fiscally solvent. We took the opportunity to employee the seasonal workers in roles they were not accustomed to but provided huge windfall to our organization. Prepping the LUMBERMAN for disposal, demolishing the north end of Aurora Harbor, scaling the concrete cruise ship docks, are but a few examples of accomplishments. Another successful outcome of the summer was our continued infrastructure improvements. Projects such as the zinc anode installation at Douglas Harbor will have long term maintenance mitigation benefits. Other projects such as the Statter Harbor dredging, the Downtown Waterfront Improvement, and the completion of the downtown security checkpoint buildings will have immediate benefits for users early next year. Our seasonal staff will be released in early October but we look forward to turning the calendar and welcoming them back for summer 2021.

North Douglas Launch Ramp Float: Each fall, during a higher tide in October, Docks & Harbors removes the North Douglas Launch Ramp Float. This is to protect the float from winter westerlies which we believe could be severely damaged, if left in place. This year, the tides are favorable for staff October 16-18. We pick multiple days to provide a weather window. Please be aware if you launch prior to that date, you may return without the float in place.

Harris Harbor Float 1 and Float 2 Patrons: Docks & Harbors will be collaborating with the Army Corps of Engineers to have Float 1 and the SE side of Float 2 cleared of vessels from October 26th until approximately Thanksgiving. This will provide the clearance Western Marine Construction needs to execute the Harris Harbor dredging needs. Harbor Officer Patrick Davis is working diligently to meet the moorage needs of our patrons and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Two Special Committee Meeting in October: The “Visitor Industry Task Force DRAFT Review” Special Docks & Harbor Committee will next meet via Zoom at 5 pm on Tuesday, October 13th. The Finance Sub-Committee will meet via Zoom at 5 pm on Thursday, October 15th. The Finance Sub-Committee is reviewing fees associated with charter vessels which will be utilizing the new “for hire floats” in Statter next summer.

Social Media: D & H has a Facebook page! We will provide fresh content several times per week so be sure to “like” and “follow” us at: https://www.facebook.com/juneauharbor/
CBJ Docks and Harbors is pleased to welcome Matthew Sill, P.E. as our new Deputy Port Engineer. Mr. Sill joins us after 14 years of experience in consulting engineering, where he specialized in the design of marine facilities. Mr. Sill had a hand in the design of many of our newest harbors, including Aurora Harbor phases I and II, Douglas Harbor Rebuild, and Statter Harbor phase IIIB. A longtime Juneau resident, Mr. Sill’s past ties to Docks and Harbors include six summers working as a Harbor Officer and nearly 20 years living aboard a 47 foot sailboat in Juneau Harbors. Mr. Sill currently launches his 24-foot Tollycraft from Douglas Harbor to take his family fishing, crabbing, and sightseeing.

Security Cameras: Docks & Harbors has installed a number of security cameras in the Aurora and Harris Harbors vicinity. It is our intentions to maintain security video for approximately 10 days in areas near the gangways and Harris bathroom. We are exploring options to collect security video in the Douglas Harbor gangways as well. Docks & Harbors encourages vessel owners to provide appropriate security measures to protect their private property.

Ordinance Relating to Skateboarding, roller skates, in-line skates and other similar devices (CBJ 72.10.140): The Docks & Harbors Operations-Planning Committee will be considering an ordinance change which would extend restrictions to skateboarders along the downtown waterfront and at Statter Harbor. We encourage all citizens to participate in the rule making changes by providing testimony either verbally or via email.

The Nail Art Map Returns: When the “wear-decking” at the Cruise Ship Terminal was replaced in the fall of 2017 as part of the Juneau Cruise Ship Berth Safety Improvements Project, a portion of the nail art map was also removed. Before removing the timbers, Port staff traced the map on a large sheet of plastic so it could be reinstalled after the project was complete. This project was assigned to seasonal staff and the COVID Conservation Corps which was completed in September.