

THE TIDE LINE

February 2026



Port Director's Corner: What difference a month makes! February rolls in with mild temperatures and rain in stark contrast to early January, fraught with unrepresented snowfall. The Docks & Harbors staff worked extremely hard in the demanding conditions logging hours well into the evening and early morning hours. I am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our year-round personnel who responded to the harbor and harbor patron needs. Due to the declared emergency, we were able to bring on board seasonal workers and emergency workers to assist in the snow fighting efforts.

We prioritize the snow removal in this order: (1) entrance to all harbors; (2) harbor parking lots; (3) floats; and then (4) other facilities (launch ramps, ABLF, ABMS, etc.). Finger floats snow removal has historically been the responsibility of the adjacent slip owners. Staff makes at least one daily "dock check" of every vessel in every slip to visually evaluate the condition of our patron's vessels. It is not uncommon for staff to react to vessels sinking on the dock check or from good Samaritans reporting a vessel in distress. When this occurs, staff will respond to vessels *in extremis*. When staff is diverted to attend to sinking vessels, this significantly delays our ability to prioritize removal snow with our limited winter staff.

Docks & Harbors would sincerely appreciate if every winter, harbor patrons would take these actions: (1) watch for winter weather advisories and be prepared to shovel your vessels; (2) if out of town ensure you have a contracted for "boat watch" services or responsible friend/party to remove snow from your vessel; and (3) place snow directly in the water not on the main float or finger float.

Docks & Harbors staff responded to 10 vessels that sank and contributed to saving three dozen other vessels which may have met a similar demise. Of the 10 vessels that sank, only two were uninsured. We believe that recent changes to regulations to encourage vessel owners to acquire private vessel insurance, via the [uninsured vessel surcharge](#), may have contributed to having only 20% uninsured. Unfortunately, one uninsured vessel is a 58-foot seine vessel which sank at Aurora H20. Docks & Harbors is in the process of advertising for a salvage and disposal contract which will be in excess of \$150K. Additionally, the mishap damaged the finger float and main float which is less than two years old. We will be contracting to have the damaged floats repaired as soon as possible.



CPI Adjustment: The Docks & Harbors Board approved adjusting all applicable harbors and port fees to reflect the 2.1% calendar year inflation. In accordance with CBJAC Title 5 regulations harbor fees will adjust on July 1st. These regulations follow the Urban Alaska Consumer Price Index (CPI) which can be found on the [ADOL website](#).

Docks & Harbors
Meetings
Schedule:

[All meetings will
be held at the
locations below
and via Zoom](#)

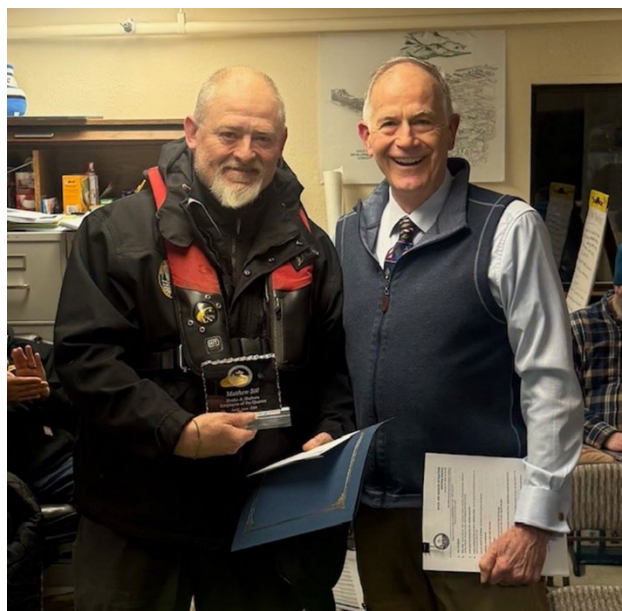
Operations/
Planning
Committee
Wed.
February 18th

Regular Board
Meeting
Thurs.
February 28th

Meeting
agendas and
minutes can be
found [here](#).



Employee-of-the-Quarter: Harbor Security Officer Jim Collins was recognized at the January regular Board meeting as the 4th Quarter EOTQ. He received a plaque, \$150 cash award and our sincere thanks. The citation read in part: *...Jim primarily works the afternoon and evening shift from approximately 3:30 p.m. to midnight, often operating solo and without direct support during after-hours operations. In this role, Jim consistently demonstrates sound judgment, accountability, and trustworthiness, providing the department with a dependable presence during some of the most challenging hours of operation. Throughout the quarter, Jim has taken on a significant role in managing and cataloging impounded vehicles, a task that requires persistence, attention to detail, and physical effort—particularly during the harsh winter conditions experienced this season. Working nights in cold, snowy weather, Jim has shown remarkable dedication in maintaining accurate records, coordinating enforcement actions, and ensuring impounded assets are managed safely and efficiently. His efforts in this area have been nothing short of amazing...*



Budget Process: January is the month in which the Board approves the upcoming FY27 operational budgets. [Aside: there are two budgets: the Docks Enterprise and the Harbors Enterprise.] The Board reviewed the proposed budgets which will be presented to the Assembly for their consideration at a joint Board/Assembly meeting scheduled for March 18th.

Boat Shelter Availability:

The January 2024 winter storm resulted in one Aurora Harbor boat shelter being destroyed. Last year a bidding process was established for the right to rebuild and own a boat shelter. The 2025 successful bidder was unable to execute the project and now we are repeating that process. Please see this [application](#) if you are interested in bidding for this opportunity. Applications are due March 13th.



Note this photo from 2018 does not show AG-22/23 being vacant:

North Douglas Launch Ramp:

The ramp has been temporarily closed due to a culvert being washed out. We anticipate a steel plate to cover the affected area until a permanent solution is engineered and executed later this summer. ADOT plans to install this steel plate covering before the 2nd week of February.



Port Office
907-586-0292
Mon-Fri
8:00-4:30pm

Port Field Office
907- 596-5720
Mon-Fri
8:00am-4:30pm

Aurora Harbor
907-586-5255
Mon-Fri
8:00am-4:30pm

Statter Harbor
907-789-0819
Mon-Fri
8:00am-4:30pm

All offices
closed from
12pm-1pm
for lunch