The Port Director’s Corner: On May 20th, Docks & Harbor continued its annual tradition in recognition of Infrastructure Week. The following was included in our program commemorating the event:

For nearly a decade, Docks & Harbors has made a practice of annually participating in Infrastructure Week. This event sponsored by United for Infrastructure, a 501(c)(4) non-profit, works to educate the American public and policymakers about the importance of infrastructure to the nation’s economy, workers, and communities. Its steering group includes the diversity of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), AFL-CIO, US Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers. Many times Docks & Harbors has celebrating successful major capital improvement projects such as the $54M new cruise ship docks in 2017 or last year’s $12M Peratrovich Plaza. This year’s local theme is “Maintenance...the Key to Infrastructure Sustainability” focuses Docks & Harbors successes in managing 12% of the overall CBJ plant replacement value, greater than the property assets of Juneau International Airport and Bartlett Regional Hospital.

Docks & Harbors Staff is proud to maintain the facilities under our charge. Although a major recapitalization was not completed in the last year, numerous important maintenance and repair projects were completed. Worthy of note include: Harris Harbor Zinc Anodes, Harris Harbor Sewage Pump out, Taku Seawalk Re-leveling, Taku Harbor Repairs, Statter “D Float” repairs and partial installation of self-rescue ladders in Aurora/Harris Harbors. Over $700K was invested into these projects to ensure our harbor & port facilities are properly repaired and maintained. Another moniker of Docks & Harbors is “If we’re not building...we’re planning!” Over the past year, significant resources have been leveraged in capital project planning, grant applications, property acquisition and strategizing on the Juneau maritime needs. We are confident that this groundwork will position Docks & Harbors to be successful in the 2022 CBJ 1% Sales Tax Initiative process. This occurs every five years when Juneau voters are asked to support a slate of Assembly approved, borough-wide capital improvement projects.

The Alaska Section of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released its updated 2021 Infrastructure Report Card to the Alaska Legislative in February. This report card evaluated a dozen categories resulting in an overall score of C- , unchanged from 2017. The Ports & Harbors category rose from D to D+ during this period and there are many reasons to be optimistic in the coming years that incremental improvements throughout the State will be realized. Docks & Harbors also believes the best is yet to come in optimizing Juneau’s waterfront and harbors for all of its multiple user groups.

Picture from Left to right: Chirstine Carpenter, Matt Creswell -Harbormaster, Carl Uchytil- Port Director, Chris Mertl – Corvus Design Architect, Matthew Sill – Deputy Port Engineer, and Jeremy Norbryhn – Deputy Harbormaster

Launch Ramp Permits: Are enforced on a calendar year basis. Please purchase your 2022 launch ramp permit before heading out with your vessel. It’s simple to do so online at: www.juneauharbors.com

D&H encourages electronic statements to make online bill pay at juneauharbors.com faster and easier! Please send an email to harbormaster@juneau.org to request electronic statements.
One Percent Sales Tax Initiative: Every five years, the voting citizens of Juneau are asked whether they wish to support an October referendum to fund capital improvements projects, commonly known as the 1% Sales Tax Initiative. As the name implies, this 1% Sales tax is a temporary tax but voters have routinely approved this program which typically supports Juneau schools, roads, parks, water & waste water, transportation and other amenities within the City & Borough. The Docks & Harbors Board has selected two projects to be considered by the Assembly for their action to place on the October Ballot. The two projects are Aurora Harbor and Deferred Maintenance as described below.

1. $5M Aurora Harbor Floats and Upland Improvements: After the planned demolition and Army Corps of Engineers dredging of the north end of the Aurora Harbor basin, additional funds would be used to leverage the ADOT Harbor Grant to continue rebuilding this small boat harbor float system and to improve the uplands with replacement of harbor office building, lighting, parking lot paving and partial boatyard recapitalization. Docks & Harbors has previously invested $16M to recapitalize the first two phases and approximately one-third of Aurora Harbor remains empty. Docks & Harbors has $1.5M from the 2017 1% Sales Tax Initiative with a $500K commitment from the Harbor Fund Balance in applying for a $2M ADOT Harbor Grant to construct replacement floats in the north end of Aurora Harbor. New 1% Sales Tax revenues would expand the scope of this project or to leverage additional funds for future ADOT Harbor Grant opportunities and to replace an existing inefficient harbor office, improve parking lot lighting, paving and partial boatyard recapitalization.

2. $1.5M Harbor Deferred Maintenance (Wayside Park Fishing Float & Taku Harbor)
   a) Wayside Park Maintenance Dredging: In 2000, the existing 50’ by 100’ roadside fishing float was designed/constructed by ADOT and then transferred to CBJ for management along with property conveyance. The float is heavily used by locals and provides a vehicular drive down for ADA accessibility. Over the past two decades, isostatic rebound has resulted in the float being aground at certain low tides. The periodic grounding is believed to be damaging to the structural integrity of the float. The Port Director knows of no other grant program which can be leveraged for this purpose. The estimate to dredge and repair damage to the float is $750K.
   b) Taku Harbor Repairs: In April, Docks & Harbors staff mobilized to Taku Harbor to pressure clean and make repairs to the floats. The Deputy Port Engineer led the repair efforts and is expressing concerns about the viability of maintaining the existing float system into the future. These floats were repurposed from the Amalga Harbor project from the early 2000’s and are past their useful life. Matching funds via the ADOT Harbor Grant program or through the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish.

Temporary Repairs to Taku Harbor: Docks & Harbors Staff effected repairs to the approach dock on May 19th. Outstanding work by all the Harbor staff but especially the folks who executed the repairs:
   Harbor Officer
   Supervisor John Osborn, Deputy Port Engineer Matthew Sill, Harbor Officer
   Kevin Dugan, Harbor Officer Dennis Mathers, and Harbor Officer Barrett Weston. Well done!

John Forchemer retired after 16 years of hard work and dedication to CBJ Docks & Harbors. Fair winds and following seas.