Docks & Harbors
THE TIDE LINE
July 2022

Port Director’s Corner: As we enter the summer full throttle, there is much to report. From the Port of Juneau’s perspective, operations are in high gear and through the first few months of the season, we are observing cruise ships arriving at 68% passenger capacity. It is anticipated that this rate will gradually climb through July and August sailings. In general, returning from the pandemic, I am very pleased how operations are flowing. This is true for both the downtown cruise ship dock facilities and in Statter Harbor. There is always opportunities for improvements and I encourage residents to leverage TBMP to address concerns in the community. The Docks Enterprise staff has been keeping up with the security demands of our busy port. However, staffing shortages have been impeding the ability for the contracted crossing guards along South Franklin Street to effectively staff the five crosswalks. In response, Docks & Harbors has been asked to augment personnel when possible to assist in the efficient flow of traffic along this corridor.

1% Sales Tax Initiative: At the June 27th Assembly COW, the Assembly voted to advance two Docks & Harbors projects as part of the 1% Sales Tax Initiative for a total of $6.5M. The Assembly will still need to approve the slate of projects at its July 11th and August 1st regular Assembly meetings before it will be included on the October 4th ballot. The first project is $5M Aurora Harbor Floats and Upland Improvements in which 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. It is estimated that $10M is required to complete the float replacement in the north end of Aurora Harbor. The second project is for $1.5M Harbor Deferred Maintenance to dredge Wayside Park Fishing Float and for repairs to Taku Harbor. Wayside Park 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 damaging the structural integrity of the float. The existing Taku Harbor “approach floats” were repurposed from the Amalga Harbor project from the early 2000’s and are well past their useful life. We believe there are federal grants available through the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act that could be leveraged with local 1% Sales Tax funds to recapitalize.

Board Members - Farewell & Welcome. Docks & Harbors wishes Board Member Bob Wostmann well as he transitions from the Board. Bob has served the community twice in this capacity, first from 2009-2011 and again from 2018-2022. He was a strong supporter of process and ensuring harbor patron voices were heard. The Assembly reappointed incumbents Annette Smith and Lacey Derr to a new three year term. Debbie Hart was newly selected to her first three-year term. Docks & Harbors is always appreciative of those community members willing to apply and serve the needs of the Juneau waterfront.

Help stop theft in our Harbors! If you see something, say something. Call suspicious activity to JPD Non-Emergency Line at 907-586-0600 and report to the Harbor Office at 907-586-5255.
New Harbor Administrative Assistant III: In our Aurora Harbor Office, Drew Baird has departed Juneau to move his family to Bend, Oregon. We have selected Administrative Assistant Cierra Kendrick to assume this leadership role within the Aurora Harbor Office. We wish Drew well and thank him for his employment with Docks & Harbors. Please stop by and congratulate Cierra as she undertakes this new front-facing, customer service role.

Tourism Best Management Practice (TBMP): In our role to minimize impacts to the community, Docks & Harbors, working with TBMP, has established guideline #60 (http://www.tbmp.info). The intent of this guideline is to reduce impact to residential and commercial properties along Auke Bay to Alaska Glacier Seafoods. Docks & Harbors has worked with tour operators to encourage centerline of the bay transiting into the harbors to reduce wake damage. The transit lanes are provided in the picture and guideline #60 is listed below. Boaters, not familiar with these voluntary guidelines, are advised that TBMP participants may not be transiting in the most direct route to Statter Harbor/Andrew’s Marina in order to minimize wake damage to Auke Bay property owners.

#60. Marine Tour operators, in an effort to minimize wake damage to adjacent property owners in Auke Bay, agree to voluntarily navigate along the centerline of the bay. The proposed centerline is approximate to a line from the white speed buoy to the south end of Coughlin Island. Captains of vessels will agree to remain as close to this proposed centerline as practicable and as depicted in the adjacent image. Operators are reminded of their responsibility to maintain a safe speed at all times and nothing in this voluntary guideline removes the duty to follow established rules of the road.

Statter Harbor Beautification project: In our efforts to improve the aesthetics, Capital Copy was hired to install a vinyl wrap around the electrical transformer in the uplands for the Statter Phase III project.