DOCKS & HARBORS

THE TIDE LINE

January 2026

Port Director's Corner: The December temperatures followed by unprecedented snowfall have stressed many agencies and organizations. Docks & Harbors is no exception and our staff, as of December 31st, has responded to 9 vessels that have sunk throughout the four harbors. The Harbor team has also rescued more than three dozen vessels by installing pumps or emergency jettisoning snow. Our administrative staff has made hundreds of calls to owners whose vessels appear to be floating precariously. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Good Samaritans who assist other vessel owners as well as providing snow removal. 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.). Attending sinking vessels significantly delays our ability to prioritize removal snow with our limited winter staff.

With ringing in the new year, Docks & Harbors tradition has been to reflect in the January TIDE LINE department successes over the past twelve months.

#10. Contract Award for Taku Harbor: In May, a $930K contract was executed with Trucano Construction to replace the approach floats at Taku Harbor. The project will demolish the existing floats (which were repurposed in 2004 from Amalga Harbor) with elevated catwalks. The work will be completed by May 2026.

#9. New Docks & Harbors Board Chair: Shem Sooter was elected new Chair of the Docks & Harbors Board in July. He replaces Don Etheridge, who served 8 years as a Board member and therefore was not eligible for reappointment.

#8. Award of Aurora Harbor Phase IV: This $8M project was awarded to Western Marine Construction in April and is the final phase recapitalizing Aurora Harbor. The earlier phases were completed in 2014, 2018 and 2023. All of the piling and floats have been installed, and the waterlines and electrical work will be completed by April.

#7. Record Tourism Year: Juneau welcomed 1.7M cruise ship passengers in calendar year 2025. This was up 0.8% over 2024 and a high-water mark for numbers with 2026 being similar.

#6. Statter Harbor Roof Replacement: This $200K project was awarded to Dawson Construction in July and rectifies longstanding leaky roof challenges. The building was initially constructed in 2004.

#5. Aurora Drive Down Float Progress: Docks & Harbors was notified in November 2024 of a successful application for a $11.2 million MARAD (Maritime Administration) PIDP grant to install a drive down float in Aurora Harbor. Docks & Harbors solicited professional engineering services and selected PND Engineers to complete environmental permitting and final design. Concurrent with the MARAD grant application, we were successful in leveraging another $1.4M from the ADOT Harbor Facility grant program. We are hopeful that a construction award will be issued in late 2026.

#4. Statter Harbor Improvements Phase 3D: This project was awarded to Dawson Construction in May 2025 for $2.5M to install curb, gutter, paving, landscaping and sidewalks for the commercial bus parking lot at Statter Harbor. This project anticipated providing the contractor significant time during the winter to complete much of the work. Dawson, however, elected to provide a schedule to mobilize during the summer of 2025 and worked around the operations of the bus and tourism companies. This project is essentially complete with the exception of landscaping and small amounts of paving which will be completed by May.

#3. Alaska Association of Harbormasters & Port Administrators (AAHPA) Conference: This statewide conference was scheduled to be held in Dutch Harbor. In July, the Port of Unalaska indicated that they would need to cancel this annual event due to unforeseen personnel changes. CBJ Docks & Harbors took the challenge to organize and execute the conference with two months' notice. Typically, host communities have at least two years to prepare, Juneau pulled off this effort with aplomb receiving many accolades from attendees.

Docks & Harbors Meetings Schedule:

All meetings will be held at the locations below and via Zoom

Operations/ Planning Committee Wed. January 21st

Regular Board Meeting Thurs. January 30th

Meeting agendas and minutes can be found here.

Phone Numbers & Office Hours
All Monday-Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm

All Offices closed 12-1 daily for lunch

Port Office
907-586-0292

Port/Field Office
907-586-5720

Aurora Harbor
907-586-5255

Statter Harbor
907-789-0819

#2. Statter Harbor Breakwater Recapitalization Project: In September 2024, Docks & Harbors and the US Army Corps of Engineers kicked off a three-year study to replace the nearly 40-year year breakwater. Docks & Harbors has the responsibility of half of the planning costs ($2.2M) and USACE is the lead agency to evaluate, plan and design the replacement. In support of the efforts, Docks & Harbors has contracted with Discovery Drilling of Anchorage to collect soil samples in significant quantities to allow USACE to evaluate the geotechnical properties. We anticipate Discovery Drilling to mobilize at Auke Bay in late April 2026.

#1. US Coast Guard Cutter STORIS commissioning: On August 10th, USCGC STORIS was commissioned at a widely attended ceremony at the Alaska Steamship Dock. STORIS is officially homeported in Juneau but will temporarily moor in Seattle until suitable facilities are constructed. This is the largest Juneau investment by the Coast Guard in several decades and will result in an additional 200 federal jobs in our Capital City.











