THE TIDE LINE

Docks & Harbors Monthly Newsletter | November - 2026

MEETING SCHEDULE & PUBLIC ACCESS		
OPERATIONS / PLANNING COMMITTEE Thurs. November 12, 5 pm Port Director's Office	**REGULAR BOARD MEETING** Thurs. November 19, 5 pm Assembly Chambers	**AGENDAS & MINUTES** View agendas and minutes

PORT DIRECTOR'S CORNER

With the departure of the Norwegian Joy on October 6, Juneau bid a fond farewell to the 2026 cruise season. The season concluded with 1,733,016 cruise ship passengers, representing an increase of 4% over 2025. An additional 12,641 passengers visited Juneau aboard small cruise ships. Maritime activity continued beyond the cruise season. Juneau welcomed USS TED STEVENS from October 7-11 following the vessel's commissioning ceremony in Whittier on October 3. The port also hosted HMCS ROBERT HAMPTON GRAY from October 28-31. The newly commissioned Canadian Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessel is en route to its homeport in Esquimalt, British Columbia, after successfully transiting the Northwest Passage. Looking ahead, USCGC STORIS is scheduled to visit Juneau from November 7-11 while transiting to its temporary homeport in Seattle.



ECHO COVE BOARDING FLOAT GRANT AWARD

Docks & Harbors was recently awarded a $1 million Alaska Department of Fish and Game Pittman-Robertson Hunter Access Grant to construct a boarding float at Echo Cove. The project requires a 25% local match from Docks & Harbors and is expected to begin construction as early as next summer. We extend our sincere appreciation to the many stakeholders and community members who provided letters of support during the grant application process.

PASSENGER-FOR-HIRE FEE REGULATION UPDATE

Passenger-for-Hire (PFH) fees are assessed on commercial vessels conducting whale-watching and fishing charter operations from Docks & Harbors facilities. At its September meeting, the Docks & Harbors Board advanced a proposal to increase the PFH fee by $1.37 annually over four years, raising the fee from $2.05 to $7.53 per passenger. A public hearing was held on October 29. Final action on the proposed regulation amendment (05 CBJAC 20.080) is scheduled for the Assembly meeting on November 16.

AURORA HARBOR DRIVE-DOWN FLOAT PROJECT

The bid opening for the $11.5 million Aurora Harbor Drive-Down Float Project is scheduled for November 10. The Docks & Harbors Board is expected to consider bid approval on November 12, with Assembly award consideration anticipated on November 16. The project remains on schedule with a substantial completion date of October 1, 2027.

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ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF HARBORMASTERS & PORT ADMINISTRATORS ANNUAL MEETING (AAHPA)

The annual meeting of AAHPA was held in Valdez from October 19-23, bringing together more than 110 harbormasters, port administrators, consultants, and government representatives from across Alaska. During the conference, AAHPA President Matt Creswell recognized Docks & Harbors Security Officer Jim Collins as the Juneau 2026 Employee of the Year for his outstanding efforts supporting safe and effective nighttime operations throughout Docks & Harbors facilities. Congratulations, Jim, on this well-deserved recognition.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



At the October 29 Docks & Harbors Board meeting, Korrina Buckland, Administrative Assistant at Statter Harbor, was recognized as Employee of the Quarter for the period ending September 2026. She received a plaque, $150 cash award and citation which read in part:

Korrina Buckland is recognized as the EOTQ for her exceptional professionalism, initiative, technical ability, and commitment to improving customer service and administrative operations within Docks & Harbors. Although relatively new to the department, Korrina has quickly become a valuable member of the administrative team and has demonstrated an impressive ability to identify opportunities for improvement and turn them into practical solutions. Her interactions with coworkers and harbor patrons are clear, professional, and respectful, including during difficult conversations. Following a busy season of reserved moorage activity, Korrina also identified opportunities to improve the reservation process and proposed thoughtful policy changes based on her firsthand experience. Her recommendations are intended to encourage timely payments, reduce last-minute reservation changes that consume significant staff time, and address potential lost revenue associated with yacht tenders.... Korrina Buckland exemplifies the professionalism, initiative, teamwork, and commitment to public service that Docks & Harbors strives to provide...and is most deserving as Employee of the Quarter.

JOINT DOCKS & HARBORS AND ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual Joint Docks & Harbors and Assembly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, at 5:30 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers and via Zoom. Discussion topics may include: Cruise ship impacts and management, potential 1% sales tax initiative projects, major capital project updates, and current Docks & Harbors priorities.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BANQUET

The Navy League - Juneau Council will host its 3rd Annual Marine Corps Birthday Banquet at 5:00 p.m. on November 10 at the Juneau Yacht Club. The event serves as a fundraiser supporting the Colonel Archie Van Winkle UAS Scholarship. Tickets are available online for $100 per person and include all food and beverages.

Cruise Ship Passenger Counts

Cruise Ship Capacity	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total / Average
Total Vessel Capacity	10,340	290,933	355,384	361,198	362,905	269,947	8,752	1,659,459
Actual Passenger Count	10,216	293,854	378,245	393,771	381,318	266,556	9,056	1,733,016
Capacity Utilization	99%	101%	106%	109%	105%	99%	103%	104%

Port Office	Port Field Office	Aurora Harbor	Statter Harbor	All offices
907-586-0292	907-596-5720	907-586-5255	907-789-0819	closed from
Mon-Fri	Mon-Fri	Mon-Fri	Mon-Fri	12pm-1pm
8:00-4:30pm	8:00am-4:30pm	8:00am-4:30pm	8:00am-4:30pm	for lunch