



**CITY OF
DILLINGHAM
ALASKA**

**HARBOR OPERATIONS
MANUAL**

[Effective Date]

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1. INTRODUCTION & GOVERNANCE

1.1 Mission Statement

The City of Dillingham Harbor Department is committed to ensuring safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible access to harbor facilities for commercial, subsistence, and recreational vessels. The harbor supports the regional fishing fleet, marine transportation, and public waterfront access while protecting public safety and Bristol Bay’s marine environment.

1.2 Legal Authority

Harbor operations are governed by:

- Dillingham Municipal Code
- The City of Dillingham Terminal Tariff and Fee Schedule
- Applicable State of Alaska statutes
- Applicable federal regulations including U.S. Coast Guard rules

The Port Director is hired by the City Manager and is authorized to:

- Assign and regulate moorage
- Enforce municipal harbor regulations
- Impose fees and penalties pursuant to the tariff
- Order relocation of vessels when required for safety or operational necessity
- Address emergency situations

Failure to comply with Port Director directives may result in fines, eviction, or impoundment as authorized by municipal code.

1.3 Operations Calendar & Hours

May 15-June 14	Partially open (no floats installed)	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
June 15-July 31	Full operations (all amenities/services available)	Monday-Friday 7am-7pm & Saturday-Sunday 8am-5pm
August 1-September 30	Partial closure (East floats removed)	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

October 1-May 14	Closed for winter (no amenities/services)	Closed, for assistance please send an email to harbor@dillinghamak.us
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1.4 Contact Directory

Emergency:

- VHF Channel 16 (monitored by the United States Coast Guard and Harbor staff)
- Dial 911

Local Contacts:

Harbor Office
(907) 842-1069
harbor@dillinghamak.us

Police Department
(907) 842-5354

EMS/Fire Services
(907) 842-2288

2. HARBOR FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1 Harbor Facilities

The harbor includes:

- Inner Harbor (float system)
- Entrance channel
- Boat launch ramps (small boat harbor and Wood River location)
- Kanakanak Beech Access Road
- Other associated uplands and access roads

The Harbor Master defines operational limits and navigational lanes.

2.2 Inner Harbor & Anchorage

Inner Harbor (Float System):

- No reserved or assigned Moorage (first-come first-served)
- Subject to space limitations
- Rafting permitted and often required

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- Adherence to “loading/unloading only” zones will be enforced

Anchorage:

- Anchoring must not obstruct navigation channels
- Vessels must maintain proper ground tackle
- Vessels anchored in harbor are subject to all harbor use fees

2.3 Crane Operations

Cranes may be used for:

- Gear lifting
- Brailer operations
- Vessel-related cargo handling

Safety Protocols:

- Only trained and authorized operators (harbor staff)
- No passengers in suspended loads
- Clear communication required during lifts
- Load limits strictly observed

The Harbor Master may suspend crane use during unsafe weather or congestion.

2.4 Utilities & Services

Parking:

- Parking is limited during peak season
- Long-term parking in upper parking lot next to NAPA
- Adhere to all signage and Harbor Master direction

Shore Power:

- Marine-grade cords only
- Cords must not create tripping hazards

Water Access:

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- Water access is limited but currently free of charge
- Hoses must not be left running unattended

Bath House:

- Free use showers and restrooms
- During Season: Closed 10pm-7am
- Offseason: Closed

Flake Ice:

Flake ice is produced upon individual requests and requires lead time dependent on amount of ice needed. Please contact the Harbor Office in advance for any ice needs.

Waste Oil Disposal:

- Used oil must be deposited at designated collection station (located inside fence adjacent to harbor office)
- No dumping **ANYWHERE** other than designated collection station

Improper disposal may result in fines and environmental enforcement action.

3. BERTHING & MOORAGE POLICIES

3.1 Limited Space

Dillingham operates under extreme seasonal congestion, particularly during June and July (commercial salmon season). Though there are no moorage assignments, all harbor users are expected to be mindful and respectful of the needs of other and adhere to all signage and Harbor Master direction.

3.2 Moorage

Annual Moorage:

- Requires seasonal harbor sticker
- Good from January 1 to December 31
- Subject to fee schedule
- No assigned moorage

Transient Moorage:

- Short-term (up to 24hrs per day) occupancy
- Subject to daily rates per Terminal Tariff
- All moorage is first-come first-served

3.3 Rafting Protocol & Requirements

In the Dillingham Boat Harbor, it is often required to raft during the peak of the season.

When rafting:

- Adequate fenders required
- Spring lines required
- Engines must remain accessible
- Outer vessels must provide 24-hour contact
- Vessel owners/operators must accommodate rafting requests
- No refusal without valid safety reason

Failure to cooperate may result in moorage revocation.

3.4 Unattended Vessels

Vessels left unattended beyond allowable periods must:

- Be registered with Harbor Office
- Maintain valid insurance
- Remain seaworthy

The City may impound abandoned or derelict vessels per municipal authority.

4. SEASONAL OPERATIONS

4.1 Launch & Haul Out

- All traffic lanes must remain clear of obstructions for launch/haul out operations

- All launch/haul out operations should be respectful of other users' needs
- All launch/haul outs are subject to fees (refer to fee schedule)

It is the responsibility of a boat hauler to make sure the [vessel(s)] they are launching or pulling out have paid current fees for their harbor use. If the [vessel(s)] being launched or pulled out do not have the proper paperwork filed with the port director, the hauler will be charged or cited. (DMC. 2.42.050)

4.2 Traffic Control

- Strict No Wake Zone inside harbor basin
- Speed limits enforced
- Yield to outbound vessels
- Maintain clear access at harbor mouth

Unsafe operation may result in citation.

4.3 Fuel Deliveries

Fuel deliveries to the harbor should be conducted safely and efficiently in accordance with all Federal, state, and Municipal laws and regulations.

- Coordinate with delivery companies to complete transactions and deliveries promptly
- Coordinate with processors and vendors

Harbor staff may direct traffic during peak delivery periods.

5. SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

5.1 Tidal Awareness

Dillingham experiences extreme tidal fluctuations, frequently exceeding 20 feet.

All vessels must:

- Use heavy-duty mooring lines

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- Allow sufficient slack for vertical movement
- Inspect lines daily

The Harbor assumes no responsibility for improperly secured vessels.

5.2 Pollution Prevention

Zero tolerance for:

- Pumping oily bilge water
- Dumping garbage overboard
- Fuel spills
- Discharge of hazardous materials

Spills must be immediately reported to:

- Harbor Office
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- U.S. Coast Guard (if required)

Violations, including failure to report, may result in fines, civil penalties, and criminal charges.

5.3 Fire Safety

- No smoking near fuel transfer areas
- Maintain working fire extinguishers onboard
- Do not block fire lanes
- Report electrical hazards immediately

Emergency response may involve City Fire Department and the U.S. Coast Guard.

6. MAINTENANCE & WINTERIZATION

6.1 Maintenance Dredging

Navigable depth is maintained every spring by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- Dredging schedules coordinated with City
- Mariners advised to operate with caution around dredging operations

6.2 End of Season Closure

The harbor remains open with limited services until approximately the end of September when it is shut down for the winter.

- Shore power may be disconnected
- Water lines shut off (including bath house)
- Floats are removed from water

The Harbor Master does require vessel removal prior to freeze conditions.

7. ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES

Violations of municipal code or harbor tariff may result in:

- Written warning
- Citation
- Fines
- Revocation of moorage
- Impoundment
- Legal action

The Harbor Master's decisions may be appealed pursuant to municipal code procedures.

8. RATES & FEES

Please refer to the Port of Dillingham Terminal Tariff found on the City webpage.

9. AMENDMENTS

This manual may be updated by administrative action to remain consistent with the Dillingham Municipal Code, adopted tariff schedules, and applicable state and federal regulations.