



City of Homer

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Port and Harbor

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JANUARY 2020 PORT & HARBOR STAFF REPORT

1. Administration

Staff met with:

- US Army Corps of Engineers(USACE), AK Marine Excavators, and Global Divers- kick off meeting for harbor entrance obstruction removal
- Katie Koester, City Manager and Staff- regarding the old ferry terminal building and maintenance
- Bruce Lambert, Gateway Director of Pacific Northwest & Alaska Maritime Administration- Regarding MARAD
- Katie Koester, City Manager & Michael Rzeszut, of Alaska Growth Capital Inc. (AGC)- regarding City property lease
- Michael Gatti & Cindy Cartledge of JDO Law- regarding large vessel port funding packet
- Todd Vanhove & Joselyn Biloon, AK DOT Planning- regarding the large vessel port expansion, long term erosion mitigation plan for the Homer Spit, and Spit traffic, safety and signage issues
- Ronny McPherson, HDR Engineering- regarding large vessel port expansion project
- Chumley's Inc.- regarding logistics of sulfur load-out
- Michael Tencza, USACE (teleconference)- Homer harbor dredging contract bid opening
- Matthew Dura, Nelson Engineering- regarding electrical shower power systems of the small boat harbor and barge mooring facility.
- Homer Marine Trades Association- monthly meeting
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary – regarding change of command ceremony
- Jennifer McLay, AGC caretaker for Auction Block property – regarding bi-annual on-site inspection of grinder components for DEC
- Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) (teleconference)- board meeting
- Katie Koester, City Manager- transition meeting
- Jacquelyn Overbeck, Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys – Homer Harbor site visit regarding Homer coastal mapping, coastal water levels and real-time data access and AAHPA interests in water levels

See memo: Anchorage Business Trip Dec. 12 2019, for further details

2. Operations

The months of December and January provided the return of Alaskan winter weather compelling operations staff to focus efforts on snow removal from the float systems. The Bering Sea crab and cod fleets departed for its fisheries in the days following Christmas. Freezing temperatures have increased demand for the winter metered power program, with approximately 50 vessels currently participating. Significant harbor ice congestion has limited small vessels in their ability to maneuver within, causing several to haul-out or relocate to moorings closer to the harbor entrance.

Sulfur export operations on the port facility have commenced. The M/V Tufty arrived at the deep water dock on Thursday, January 9th. Operations staff is working to ensure pedestrian and vehicle safety while maintaining a dedicated trucking route from the cargo storage yard to the entrance of the dock for delivery to the ship.

The following vessels conducted landings at the at the Pioneer Dock and Deep Water Docks: Perseverance, Endeavor, Barge Jovalan, Tustumena, Kennicott, Bob Franco, Pacific Wolf & DBL55, M/V Tufty, M/V Iberian Bulker, Stellar Wind, and Glacier Wind.

The following notable events occurred:

- On 12/29, harbor officer used the harbor tug to assist a 120' fishing tender maneuver in the small boat harbor.
- On 12/30, operations staff used the harbor tug and skiff to move a 175' supply vessel and 150' landing craft rafted abreast on each other.
- On 12/31, strong westerly winds and freezing temperatures created blizzard-like conditions on the Homer Spit reducing visibility to less than 20'.
- On 1/1, freeze damage to fresh water plumbing was discovered at the deep water dock restrooms and the ice plant.
- On 1/2, operations staff used the harbor tug and skiff to tow a 100' tender and assist two 120' crab boats maneuver to their berths.
- On 1/4, a graveyard shift harbor officer responded to an EMS call involving a 69 year old male suffering from chest pain aboard an inbound vessel.
- On 1/5, the harbor tug and skiff were relocated to moorings below ramp 2 in order to maintain response ready status and avoid being locked into the harbor ice.
- On 1/7, operations staff adjusted the shaft seals aboard the harbor tug.
- On 1/8, a harbor officer assisted a customer to close the isolation valve to her vessel's raw water cooling system.
- On 1/10, harbor officers posted advisory signage at the entry of the commercial barge ramp.
- On 1/13, a graveyard shift harbor officer discovered frozen plumbing and running water at the USCG Hickory buoy yard building.

3. Ice Plant

The main excitement during the last 6 weeks started with a westerly gale force wind on New Year's Eve when the temperature dropped 40 degrees in just a few hours. The strong wind prevented the outer door to the toilets from closing, blew the ceiling tiles out of place and caused a waterline to freeze and bust. Fortunately, the subsequent water damage was confined to the old Secom room. We've plugged the overhead passageway so it cannot happen again, removed the damaged sheet rock and ceiling tiles, repaired the broken pipe, and are letting everything thoroughly dry before making repairs.

In other news, we have:

- Finished our weather stripping project
- Pulled the ammonia system into a vacuum
- Replaced oil filters and inspected crankcases on 5 compressors
- Started rebuild on HS – 4 compressor
- Modified clamp system and serviced Ice Bin evaporator fans
- Replaced bad auger on Tote delivery system
- Repaired leak in compressor coolant system
- Replaced broken pin on snow plow
- Serviced indoor augers and gear boxes
- Serviced Ice Bin Rake Winch
- Serviced Ice Machines

- Provided Coffman Engineers with feedback on the Energy Audit draft report and started analysis of final report
- Discovered damage to overhead electrical conduit and identified the responsible party

4. Port Maintenance

In addition to routine maintenance tasks, Port Maintenance has been busy with:

- Snow removal and sanding
- Ice removal from barge and launch ramps
- Mitigating damage from frozen water pipes
- Troubleshooting equipment issues
- Assisting with Sulphur load out as needed

