



Douglas Indian Association Tribal Government

1021 Glacier Ave Juneau, Alaska 99801-1529
Phone: (907) 364-2916 Fax: (907) 364-2917



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips
U.S. DOT Maritime Administration
West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg & Administrator Phillips,

The Douglas Indian Association (DIA) is a federally-recognized tribe with about 700 Tribal members, many of who live within the Tribe's traditional and historic territory. DIA's Base Roll Tribal members originate from the T'aaku Kwáan and A'akw Kwáan clans which have inhabited the Anax Yaa Andagan Yé (Douglas) and Dzantik'i Héeni (Juneau) region since time immemorial. Our traditional and historical territory encompasses all of the City and Borough of Juneau, as well as some areas to the east and north on Admiralty Island and the Chilkat Peninsula, to the south encompassing Endicott Arm, and to the east into Canada in the areas of the Taku River and Atlin, B.C.

Through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, the State of Alaska conveyed lands to Native corporations in Southeast Alaska, but no land was conveyed to the Tribe in the Douglas or Juneau area. Currently the DIA membership has grown to over 700 tribal members. Most of the members live within the city and Borough of Juneau (CBJ), which has an overall population average of about 32,000. There are approximately 6,000 Alaska Natives living in the City and Borough of Juneau and Douglas, many of whom are eligible to apply for membership in DIA.

DIA strongly and unconditionally supports the CBJ Docks & Harbors efforts to construct a drive down float at Aurora Harbor, which is less than 2000 feet from our Tribal Office in Juneau. As Tlingit people of SE Alaska for over 10,000 years, we are maritime nation which relies on access to the water for transportation, subsistence and culture. The Tlingit people has depended on salmon from time immemorial. We have a numerous number of Tribal members who commercially fish that would benefit immensely with this infrastructure improvement to the CBJ Harbor. The project would create efficiencies and improved safety for commercial fishermen to load stores, change out gear and for routine maintenance on their vessels. The float could potentially be used for direct sales of fish to public which would be a direct economic benefit.

This proposed drive down float could also facilitate more efficient movement of freight and goods from the regional hub of Juneau to our Tribal members throughout SE Alaska and British Columbia. Currently there are no downtown Juneau facilities that support regional marine transportation. This project would help in commercial loading of freight, including fish product.

CBJ Docks & Harbors routinely works with DIA to ensuring Tribal needs are met. DIA stand firmly in support of this project and looks forward to this project serving the needs of Juneau, including the Alaskan Native community.

Sincerely,


Clarence A. Laiti

Tribal President



April 12, 2023

Carl Uchtyl
Port Director CBJ Docks and Harbors
City & Borough of Juneau
Docks & Harbors
155 S. Seward Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Aurora Harbor

Dear Mr. Uchtyl

The Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) is in favor of the City of Juneau pursuing the PIDP grant to construct a drive down float at Aurora Harbor. SEAS is a private non-profit association representing the majority of the salmon purse seine fishermen in Southeast Alaska.

A drive down dock at Aurora Harbor would not only benefit purse seine fishermen, but all other commercial fishermen in northern Southeast Alaska. It would also relieve the congestion at the downtown dock in Juneau.

If there is anything more that SEAS can do to get this project underway do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Sincerely,

Phil Doherty
Executive Director – SEAS
PO Box 6238
Ketchikan, AK 99901

CC: Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Ann C. Phillips US Navy (Ret.)

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

Box 2196, Petersburg AK 99833 * (253) 279-0707 * usag.alaska@gmail.com * akgillnet.org

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY
April 16, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation

Rear Admiral, Ann C. Phillips, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Administrator

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Pete and Ann,

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters is a non-profit entity that works to preserve, protect, and enhance the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery. Our membership consists of fishermen and businesses from the region.

Today we are writing to support the drive down float at Aurora Harbor proposed by City and Borough of Juneau Docks and Harbors, and their application for a Port Infrastructure Development grant. Drive down floats are vital infrastructure additions to any harbor, especially one as busy as Juneau's. Commercial fisherman can easier transfer gear, heavy parts, supplies, and product. Other harbor users, including public safety, will also benefit, as it will allow for a more timely and safe transfer of whatever needs moved from boat to vehicle, or vice-versa.

Drive down floats are fairly new to the area, but where they have been installed, they see extremely high use. Juneau has a large harbor complex, is home to the most fishermen from our fisheries fleet, is home to many sport charter operations, whale watching business, and in summer see an extraordinary amount of visitation of yacht tourism. A well-managed drive down float would be a good addition to the CBJ Docks and Harbors complex, and would be well used and serviceable for decades.

Sincerely,



Max Worhatch, Executive Director, USAG



JUNEAU, ALASKA

April 17, 2023

Carl Uchytel, P.E.
Port Director
155 S. Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Aurora Harbor drive down dock proposal

Carl,

We feel that the proposed drive down dock in Aurora harbor would be a great infrastructure addition for both our local fleet and out of town fishermen that deliver to our plant. Being able to transfer fishing gear, load groceries and other supplies at another access point would lessen the bottleneck we experience at times at the IVF float during the busy summer months with the lack of loading zone space.

A drive down float would also make it much easier for any of the local vendors including engine service, hydraulic repair, electrical repair and refrigeration service to access the boats by being able to drive down and park beside the boat.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hank Baumgart". The signature is stylized with large, flowing letters.

Hank Baumgart, President

550 South Franklin Street
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 463-4617

From: Mary Becker <jmbecker@gci.net>
Subject: Drive down docks
Date: April 4, 2023 at 3:08:46 PM AKDT
To: Mary Becker <jmbecker@gci.net>
Cc: carl.uchytil@gmail.com

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jim Becker. I have been a commercial fisherman in Alaska for over 50 years fishing salmon, halibut, black cod and herring.

Fishing gear for each separate fishery requires very time consuming effort because the gear is heavy and bulky. Most fishing ports provide equipment such as hydraulic cranes and in many cases have drive down docks so that gear and other necessary supplies can be delivered right next to the vessel.

Often fishing vessels are trying to change over gear from one fishery to another at the same time. There is a short amount of time to change gear from one fishery to another making the available space very limited. Many fishermen, such as myself and my son and others, participate in several fisheries which requires switching gear several times a season.

Drive down docks are a convenient, quick way to facilitate several boats in a short amount of time to give everyone the ability to off load and load gear. With a drive down dock, trucks and other equipment for boat repair can be parked next to the vessel.

Drive down docks are extremely beneficial to commercial fishermen. In my 50 + years as a fisherman, I know that any ability to supply vessels would be a great benefit.

We in Juneau have been waiting for years to build a drive down dock and now we finally have the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Jim Becker
Commercial Fisherman
F/V KRISTINE
Juneau, Alaska

April 10, 2023

Harbormaster:

As a harbor patron and commercial fisherman, I would like to offer my whole hearted support for the proposed drive down ramp in Aurora Basin harbor.

As I understand, the vicinity of the old fuel dock is the suggested site, and I agree this would be an excellent choice.

Should you have any questions, or require further support, please feel free to contact me via any of the following methods.

Sincerely,

Michael Walsh
F/V Silver Fox
Slip H227
Walshm@gci.net
907 723 9883 (call or text)

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of US Dept of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590

4-6-23

Sir:

My name is Robert Mosher. I'm
a Fisher-man in Juneau, Alaska. My Boat
is the F/V Persistence.

I'm writing you to express my extreme
support for The Building of a Drivdown
dock by Juneau Docks & Harbors. We
are one of the few Harbors in SE Alaska
not to Have a drive down dock.

A drive down dock would make my
operation much faster & safer for handling
gear & equipment compared to our current
system of using cranes to Lift our gear
& equipment on & off my vessel.

I've been fishing for over 50 years
and know this would be a major improvement
in harbor Infrastructure for our community.

Your consideration of this project is
greatly appreciated.

11985 Mendenhall Loop Rd
Juneau, AK 99801

Sincerely,
Robert T Mosher