



Memo

To: Glenn Steckman – City Manager
From: Lucas Stotts – Harbormaster
CC: Joy Baker – Port Director; Nome Port Commission
Date: January 20, 2022
Re: 2nd Quarter Report F2022

Office/Accounting:

As the summer shipping season ended due to storms and ice, the Port of Nome shifted seasonal personnel to other departments for the winter months, reducing staff until the next summer season begins. Port staff continue to work through the open accounts receivable, through email and phone notifications to customers daily. A number of past due port customers have set up payment plans as we continue to work with folks to reduce their account balances. Staff are setting up for the next round of property impoundment notices that will go out in February. Any property impounded will be added to the list from last season and go to public auction in the spring.

Currently there are 22 separate cruise ships making port calls in Nome in the 2022 season. Port Admin staff is looking into short and long term options to address the increased need for security personnel for the large number of cruise ships scheduled to call on the Port of Nome.

Operations:

Vessel traffic at the facility and in the region is typically complete the first week of October, with cargo and fuel barges headed south due to increasing storm activity and the forming/flowing ice migrating down from the north. This season we had Alaska Marine Lines W1009 voyage at the dock from the 6th -8th of October, and received research vessels later into the fall. UAF's SKULIAQ called on our facility for resupply and crew needs on October 1st – 5th, November 4th -8th and also November 16th -18th, at which time we had ice forming in the Outer Harbor and the Small Boat Harbor was already frozen over solid. The changing climate, marine environment and more vessel activity in the region all contribute to the Port of Nome receiving more port calls for service and the need for more lengthy stays to accommodate their transfers of gear and crew, replenish stores, and conduct ship repairs/outfitting/fueling. Increased shoulder seasons are allowing more vessels to operate in the Bering Sea earlier in the spring and later into the fall, more so than what the facility has seen in the past.

2021 was a very busy shipping season for gravel and rock, with record numbers of material exported to project along the Western Alaska coastline. Port staff are currently talking with several construction companies on details about the upcoming 2022 season, some of which are already planning another repeat of 2021 with large gravel volumes being stockpiled and exported from Nome. Extensive discussion and consideration is being given to the conflicts this will present with other shippers and the high volume of cruise vessels Nome is expecting, to ensure all operations flow smoothly with minimal delays. The 2022 schedule is also looking like it will bring more research vessels and operations to the region, due to changes in the marine environment, increased traffic and increased attention on the Arctic. These types of operations are a mix of both cargo and passenger, typically requiring multiple flights of scientists and crew, as well as transfers of science gear and equipment. These research vessels typically require a full resupply during their time in port^[JB1].



(UAF's SIKULIAQ departing the Nome facility in thin ice November 18th 2021)

Maintenance:

Port staff have the below remaining items from the fall that will be completed in the spring prior to vessel traffic starting for the season.

- Full facility trash cleanup with special focus on the Boat Yard and vessel storage locations.
- Maintain surfacing for cargo laydown areas for village freight on Lower IP.
- Service and perform condition survey on Causeway High Mast Lighting poles, lowering devices and lighting units. Received a new test light unit from CRW we will install to determine if we want to replace the rest with this type of lighting unit.
- Service and launch the old Boston Whaler skiff with 9hp outboard to use for boom deployment on oil spills in the Small Boat Harbor. Install new bilge pump and float switch.
- Construct tide gauge boards to be installed in the spring to give staff and users a visual indicator to the current water levels in the facility.
- Continue to weld and service hand rails on South Wall ladders.

- Replace remaining ring buoy lines with line bags to provide further reach and protection from UV rays.
- Perform annual maintenance on port vehicles and install new radios and lighting.
- Install new drip pans for Causeway fuel header containment.
- GARCO cleanup after leasing to customers in preparation for PWR and Port winter storage needs.
- Surface grading and washout repair from heavy commercial equipment traffic.
- Construct new VHF radio bank at Port Office with inventory and maintenance spreadsheet to track long term issues and servicing needs.

Vehicle Status:

2014 FORD F250 4X4 (Good)

2012 GMC Sierra Crew Cab 4X4 (Good, need to order new rear bumper and hitch receiver)

2002 FORD F350 Flatbed (Fair – new fuel tank installed, needs new bed due to rust from calcium/sand)

2005 CHEVY Trailblazer (Fair)

2010 Guardian Trailer (Good)

2010 Guardian SAR/Workboat (Good)

2020 TuffBoat Work Skiff (Good)

2020 TuffBoat Work Skiff Trailer (Good)