

2026 Spring Harbormaster Report

Staff: We are anticipating a full crew as we approach the summer.

Maintenance:

North Harbor – Seasonal cleaning and upkeep. We had RockNRoad Marine replace the wood under the outer float UHMW wear points as well as repair one of the corners that had gotten damaged last winter. Maintenance noticed a floatation issue where we think the sheet ice pushed out a tub on Float two.

Middle Harbor – Seasonal cleaning and upkeep. Parkinglot is filling up with Harbor supplies.

South Harbor – Seasonal cleaning and upkeep. We are still on the list for Rock n Road marine division to maintenance the piling collars and hinge repair work. They got to the C-Float issue – repairing an outside corner and replacing the wood under the UHMW float sections. Petro’s float had the same issues, so we were able to split some of the mob & de-mob costs with them

Crane Dock – RNR replaced 4 piling this spring and maintenance staff continues to work on the tops of the rest to protect the life of the upper portion of the pilings. The roto seal on the Big Crane continues to give us problems, Piston & Rudder are overseeing the fix and we are replacing the parts as needed.

Drive Down – Busy! The 30-day parking continues to get reduced again as Scow Bay project progresses, and maintenance supplies get relocated to the Approach. The Harbor has given up the 13th street (old pole yard) area to support the Fire Dept’s burn tower & training equipment move out of Scow Bay.

Scow Bay – Continue to monitor area daily and maintenance as needed. We are standing by for the agreement from MARAD to authorize the spending package and finalize the bid packet. Communication is occurring through the Harbor Department now and project management will occur jointly with PEDC and the Harbor with the understanding that upon project completion operations of the boat yard will fall under the Harbor Dept authority.

Staff is starting to formulate ordinances around these future operations by working with Borough Admin and Finance to come up with policies, charges and budget. We are exploring other similar operations to aide in policy development.

Staff continues to work with the delegation to seek funding for a basin and new harbor. There has been recent excitement coming out of Senator Sullivan’s office concerning the build up of USCG all across Alaska. Though Petersburg is probably not a good fit for the new Arctic Class cutters (ice-breakers), we are a great option for the smaller class vessels and continue to support the idea of relocating vessels that frequently anchor up in south of town to a future mooring facility here in Petersburg. I had PND update the 2022 “pitch” I made to the USCG Admiral and along with Mayor Lynn and Borough Manager, Giesbrecht I held a virtual meeting with the 10 year USCG planning team in early April. We are working together to plan for the delivery of the new 120 ft. bouy tender designated for homeporting in Petersburg in 2032.

Misc:

-The waiting list continues to grow. The new language making changes to the permanent moorage contracts concerning inactive vessels has reduce the waiting list numbers. Staff continue to monitor approx. 30 inactive vessels and will be sending out a second round of contact letters to individual boat owners that fall into this category.

-We are working with Alec Shramek to clean all the underwater water/fire lines

-April 1st staff went public with the 2025 tour ship schedule. Last year's numbers resulted in 97 stops for the season. The 2026 schedule has 84 total stops, which includes the February announcement from Allen Marine of their suspension of their overnight excursion. The success of the doubling of ACL stops from previous seasons has continued this year and will result in 16 overnights at C float which will change the availability of moorage for our tender fleet and larger yachts.

-Recent word came to the Borough that the application for conveying approximately 8.8 acres of DNR tidelands at Papke's Landing is ready for transfer. The Borough is just waiting on a formal letter to transfer of DOT's dock to ownership to the Borough before conveyance occurs.

We expect this summer to change out the Harbor Office's 40 year old boiler and heating source, so will wait for warmer weather in July to perform the project.

Harbor Security Boat/operator is getting more frequently used these days. The Water Dept asks us to transport them monthly to and from their outflow (6) sites. Transport groups to and from Kupreanof – Kupreanof Days and Kinderskog. These groups pay for fuel and operators time to offset the Harbor budget expenses.