



CITY OF WHITTIER

Gateway to Western Prince William Sound

P.O. Box 608 Whittier, Alaska 99693 | (907) 472-2327 | Fax (907) 472-2404

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Shen and Council Members

Through: Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager

From: David Borg, Harbormaster

Date: November 18, 2025

Subject: Annual Transient Moorage Discount Synopsis

Overview

The proposed “Annual Transient Moorage” discount rate structure submitted by Mr. Pinquoch is presented for introduction at the November 18 regular meeting. Although the proposal was initially advanced to Council for consideration, it was subsequently reviewed by the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission at its November 6 meeting.

Using figures based on the 2026 fee schedule, harbor staff evaluated the financial impact of the proposed structure. Currently, 28 vessels pay monthly transient moorage from April 1 through September 30, then transition to winter moorage from October 1 through March 31. If these same 28 vessels were converted under the proposed annual structure, the harbor would experience an estimated **loss of \$36,873.60 in moorage revenue** and **\$1,843.68 in sales tax** to the General Fund.

Implementation Considerations

Transition and Billing Impacts

If the proposed annual payment were to take effect January 1, 2026, the Harbor would need to prorate the 2025–2026 winter moorage fees that have already been collected. Staff would then need to reconcile and collect the remaining balance from affected vessel owners to align with the new structure. This may create confusion and will cause additional administrative burden mid-season.

Contractual Terms and Departures

To ensure fairness and consistency, vessel owners entering into the annual arrangement would need to sign an agreement acknowledging that early termination or departure would revert their moorage rate to the standard monthly transient rate for the duration of their stay. This may result in additional charges upon departure.



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Administrative Tracking

Implementation would require staff to track each vessel by its individual anniversary date rather than by the established seasonal schedule. This would introduce new recordkeeping requirements beyond current practices.

Policy and Equity Concerns

The proposal does not address the **existing disparity among 37 vessels currently under Annual Transient Moorage Agreements (ATMA)**, a rate structure that has never been codified. During the 2024 budget review, Council opted to retain that rate while requesting a more equitable approach be developed for all harbor users.

The proposed new rate structure introduces another separate fee category without resolving the underlying inequity, potentially creating additional confusion and inconsistent application among users.

Recommendation

The **Port & Harbor Advisory Commission** recommends that Council schedule a **joint work session** to discuss:

- The financial and administrative implications of the proposed annual structure,
- Options for integrating or replacing the existing ATMA rate, and
- The development of a clear, codified fee schedule that applies uniformly to all vessels.

A collaborative discussion will ensure that future moorage rates are equitable, transparent, and sustainable for both harbor users and the City.