Dear Harbormasters, Harbor staff, vessel owners and crew around Alaska,

It’s been an exciting winter for Alaska Clean Harbors, with a lot of activity around the state both at harbors and some new outreach with boaters. In harbor news, we’ve started working with Haines, Sitka, Valdez and Cordova on Alaska Clean Harbors certification. Our graphic designer is working on developing our ACH Harbor Maps, which will be made custom for each harbor facility we work with once we’re done the design phase this spring. To create templates, we’re working with Homer as a single-basin facility and with Sitka as a multi-basin facility. We’ve developed standard icons and a layout for these brochure-style maps, and we’re excited to provide you with this great outreach tool for customers in 2013.

In other news, I’ve been working with a handful of folks on moving forward HB131

Many of you will remember the Homer AAHPA meeting in 2011, and the lengthy and engaged conversation on abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV) led by Holly Wells, Homer’s legal counsel from Birch Horton Bittner and Cherot. Last year in Sitka, Holly and Mike Lukshin from Alaska DOT again addressed this topic, and this time with specific suggestions and an outline for how we as a state could improve how we respond to and deal with these vessels. At the membership meeting, the AAHPA passed resolution 2012-02 supporting changes to Alaska Statute 30.30 to empower all municipalities as well as state agencies beyond DOT to deal with ADV.

The Alaska Clean Harbors program looks at a wide array of topics, from oil spill response and sewage management to boat maintenance activities and abandoned and derelict vessel concerns. With this wide scope, we have been able to step up to help facilitate conversations on ADV in Alaska and hopefully to help move this

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Derelict Vessels (continued from page 1)

process forward. Beyond the current legislative session, there are ongoing discussions about convening an ad-hoc task force that can look at the legal, practical and financial realities of our current ADV situation and make thorough and well-researched recommendations to the legislature with the intent of creating a future statewide ADV program. We look forward to bringing this topic up at the AAHPA meeting this October in Valdez. In the meantime, please take a moment to fill out the online survey of the Abandoned & Derelict Vessels you have in your harbor now. Collecting information is one step in addressing the problem, and we can’t do it without your help! Find the survey at this website: [http://bit.ly/ZyOzLJ](http://bit.ly/ZyOzLJ). One vessel per form – there’s an option to submit another when you’re done with the first!

Thanks to Seward and Bethel for submitting vessels to this new informational database so quickly!

Dockwalkers

For the past two years we have attended a couple of boat shows in the spring – the Anchors Aweigh Boat Show, which is largely recreational boaters, and ComFish in Kodiak. At these shows we have a booth where we talk about clean boating resources and tools, answer questions and give out clean boating kits free to interested boat owners. In return we ask people to fill out a brief survey to give us some feedback and information on current perceptions and activities related to clean boating.

In March I traveled to Cordova and met with their community Clean Harbors group. This group of organizations and interested community members has been giving out similar clean boating materials, putting displays out at local businesses, airing clean boating PSAs on local radio, and generally raising awareness about clean boating in Cordova. I was inspired by their efforts, and with our new partnership with the City of Cordova and work with the Harbor through Alaska Clean Harbors we are excited to provide this group with resources to help them continue their exciting work. In late-April I’ll be heading to Seward to meet with a group of interested community members to start a similar project, and through Cook Inletkeeper we’ll start “Dockwalking” – clean boating outreach directly with boaters at the harbor – in Homer.

Let us know if you think a clean boating outreach program like “Dockwalkers” would be a good fit in your community. Alaska Clean Harbors is excited to partner with local organizations and interested individuals to provide materials and training in boater outreach that helps reduce pollution and meet ACH goals towards harbor certification.
Letter (continued from page 1)

in Juneau. We’re hoping it will be heard soon on the floor and that a companion bill can move quickly through the Senate. HB131 brings forward the Alaska Statute changes suggested by the AAHPA during your October meeting. See page 1 for more about progress on Abandoned & Derelict Vessel issues.

We’re also starting to work more with community groups and directly with boaters to talk about waste management and pollution prevention in harbors and while boating. See page 2 for more on these ‘Dockwalker’ programs in Seward, Cordova and Homer.

As always, please don’t hesitate to drop me a line with questions, ideas, or just to say hello! Check in on our news page at www.alaskacleanharbors.org for updates on Clean Harbors activities around the state and resources that you may find useful. I’m hoping to see you all at the October AAHPA meeting in Valdez. Big news on the home front here is that I’m having a baby in August, so assuming I can make it to Valdez I’ll likely have an infant in tow! There’s plenty of exciting work to be done, so the plan for now is to be there although I’ll probably have to forgo the late nights on the town.

Good luck with all of your busy seasons, both already in progress and soon to come!

Sincerely,

Rachel, ACH Coordinator

Selecting Sorbent Material For Your Harbor

By Steve Russell

Most Harbors around in Alaska use polypropylene sorbent material when they respond to sheens or spills in the Harbors. This material comes in many different forms and sizes - is your community getting the most for your money with the type and style of sorbent you are using?

Sorbent boom is one of the more common types of sorbent material used. It comes in diameters between 3 inch and 8 inch and in single or double layers. Sorbent in this form is easy to store, deploy and recover. The most common size used is the 5 inch boom which although is widely used in Alaska, may not be the most cost effective size to use. The larger diameter booms have a high capacity for collection of refined products but require that the boom remains in contact with the spilled product for a longer period of time before they become saturated. A five inch diameter boom can collect 3-5 gallons of diesel fuel per 10 foot section and cost approximately $2.65 per foot. A three inch diameter boom can collect up to 2 gallons per ten foot section and costs approximately $1.15 per foot. Most harbor spills are measured in ounces and thousands of an inch in thickness. By deploying the smaller three inch boom, you could deploy two rows of three inch for less money and collect the same amount of product and be more effective than one row of five inch.

Steve Russell is on the Advisory Committee for Alaska Clean Harbors. He works for the Dept. of Environmental Conservation Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Program.
The Wheelhouse: Spring Boatwork

It’s time to hit the boatyard with a long list of projects before heading out for the season. Keep some of these tips in mind while working on your boat. They can help save money, prevent spills and protect the fish and shellfish we all depend on.

Vacuum Sanders: Use a dustless vacuum sander when grinding to control the release of dust, paint, and sanding residues. This is not only good for the environment, but also for your neighbors and your health!

Tenting and Tarping: If you’re on land, always use ground tarps to collect debris when you’re doing boat work. Make sure to practice good housekeeping and collect chips and other debris after every job. For topside work, especially in windy conditions, make sure to put up tarps and tents to create a contained environment to work in.

Paint Smart: Paint smart to eliminate spills and drips when doing paint jobs this spring. Only mix the amount of paint that you need for a given job. Keep covers on paint containers as much as possible. Use tents and tarps to avoid painting over the water. Avoid paint spraying on the water, and never spray paint on windy days with-

out good tenting. Treat paint spills like oil spills – clean up immediately with absorbents, paper and/or rags. Share leftover paint with others. Oil-based and antifouling paints are hazardous waste and need to be disposed of as such. Ask your Harbormaster what your options are at your facility for hazardous waste disposal.

Make sure that latex and water-based paints are fully dried before throwing in the dumpster.

Draining the glycol: We’ve all heard that the pink propylene glycol is non-toxic and a good alternative to the toxic green ethylene glycol. This is true, however you should still be extremely careful to not spill or dump any glycol during winterization or spring activities. When propylene glycol decomposes in the water, it uses a huge amount of oxygen – much more than even raw sewage! Whether they are decreasing oxygen or introducing toxic chemicals, all glycols should be kept out of the water. Talk to your Harbormaster about how to responsibly dispose of your glycol this spring.
De-mystifying the Multi-Sector General Permit

By Shane Serrano

You wouldn’t want to fly in an airplane with someone that didn’t have their appropriate FAA Pilots License, or pay to go on a fishing charter with someone that didn’t have their USCG Master’s License as required by law. These are the licenses required to ply one’s trade at an Airport or a Seaport. The economy relies upon safe operations based upon these occupational certifications.

The Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater or MSGP is essentially a similar type of legal certification that ensures that a Harbor is operating in an appropriate manner that will not degrade the environment or create a health or safety concern. Most of the things that the MSGP ensures is that trash collection is covered, sewage is managed, fuel spilled is contained and cleaned up so that when it rains or snows, stormwater does not cause these pollutants to be discharged to a stream, lake or the ocean. Adhering to these practices prevents a harbor from being perceived as a dump, or a sewage lagoon, or a contaminated site. None of which are economically advantageous to the Harbor.

Of course most Harbors are already doing that! The MSGP is just a formalized framework, to document the work that you are doing, to ensure that the public can have confidence that a Harbor is safe and clean. The MSGP is a license to do a certain kind of business. This means that if a Harbor is operating under a specific industrial code, it must at a minimum, have assessed all of its potential pollutant sources, and confirmed that these activities are being done under a cover. If all activities like vehicle maintenance, fueling, or trash collection are done indoors or under a cover, then it may certify that there is “no exposure” of pollutants to stormwater, and may avoid formal MSGP coverage.

If there is exposure of pollutants to stormwater, from boat maintenance activities, fueling operations, or outdoor vehicle maintenance, then the Harbor must develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and apply for the MSGP to legally cover these activities. However, it is important to note that all Harbors operating under that industrial code have a responsibility to first assess their activities through the “no exposure” certification checklist available at http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wnpspc/pdfs/MSGPNOE.pdf to ensure that their operations are appropriately addressed. More info about the MSGP application process is available at: http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wnpspc/stormwater/index.htm

Shane Serrano is on the Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Committee. Shane works for the Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water, Non-Point Source Pollution Program.
WHAT CAN ALASKA CLEAN HARBORS DO FOR MY FACILITY?

ACH can provide harbors with educational materials to pass out to customers that detail pollution reduction tips, signage, ideas for funding opportunities to reach Clean Harbor goals, and one-on-one free technical assistance provided by the ACH Coordinator. All of these materials are provided free of cost to harbors that have signed an Alaska Clean Harbor Pledge.

HOW DO I BECOME A CERTIFIED ALASKA CLEAN HARBOR?

1. Learn about the Clean Harbors Program, talk to Program staff, get a copy of the Alaska Clean Harbors Guidebook and other program materials. Check out www.alaskacleanharbors.org for more information.

2. Take a ‘Clean Harbor Pledge’, making a commitment to work towards implementing Best Management Practices at your facility and achieving Clean Harbor Certification.


4. Calculate your score and call a representative from Alaska Clean Harbors to schedule a site visit.

Enjoy your rewards! As a certified Alaska Clean Harbor, you will receive an Alaska Clean Harbors flag and certificate. Your facility will be included in publications, public displays, and media releases by the Clean Harbors Program.

WHY BECOME A CERTIFIED CLEAN HARBOR?

1. Implementing BMPs will reduce the amount of waste produced by your facility, thereby reducing costs

2. Participating in a Clean Harbor program sets your harbor in a position to be attractive to funders for potential capital improvement funding

3. Clean Harbors are recognized through press releases, newsletters, and marketing materials.

4. Assistance is available through Clean Harbor programs with the Alaska Clean Harbors Guidebook, site visits, technical reference materials, and potential workshops

5. By participating in the Clean Harbor program, harbors can ensure that they are meeting regulatory requirements and thereby reduce potential fines

6. Harbor users depend on marine resources for their livelihoods and enjoyment. By implementing BMPs and participating in Clean Harbor Certification you will improve water quality and habitat

7. As a certified Clean Harbor, you demonstrate leadership and pro-active stewardship of Alaska’s marine resources

And through all of these actions, we attract more users to our harbors.

CLEAN HARBOR MATERIALS

The following materials are currently available free of charge for harbors participating in the Alaska Clean Harbors program (stay tuned for more!).

Alaska Clean Harbors Guidebook
A comprehensive review of pollution prevention best management practices for
Alaska’s harbor facilities. The first part deals with new harbor siting and design, the second part with harbor maintenance and operations. Sections within each part include suggestions and regulatory concerns for solid waste management and fish waste, petroleum products and hazardous waste management, boat maintenance, and sewage issues among others.

**Alaska Clean Harbors BMP Checklist**
This checklist is the guiding document for Clean Harbor certification. It outlines the requirements for certification, and references the Alaska Clean Harbors Guidebook along the way.

**Clean Harbors Tip Sheets**
These 1- to 2-page fliers outline steps to reduce pollution from routine harbor and boat maintenance activities. These tip sheets are a great resource for your customers.

**Boater Tip Cards**
Two-sided laminated tip cards outline best management practices associated with common activities in the harbor, such as painting and boat washing. These can be used by harbor officers to communicate with customers in a positive and effective manner.

**Harbor Signs**
Alaska Clean Harbors can work with you and your community to put in place effective signage that helps communicate services and best practices to customers.

Go to [www.alaskacleanharbors.org](http://www.alaskacleanharbors.org) to find links to all of these materials and more! Contact Rachel with questions or to sign up.

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The Homer Harbor was the first certified Clean Harbor in Alaska. Port and Harbor staff posed with their Alaska Clean Harbor flag for their Holiday Card sent out in 2011.
Sea Grant Publications for You & Your Customers

The University of Alaska Sea Grant has produced many publications that can be useful to you and your customers when it comes to implementing best management practices and improving clean boating awareness. We’ve listed a few titles below, but for their full library check out their Bookstore online: http://seagrant.uaf.edu/bookstore/index.html. Many publications are free to download!

- Fuel-Saving Measures for Fishing Industry Vessels
- Saving Fuel on your Recreational or Charter Boat
- Clean Boating for Alaskans
- Alaska Clean Harbors Guidebook
- Rat Control for Alaska Waterfront Facilities
- Save Money on Boat Fuel
- Trashing Your Livelihood: Marine Debris and Commercial Fishing
- Alaska Seas & Coasts: Clean Boating
- Northern Harbors and Small Ports: Operation and Maintenance