



Clean Harbor Currents

ISSUE 5

WINTER 2014-15

A newsletter brought to you bi-annually by the Alaska Clean Harbors program and sponsored by Cook Inletkeeper.

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

Here in Homer, we keep waiting for winter. As of early-December, there's still some green grass and Bryan hasn't issued any snow removal warnings for vessel owners at the harbor! I love to ski, but life is definitely a lot easier without all of the snow. In this issue of the Clean Harbors Currents (our 5th!), I'm excited to share with you information from Heather on funding opportunities for improving sewage management, an update on the ADV Task Force, and a Wheelhouse article on disposal of common waste streams around the harbor. I'm also excited about a new partnership with the University of Alaska Southeast where we're developing an ACH class online! I hope in the near future this class will become part of certifications, and will make a more interactive & engaging process for applying.



At ACH we have funds to help you with signage!

In the meantime, happy holidays to everyone! In just a few days we'll hit the winter solstice, and before you know it spring will be upon us! I look forward to working with Sitka & Kodiak on their applications this winter, with hopeful certifications in the spring. Don't wait if you're thinking of diving into ACH – let me know and we'll get you started ASAP!

Happy Holidays!

Rachel Lord, ACH Coordinator

ADV Task Force Update

The ADV Task Force met three times since our last newsletter – once by phone on April 7, and twice in-person in Anchorage on May 21 and September 30. The one-year goals of the Task Force are to 1) increase coordination and understanding for

dealing with ADV between agencies/stakeholders, 2) Create an AK ADV Manual to establish best practices and templates for dealing with ADV, and 3) Create a web-based database for understanding the scope of the

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Sewage in the Harbor



Clean Vessel Act Funding and YOU!

By Heather Leba – Inletkeeper's Clean Boating Coordinator.

Down in Ketchikan in October, Rachel and I talked with many of you about sewage management in your harbors. We understand that many harbors across the state don't have adequate sewage pump-outs, and that updating and repairing outdated and ageing infrastructure can be time consuming and often cost-prohibitive. Federal funding for these projects exists through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program under the Clean Vessel Act (CVA), and we'd like to help you tap that pot of money. The CVA Grant Program was created to provide funding to harbors throughout the country. This funding helps harbor staff construct, renovate, operate, and maintain pump-out stations and waste facilities for recreational boaters. Grant funds also help to inform boaters about the benefits, use, and availability of pump-outs within each harbor. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) works with applicants on funding, and we'd like to work with you to make that process as smooth as possible.

The current grant cycle for 2014 has closed, but we want to work with you to prepare for next year. Here is how it works:

1. The interested harbor facility with their City/Borough should submit a Statement of Interest as a project proposal to ADF&G indicating a specific dollar amount requested. A letter from the city is also required, indicating they have set aside the required 25% non-federal match for the project. We can work with you to develop these things. Due by **August 1st, 2015**.



We're excited to be working with Kodiak on ACH Certification!

ADV Update, continued from page 1

ADV problem statewide. The joint agency Vessel of Concern Reporting form is released and available for anyone to use in reporting VOC. These forms currently go to Emily Haynes at ADNR. There is no ADV program, or even staff person, dealing with VOC or ADV in Alaska. Therefore for now, these forms are simply providing a mechanism by which stakeholders can share information in a legally safe manner.

The next steps for the Task Force are to meet in early-March to review a report of recommendations and guidelines/templates compiled by Cook Inletkeeper/Alaska Clean Harbors and Birch Horton Bittner and Cherot. To find out more about the efforts to-date, check out our website: <http://alaskacleanharbors.org/resources/harbor-management/derelict-vessels/>

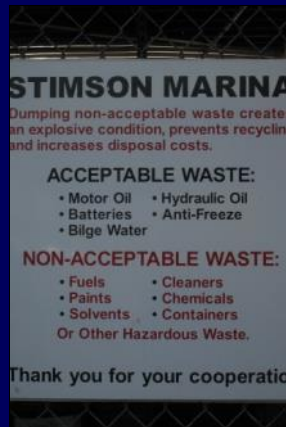
If you'd like to participate, please contact Rachel at rachel@inletkeeper.org or 907.235.4068 x29.

Sewage, continued from page 2

2. ADF&G drafts a final grant proposal incorporating all interested harbors and works with USFWS to submit the proposal for federal funding.
3. If the grant is funded, notice will go out **Summer 2016**. ADF&G creates a cooperative agreement with each harbor detailing responsibilities, operation, maintenance, and timelines.
4. Funds are available to each harbor **Fall 2016**.

Looking ahead to August 2015, it will be important for each harbor to create detailed budgets and proposals, highlighting recreational boat use. Harbormasters should also discuss the required 25% non-federal match with their municipalities to determine if those funds are available prior to sending their Statement of Interest to ADF&G. Contact us (Rachel@inletkeeper.org) and heather@inletkeeper.org) or visit <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/CVA/CVA.htm> for more information. We hope to continue working with YOU to successfully manage your waste streams!





As an Alaska Clean Harbor, you don't have to accept all waste streams at your facility. But you and your staff **SHOULD** know where customers can dispose of common wastes in your community. This may take a little research on your part, but it's good business and service. It will help keep your harbors clean and your customers happy!

The Wheelhouse: Where do I take it?

Through Alaska Clean Harbors, we want all harbor staff to be able to tell their customers where to take common waste streams. You might not be able to dispose of it at the harbor, but harbor officers and office staff should be able to point you in the right direction! Below are some common waste streams that aren't always accepted on-site at Alaskan harbor facilities. Do you know where to take them at your home port?



Used Antifreeze

Many facilities contract with a waste disposal company to dispose of used antifreeze.

However this can be very expensive and, in some places, is not an option. Used antifreeze should never be dumped in with solid waste or into water or onto the ground! Many facilities utilize their local hazardous waste collection days at the local landfill or coordination with the community/city public works to dispose of antifreeze.



Used Batteries

Battery acid is extremely corrosive and often contains high concentrations of heavy metals, including lead.

Battery components can also be a fire

and explosion hazard. When improperly handled, lead acid batteries can discharge sulfuric acid and lead, posing a hazard to people and the environment. Many harbors have dedicated collection areas for used batteries. They should be labeled as such, and be stored off the ground in closed containers. If batteries aren't accepted on-site, they are often taken at NAPA or other auto parts stores, or at your local landfill.



Zincs

Elevated levels of zinc have been found in harbor sediments associated with boat maintenance, including zinc changes.

Zinc is a heavy metal that can be toxic to marine life, and can be potentially toxic to humans who eat contaminated shellfish or fish. Zincs should be recycled with scrap metal if that is an option in your community. Talk to you harbor about having a dedicated barrel for disposing of zincs at the grid and/or at the upland haul-out where hull work is often done.



Contaminated bilge water

Many vessel operators are familiar with oily bilge water.

A leak in a hose, a spill during



maintenance activities, or a more catastrophic problem while underway can quickly make a big problem for bilge water disposal. Try to prevent contamination in your bilge by keeping absorbents handy and out during projects. But when an accident happens, do you know what to do with you contaminated bilge water? Never use soaps – the oil and soap together mix to create a hazardous waste. Expensive and toxic.

Some harbors offer bilge pumping services, and some accept oily water with their used oil/hazardous waste collection programs. Use absorbents to collect as much of the oil as possible. Consider pumping into buckets and draining clean water from the bottom once it's settled (always check for residual oil – don't drain onto the ground or into the water!). Talk with your Harbormaster and with local landfill staff about options for dealing with other contaminants.



Leftover paints

Avoid having leftover paints by mixing only as much as you need for a job. Check with neighbors and friends to see if you can donate or exchange any leftover paint before throwing it away. If you have latex-based paints, you can dry away leftover amounts (away from children and pets, and faster if you mix with kitty litter) and then dispose of as regular trash. Oil-based paint must be disposed of as hazardous waste! Talk with your Harbormaster and with local landfill staff about options for disposing leftover oil-based paints.



Grinding/sandblasting debris

When doing hull work, use vacuum sanders and contain as much of your debris as possible. As a vessel owner, it's your responsibility to know if your debris is hazardous or not. For example, paint chips and dust generated during vessel sanding may contain heavy metals such as aluminum, iron, lead, nickel, zinc, cadmium, copper, tin and chromium. These and other heavy metals are known to accumulate in marine sediments. These pollutants tend to increase up the food chain, or bio-accumulate, which may lead to toxic food for humans. If your debris is hazardous, you must dispose of it through your local hazardous waste disposal opportunities. When in doubt, ask your Harbormaster or the folks at the local landfill for help.

Contact Rachel to get a blank copy of an Alaska Clean Harbors 'Where Do I Take It?' poster. We'll help you fill it out for your community, and then it can be a constant resource for your staff & customers to help dispose of common wastes at your facility!

Clean Harbor Certification

We know you're busy! We provide our partner harbors with free technical assistance, grant development, and operating improvements on waste management, pollution prevention, and customer communications!

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.
3. Conduct a self-assessment of your facility, using the BMP Checklist and the Alaska Clean Harbors Guidebook. Contact ACH for assistance meeting Clean Harbor goals.
4. Calculate your score and submit your checklist (word document + documentation for BMP implementation) to ACH. A site visit will be conducted at some point during this process.

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.

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.

Go to www.alaskacleanharbors.org to find links to all of these materials and more! Contact Rachel with questions or to sign up.
 907-235-4068x29
rachel@inletkeeper.org

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.

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.

Harbor Map Brochures

All certified harbors will receive a custom map brochure for their facility. Examples can be seen on our website at: www.alaskacleanharbors.org.



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.

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Clean harbors are good business!

This newsletter is funded (in part) with qualified outer continental shelf oil and gas revenues by the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

NEW! ACH Posters

We're super excited about these beautiful new Alaska Clean Harbors posters by our graphic designer at Corso Graphics in Anchorage. We're getting them printed, and will send them out to folks as requested in the spring.

Remember to check out the ACH website for all kinds of information on waste management and pollution prevention. If you have questions or ideas, get in touch and let us know!

**Have news to share?
Send it to Rachel for posting!**

www.alaskacleanharbors.org

