



Clean Harbor Currents

ISSUE 6

SUMMER 2015

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,

First off, I want to send BIG congratulations to the Sitka Harbor for achieving certification as an Alaska Clean Harbor! We'll celebrate their success at the October AAHPA meeting, and present the City and Borough of Sitka with an award this fall. We're also celebrating a newly signed pledge from the City of Whittier! They're back on the search for a new harbormaster, but we're thankful for the support and encouragement from the City. We're also working with the Seward Harbor on their 3-year ACH recertification ~ it's amazing how time flies.

I'm also excited to report that we finally have some statewide spill response signs! Flip to the back and you can see a photo of the new 12" x 18", colorful steel signs. They are meant for posting at boater access points around the state to provide information for boaters on what to do in the event of a spill. I'll have them in October at the AAHPA meeting – make sure to leave room in your suitcase for not only some great auction items but some steel signs as well!

In this edition of Clean Harbors Currents, we're giving you updates on sewage management activities around the state, another update on the ADV Task Force, news of our new online ACH course, and a



Congratulations to the Sitka Harbor for certification as Alaska's fourth Clean Harbor!

Wheelhouse article on spill response. Remember that those Wheelhouse articles are meant to be helpful and informative for all of our boaters in Alaska. Consider printing them out and distributing them to your customers at the Harbor Office or in a moorage mailing!

Enjoy what's left of summer and the start of fall, everyone – the return of fishing fleets and the bustle of winterization activities! Don't let your good housekeeping practices slip, and remind your staff and customers that there's always enough time to do a job right and avoid a spill or injury.

Happy Fall and we'll see you at the October AAHPA meeting in Anchorage!

Rachel Lord, ACH Coordinator



Sewage in the Harbor



Where does sewage go at your facility?

By Heather Leba – Inletkeeper's Clean Boating Coordinator.

In the last newsletter I wrote about the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) funding process and how harbors can tap into this pot of money for sewage pumpout improvements. Since then, I've done a survey of harbors statewide to

find out just how many of our harbors offer pumpout facilities, how many actually work, and whether it costs boaters to use them.

Out of 24 Alaskan harbors surveyed, 11 harbors, or less than half, have sewage pumpouts. This is a surprising statistic for a state that has the most miles of coastline in the U.S.! Of those harbors with installed pumpouts, seven harbors have more than one pumpout station, which are most often stationary pumpouts located on docks or floats. Only two of the 11 harbors charge for the pumpout service- good news for boaters and good news for clean water! While talking with harbor masters, it was clear that many pumpouts around the state are in need of repair, one factor that may pose a barrier to boaters interested in using them and another reason for harbors to investigate CVA funds. Understanding how frequently boaters in your harbor utilize pumpouts and the volume of waste disposed of through those facilities is an important step towards keeping the water in your harbor clean. Having those statistics on hand can also go a long way in showing need for new or improved facilities to local government!

We know that harbors without pumpouts face many challenges in regard to funding, infrastructure improvements, staffing, and time. While these are difficult to manage, and local government support can be challenging to obtain, it is important to continue to promote sewage management and encourage city and municipal leaders to support funding pumpouts. For more information about CVA funding contact us: (Rachel@inletkeeper.org and heather@inletkeeper.org) or visit <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/CVA/CVA.htm>. Also check out our new videos! We have one that provides instruction for boaters on how to use pumpouts, and another encouraging their use around the state. Find them at <http://alaskacleanharbors.org/resources/sewage-pumpout-facility-operation/sewage-management/>

ADV Task Force Update

Alaska Clean Harbors continues to facilitate the ad-hoc statewide Abandoned & Derelict Vessel Task Force. Since our last newsletter, the Task Force has met three times in Anchorage (March 10, June 17 and August 19), and finalized a few exciting products:

Impoundment Templates This document, developed by Birch, Horton, Bittner & Cherot, provides a resource for municipalities dealing with the impoundment process for derelict vessels under Alaska law. Included is a synopsis of state law, and form templates to use as a resource when developing your own. Samples include Notice of Impoundment, Request for Post-Impoundment Hearing, Hearing Officer's Script, Certificate of Probable Cause to Impound Vessel, Certificate of Distribution, Order of Impoundment of Nuisance Vessel, Notice of Impoundment (Nuisance Vessel), and Request for Pre-Impoundment Hearing. Remember to always consult your legal team to ensure compliance with municipal/local ordinances!

Alaska ADV Case Studies. The Task Force compiled a large document of ADV case studies from around the state that helps illustrate the scope and breadth of the ADV problems faced by the state and municipalities.

Vessel of Concern Reporting, ListServ and Database.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a statewide database for compiling and mapping ADV. We'll have more information on that when it's live, but for now we have a statewide VOC Reporting Form that can be submitted to DNR. These forms are distributed via the new ADV ListServ. You can sign up at <http://list.state.ak.us/> (scroll down to find AlaskaADVTaskForce and click 'Join').

Legislative Recommendations. The Task Force is working on recommendations for revising Chapter 30.30 to improve the state's management and prevention of ADV. Recommendations will be ready by Fall 2016.

All resources, including a new ADV newsletter, can be found at : <http://alaskacleanharbors.org/resources/harbor-management/derelict-vessels/>.

Bryan (Homer Harbormaster) sits on the Task Force to represent the AAHPA and we'll have a presentation on the Task Force activities at the October meeting.

ADV Task Force activities are funded exclusively by general funds from Cook Inletkeeper and are not funded through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

UAS Alaska Clean Harbors Course

This fall we're introducing a new online course through the University of Alaska Southeast! Alaska Clean Harbors will be available to you and your staff through a series of interactive modules that will step you through best management practices, waste stream identification, customer communications and outreach, and laws and regulations for the following:

- Solid Waste
- Hazardous Waste
- Petroleum Products
- Boat Maintenance

- Sewage & Graywater
- Harbor Operations & Management
- Stormwater

We'll have more information on how you and your staff can sign up at the AAHPA meeting in October. We're hoping the course will be very inexpensive, and will be the foundation for your application to become a certified Alaska Clean Harbor!



Used oil, oily rags and oil filters should be disposed of for recycling wherever possible. Make sure that filters are well drained, and that oily rags aren't dripping with oil. Remember that gasoline is flammable—gas-soaked rags should be disposed of as hazardous waste. Keep soaps, water and other contaminants out of the used oil collection containers—it makes disposal much more costly!

The Wheelhouse: Spills Happen—Do You Know What to Do?

(A Hint: Never Use Soaps!)

If you have a boat with an engine you should be ready to deal with spills to protect fish, water quality, and your backyard.

If you run an engine, you deal with oil, gas, anti-freeze and possibly other petroleum products such as hydraulic oil. Spills can be large and scary, but they can also be small drips and leaks. Those drips add up and are incredibly important to address!

First off – NEVER disperse a sheen with soap! Although you can't see the sheen any longer, you've just created a much worse environmental problem, and if

you're caught – a much bigger fine from the Coast Guard! Soaps bind with oils and create a toxic sludge that drops off the surface and into the water. That sludge can never be cleaned up, and it's now part of the aquatic system. We know that even small concentrations of oils are bad for fish and other life. Soaps

increase the problem, and are considered by the Coast Guard to be an active "covering up" of a spill – a fineable offense of up to \$2,000 for a recreational boater. An accidental spill

of less than 55 gallons is likely a warning, and if fined it will be much lower than that, so stay away from the soaps!

If you have a spill, locate the source and stop it. Keep up with engine maintenance to reduce chronic leaks and drips. Place absorbent pads around your en-





gine. Secure oil absorbent booms in your bilge – by securing them you ensure they won’t foul your bilge pumps, they can hold up to 1.5 quarts of oil, and they’re a great and easy way to avoid inadvertent oily discharges from your bilge!

Use oil absorbents to clean up small spills. Used absorbents should be disposed of with the oily waste at your harbor or landfill.

Finally, always report spills to the AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation, the National Response Center, and to the harbormaster’s office (if applicable). It may seem scary to call these numbers, but the folks on the other end are truly there to help, and to track and protect the environment from spills around the state and the country. They should be considered a resource and used as such!

Cook Inletkeeper is excited to share that we just picked up 250 new statewide spill response signs from the printers in Anchorage. During 2015 we’ll be working with harbormasters, communities and state agencies to hang these beautiful and informative signs up at launch ramps and other boater access points around the state. For more information about Inletkeeper’s Clean Boating program, check out our website: <http://inletkeeper.org/clean-water/clean-boating>.

**DO YOUR PART
REPORT SPILLS!**

Say **NO** to soaps. They are **TOXIC**. Soaps put oil and fuel into the water and hurt fish, shellfish, and other aquatic life.

**STOP THE SOURCE
REPORT THE SPILL-
IT’S THE LAW!**

**ADEC SPILL REPORTING
800-478-9300**

**USCG NATIONAL
RESPONSE CENTER
800-424-8802**

In the harbor,
call the Harbormaster

For more information on spill prevention: www.alaskacleanharbors.org

This sign is handled (in part) with qualified outer environmental shell oil and gas reverses by the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

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
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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!

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NEW! Spill Response Signs

Using the same popular designs from our ACH Poster, our graphic designer at Corso Graphics in Anchorage helped us put together a new statewide spill response sign. These sturdy and attractive signs can be posted around your facility to let boaters know what to do in the event of a spill.

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

