

## Letter of Promulgation

Welcome to the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Plan (HSP). The goal of the HSP is to enhance marine safety and environmental stewardship via risk-based decision making. First published and distributed early in 2016, the plan is intended to provide information, guidelines, and Standards of Care for marine operators in Cook Inlet. The creation of this plan is the product of the collaboration of maritime stakeholders as represented on the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee's (CIHSC) Harbor Safety Plan Work Group and others in our maritime community, who shared their time and expertise to help develop this plan.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) are advisors, active participants, and contributors to the CIHSC and this plan. This plan is strongly endorsed by the USCG Captain of the Port, Western Alaska (COTP) and the ADEC Central Alaska Region State On-Scene Coordinator.

Section A of the plan introduces the reader to the CIHSC. Section B is primarily informative in nature and provides important information for professional mariners transiting Cook Inlet. Section C includes Standards of Care (SOC) and documents certain "good marine practice" especially important to operations in Cook Inlet. Section D is the Appendix.

The HSP Work Group is committed to maintaining and updating this plan as new information and changing technologies warrant.

The Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee has a web site at:

[www.cookinletharborsafetycommittee.org](http://www.cookinletharborsafetycommittee.org)



Stephen Ribuffo

Chairman, Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee

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## SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

## **A.1. PURPOSE OF THE COOK INLET HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Although there have been several different stakeholder forums to precede it, the CIHSC was created in 2015 as a risk reduction option identified by the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment. The committee is formed and managed by various port and waterway stakeholders who hold an interest in promoting safety and the environmental protection of Cook Inlet.

The mission of the CIHSC is to provide a proactive forum for identifying, assessing, planning, communicating, and implementing operational and environmental measures beyond statutory and regulatory requirements that promote safe, secure, and efficient use of Cook Inlet. The committee is made up of delegates appointed by broadly based organizations representing a span of interests focused on Cook Inlet. Additionally, various governmental agencies formally support the work of CIHSC in advisory roles.

With its quarterly meetings and broad stakeholder group participation, the CIHSC offers an agile and vibrant forum to lead the stakeholder community in identifying and resolving conflicts or concerns, existing and potential, in the commercial and recreational use of Cook Inlet. The CIHSC should be viewed as the agent of choice by government, industry, and environmentalists to present and respond to user conflicts, desired new environmental practices, new safety initiatives, and natural resource conflicts or changes.

CIHSC takes responsibility for capturing existing standards and protocols as well as developing new standards and protocols that address those environmental and operational elements of maritime operations that are somewhat unique and especially significant to Cook Inlet. The standards and protocols have been compiled in the Cook Inlet HSP which is intended to complement and supplement existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations with advice to mariners regarding unique conditions and requirements that may be encountered in Cook Inlet. These standards and protocols are not intended to supplant or otherwise conflict with the laws or regulations; nor are they intended to replace the good judgment of a ship's master in the safe operation of his/her vessel.

### **Action Items:**

- Especially important action items for vessel masters will be highlighted throughout the plan in special "action items" boxes like this one.

## **A.2. PROCEDURES**

The elements of the Cook Inlet HSP were developed by Work Groups selected and approved by the CIHSC. To assure the broadest perspectives on measures considered, Work Groups are expected to include interested parties from within the CIHSC and to reach beyond the committee for membership, participation, and advice. Work Groups that developed the HSP included:

### **1. Navigation Work Group**

*Mission Statement:* Utilizing the knowledge and expertise of industry professionals to identify and support industry-wide best practices which mitigate risk, improve navigational safety and ensure the flow of commerce.

### **2. Harbor Safety Plan Work Group**

*Mission Statement:* Facilitate the compilation of information to enhance marine safety and environmental stewardship in Cook Inlet.

### **3. Salvage Work Group**

*Mission Statement:* The Salvage Work Group seeks to identify and support industry wide best practices related to Maritime Emergency Response in the Cook Inlet area to protect environmental resources and value of property.

### **4. Marine Firefighting Work Group**

*Mission Statement:* The Marine Firefighting Work Group is dedicated to three basic goals:

- a. Safety of firefighters responding to Marine Incidents.
- b. Safety of life and property of Cook Inlet Marine Industry assets.
- c. Through teamwork set a standard for exemplary response utilizing all available assets.

We will do these things by:

- a. Best available Industry Practices and technology.
- b. Working hand in hand with local, state, and federal agencies via the CIHSC.
- c. Demonstrating the outcome of the above through agreements, training, drills, standards of care and practice.

The Chair of the HSP Work Group is responsible for leading an annual review of the HSP. The annual review must be completed in time for consideration at the first committee meeting every calendar year. Solicitation for recommended changes to the HSP must be done immediately after the last meeting every calendar year and allow no less than 30 days to receive recommendations. However, other Work Groups or committee members can submit recommended changes to the HSP to the HSP Work Group at any time. If the HSP Work Group determines that the HSP should be amended, the HSP Work Group will publish a record of changes with proposed language. The record of changes will be available for review on the website at least 30 days before a scheduled committee meeting for review by other Work Groups and the public. The committee will consider comments on the proposed revisions of the plan before voting on any motion to amend the plan.

### **A.3. GUIDELINES**

Standards and protocols included in the HSP address operational and environmental issues unique to Cook Inlet. The HSP is not intended to supplant or otherwise conflict with federal, state, or local regulations developed under legal authorities. Nor is the HSP intended to replace the good judgment of a ship's master in the safe operation of his/her vessel. The HSP is intended to complement existing regulations by advising the mariner of unique conditions and requirements that may be encountered in Cook Inlet and the standards and protocols developed by local experts for ensuring greater safety in light of those conditions and requirements.

### **A.4. HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### **A.4.1 List of Members**

The CIHSC is a stakeholder organization. A broad-based association representing the interests of each stakeholder group is invited to nominate a representative and an alternate.

##### **A.4.1.1 Voting Members**

1. Commercial Fishing Organizations
2. Marine Oil Terminal Operators
3. Liquid Natural Gas Carrier Operators
4. Cruise Ship Operators
5. Tug and Barge Operators
6. Recreational Boaters
7. Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council (CIRCAC)
8. Ship Agents
9. Offshore Oil Production Operators
10. Southwest Alaska Pilots Association
11. Port of Anchorage
12. Port of Homer
13. Salvage Organization
14. Response Organization
15. Port MacKenzie
16. Environmental Organization
17. Tanker Operators
18. Dry Cargo Ship Operators
19. Small Passenger Operators
20. Harbor Tug Operators

In addition to the stakeholder groups listed above, there are a number of governmental agencies that may serve on the CIHSC in a non-voting, advisory capacity and to the extent they consent to participate on the committee.

##### **A.4.1.2 Ex-Officio (non-voting)**

1. U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
3. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation(ADEC)
4. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin (NOAA)
5. Department of Defense, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER)
6. Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK)<sup>1</sup>
7. Alaska Marine Highway System

Committee membership shall not, by itself, be construed to in any way limit the legal rights, obligations, or authorities of an individual representative or the groups or agencies which they represent. For additional information please refer to the CIHSC Charter.

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<sup>1</sup> MXAK is a non-governmental agency

## SECTION B: GENERAL INFORMATION

## B.1. GEOGRAPHIC PLAN APPLICABILITY AND INFORMATION

### B.1.1 Geographic Boundaries

The geographic scope of the Cook Inlet HSP will include the area encompassing the marine waters and coastal areas of Cook Inlet from the seaward boundary of a line drawn from the southernmost extremity of Kenai Peninsula at longitude 151° 44.0'W to East Amatuli Island Light; to Latax Rocks Light north of Shuyak Island; thence to the easternmost extremity of Cape Douglas. The geographic boundaries are depicted in Figure 1.

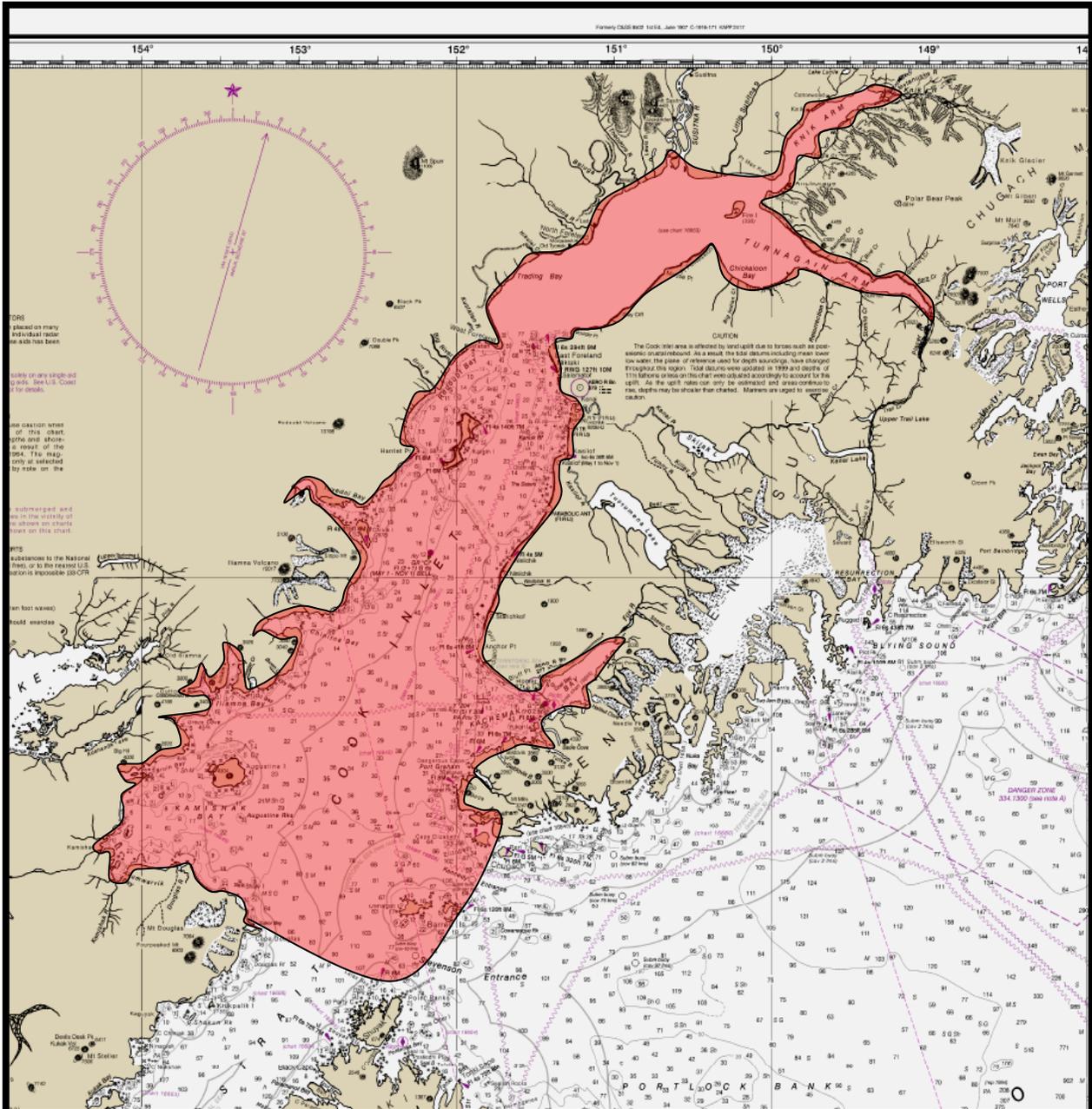


Figure 1. CIHSC Geographic Boundaries

For all USCG mission areas including waterways management, marine safety, search and rescue, law enforcement, border security, port security and environmental issues in Cook Inlet, the COTP, Western Alaska is the primary USCG authority. The legal boundaries for the COTP Zone, Western Alaska are set forth in 33 Code of Federal Regulations 3.85-15 and include the waters of Prince William Sound, as depicted in Figure 2.

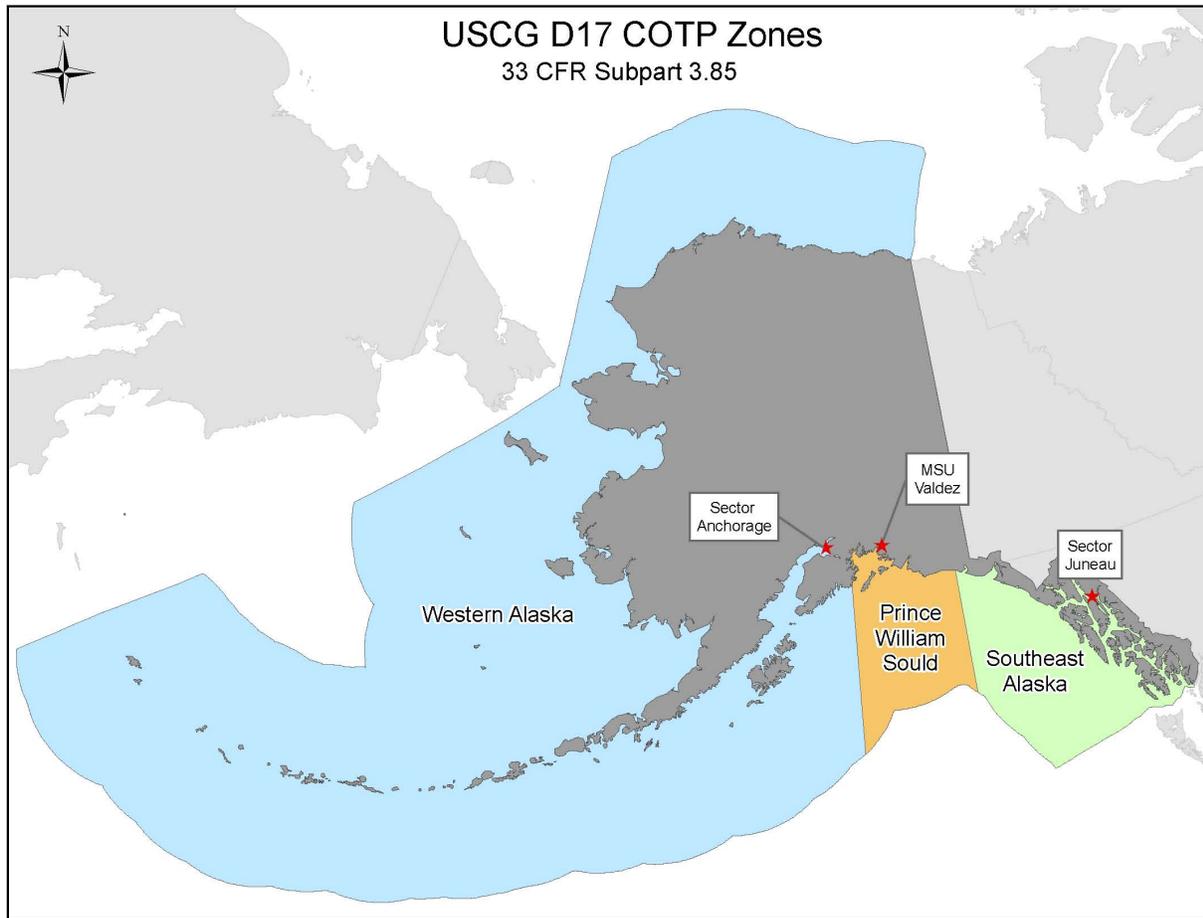


Figure 2. COTP Zone, Western Alaska

## **B.2. USCG SECTOR COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **B.2.1 Captain of the Port (COTP)**

Authority: 33 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1.01-30

COTP and their representatives enforce within their respective areas port safety and security and marine environmental protection regulations, including, without limitation, regulations for the protection and security of vessels, harbors, and waterfront facilities; anchorages; security zones; safety zones; regulated navigation areas; deep-water ports; water pollution; and ports and waterways safety.

### **B.2.2 Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator (SMC)**

Authority: 14 U.S. Code (USC) 88

In order to render aid to distressed persons, vessels, and aircraft on and under the high seas and on and under the waters over which the United States has jurisdiction and in order to render aid to persons and property imperiled by flood, USCG may:

1. Perform any and all acts necessary to rescue and aid persons and protect and save property.
2. Take charge of and protect all property saved from marine or aircraft disasters, or floods, at which USCG is present.
3. Furnish clothing, food, lodging, medicines, and other necessary supplies and services to persons succored by USCG.
4. Destroy or tow into port sunken or floating dangers to navigation.

### **B.2.3 Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC)**

Authority: 40 CFR 300.120

The on-scene coordinator (OSC) directs response efforts and coordinates all other efforts at the scene of a discharge or release. As part of the planning and preparedness for response, OSCs shall be predesignated by the regional or district head of the lead agency. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the USCG shall predesignate OSCs for all areas in each region. The USCG shall provide OSCs for oil discharges, including discharges from facilities and vessels under the jurisdiction of another federal agency, within or threatening the coastal zone.

### **B.2.4 Federal Maritime Security Coordinator (FMSC)**

Authority: 33 CFR 103.205

Without limitation to the authority vested in the COTP by statute or regulation, and in addition to authority prescribed elsewhere in this part, the COTP as the FMSC is authorized to:

1. Establish, convene, and direct the Area Maritime Security (AMS) Committee.
2. Appoint members to the AMS Committee.
3. Develop and maintain, in coordination with the AMS Committee, the AMS Plan.
4. Implement and exercise the AMS Plan.
5. Maintain records required by 33 CFR 103.520.

### **B.2.5 Officer in Charge Marine Inspection (OCMI)**

Authority: 33 CFR 1.01-20

OCMI has been designated and delegated to give immediate direction to USCG activities relating to marine safety functions consisting of inspection of vessels in order to determine that they comply with the applicable laws, rules, and regulations relating to construction, equipment, manning, and operation, and to be satisfied that such vessels are in seaworthy condition for the services in which such vessels are to be operated; shipyard inspections; factory inspections of materials and equipment for vessels; the licensing, certificating, shipment and discharge of seaman; investigations of marine casualties and accidents; investigations of violations of law; negligence, misconduct, incompetence or misbehavior of persons holding licenses, certificates, or documents issued by USCG; initiations of actions seeking suspension or revocation under 46 USC 77 of licenses, certificates and documents held by persons, and presentation of cases at hearings before Administrative Law Judges; and the enforcement of navigation, vessel inspection and seaman laws in general.

### **B.3. ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (ADEC) RESPONSIBILITIES**

Alaska Statutes (AS) 46.03.010 is ADEC Declaration of Policy. It outlines the strategy, priority and authority for environmental protection and pollution control in the state. Additionally, it calls for federal, as well as local, third party and even individual coordination and cooperation to manage water, land, and air resources.

40 CFR 300, the National Contingency Plan, calls for each State Governor to designate a lead agency to direct state-lead response operations. For the State of Alaska, the Governor has designated ADEC. In turn, ADEC has designated the lead response official to conduct and/or coordinate response operations in concert with the federal designee; USCG COTP. ADEC is also charged with coordinating and communicating with other state and local agencies.

The ADEC representative(s) to the CIHSC is (are) responsible for all commercial vessel and waterways management, marine safety, port safety and environmental protection and spill preparedness and response issues in Alaska state waters, including all of Cook Inlet and the various connecting straits, bays, and sounds. ADEC Spill Prevention and Response Division's Preparedness, Prevention and Response Program is the primary state authority responsible for dealing with vessel and facility incidents, including hazardous material incidents, as they might impact state air, land, and water resources. The state's jurisdiction extends to activities occurring in the coastal waters within the U.S. territorial seas, and state interests may extend beyond those limits to the extent the event would likely impact state waters and resources.

## **B.4. POTENTIAL PLACES OF REFUGE (PPOR)**

It is important for mariners to understand the selection of PPOR in Cook Inlet. The Cook Inlet Subarea Committee has identified six PPORs to enhance the overall response process and assist vessels in selecting docking, anchoring and mooring locations. Detailed information on these locations and factors used to select them can be found on the ADEC Cook Inlet Places of Refuge Home Page:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response-resources/ppor/cook-inlet/>

Kachemak Bay is a preferred PPOR for lower Cook Inlet. It is also designated as a Critical Habitat Area, managed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG). Anchoring in Kachemak Bay for more than 14 days requires authorization under a Special Area Permit through ADFG (5 Alaska Administrative Code [ACC] 95). Additional regulations surrounding the Critical Habitat Area can be found in the ADFG Kachemak Bay Management Plan:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=kachemakbay.main>



Figure 3. Potential Places of Refuge in Cook Inlet

## **B.5. AIDS TO NAVIGATION (ATON)**

### **Action items:**

- If you see an ATON discrepancy, (buoy off station, range light extinguished, etc.) contact USCG via VHF FM Radio. Your timely report could prevent an accident.
- If underway, contact USCG Sector Anchorage via VHF Channel 16 or cell phone at (907) 428-4100.
- If not underway, or if merely commenting on ATON, contact Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District, Ports and Waterways, either by mail (PO Box 25517 Juneau, AK 99802-1217) or by phone at (907) 463-2267.
- No defined vessel traffic system exists in Cook Inlet

### **B.5.1 Automated Wreck and Obstruction Information System (AWOIS)**

Coast Survey's Automated Wreck and Obstruction Information System (AWOIS) contains information on over 10,000 submerged wrecks and obstructions in the coastal waters of the United States. Information includes latitude and longitude of each feature along with brief historic and descriptive details.

In addition to its use in planning hydrographic surveys, AWOIS is a valuable tool and information source for marine archaeologists and historians, fishermen, divers, salvage operators, and others in the marine community.

An interactive AWOIS Map and an AWOIS User's Guide can be found at the NOAA link below:

<https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/data/wrecks-and-obstructions.html>

### **B.5.2 Caution to be Used in Reliance on ATON**

The ATON depicted on charts comprise a system of fixed and floating aids that have varying degrees of reliability. Therefore, prudent mariners will not rely solely on any single aid to navigation, particularly a floating aid. With respect to buoys, the buoy symbol is used to indicate the approximate position of the buoy body and sinker, which secures the buoy to the seabed. The approximate position is used because of practical limitations in positioning and maintaining buoys and their sinkers in precise geographical locations. These limitations include, but are not limited to, inherent imprecision in position fixing methods, prevailing atmospheric and sea conditions, the slope and the material making up the seabed, the fact that the buoys are moored to sinkers by varying lengths of chain, and the fact that buoy body and/or sinker positions are not under continuous surveillance but are normally checked only during periodic maintenance visits which may occur more than a year apart. Due to the forces of nature, the position of the buoy body can be expected to shift inside and outside the

charting symbol. The mariner is also cautioned that buoys are liable to be carried away, shifted, capsized, sunk, etc. Lighted buoys may be extinguished or sound signals may not function as the result of ice, running ice or other natural causes, collisions, or other accidents. For the foregoing reasons, a prudent mariner must not rely solely upon the position or operation of floating aids to navigation, but must also use bearings from fixed objects and aids to navigation on shore. Further, a vessel attempting to pass close aboard always risks collision with a yawing buoy or with the obstruction the buoy may be marking.

### **B.5.3 Required Reporting of Damaged ATON**

Vessel operators are required to notify USCG of any marine casualty or accident, including damage or destruction of aids to navigation, by the Marine Investigation Regulations, 46 CFR 4.05-20, with penalty for noncompliance. Frequently, aids to navigation are struck, causing damage and displacement or complete loss, without the knowledge of USCG. The result is diminished protection for marine traffic due to the failure of vessel operators to furnish notice of these collisions to the nearest local USCG unit as required by law and regulation. In accordance with 33 CFR 62.65, all vessel operators who witness another vessel or individual damage or destroy an aid to navigation, or believe an aid is not watching properly or is off station in accordance with USCG Light List, should make a report to USCG Sector Anchorage Command Center at (907) 428-4100.

### **B.5.4 Private ATON**

Private ATON include all marine aids to navigation operated in the navigable waters of the United States other than those operated by the federal government or those operated in state waters for private use. No person, public body or other instrumentality not under the control of the Commandant, exclusive of the Armed Forces, shall establish and maintain, discontinue, or change or transfer ownership of any aid to maritime navigation, without first obtaining permission to do so from the Commandant; for more information consult 33CFR 66. I

In order to make application to establish and maintain, discontinue, change, or transfer ownership of a private ATON, a person or instrumentality shall submit a "Private Aids to Navigation Application" (CG-2554) to the Commander of the nearest USCG District. To obtain a CG-2554, write Commander (dpw), Seventeenth Coast Guard District, P.O. Box 25517 Juneau, AK 99802-1217, or call (907) 463-2028.

### **B.5.5 ATON Point of Contact**

To report an ATON that is NOT displaying the characteristics as advertised, contact the nearest USCG unit or Sector Anchorage Command Center at (907) 428-4100.

The web address to receive and/or view the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) and the yearly Special Local Notice to Mariners (SLNM) is:

<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lnmMain>

Note: The LNM and SLNM are produced only in an electronic format and no longer mailed.

## **B.6. ADVANCE NOTICE OF ARRIVAL (NOA)**

### **Action items:**

- If bound for U.S. port, make 96-hour NOA report
- If state regulated tank vessel, the vessel operator must maintain a copy of the Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan onboard and provide a proof of State of Alaska Certificate of Financial Responsibility (COFR) to ADEC prior to entering state waters (18 AAC 75.465(e)).
- If state regulated non-tank vessel, the vessel operator must maintain a copy of the approved non-tank vessel plan on board, and provide a proof of COFR prior to entering state waters (AS 46.04.055(a)).

### **B.6.1 U.S. Requirements - Overview**

After the terrorist attacks on the U. S. on September 11, 2001, USCG recognized the need to improve Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and thereby enhance maritime homeland security (MHLS) by increasing the required advance notice of arrivals for ships entering into U.S. waters from 24 hours to 96 hours, and the amount of information to be reported. These revised USCG NOA regulations (33 CFR 160, Subpart C) significantly expanded cargo and recent vessel transit information requirements, increased the time required for providing an advance notice, and revised the reporting process to include a central collection point (that is, the National Vessel Movement Center). These improvements contributed significantly to USCG's intelligence and security efforts. The rules are found at 33 CFR 160.201-215.

There are three main purposes for requiring information in advance of a vessel's arrival. One is for waterways management, another is for assessing maritime safety, and the last is for maintaining homeland security. The data contained in the NOA is considered vital to these missions.

### **B.6.2 Applicability**

The NOA requirements generally apply to all U.S. commercial vessels **except**:

1. U.S. recreational vessels.
2. Oil Spill Response Vessels (OSRVs) engaged in actual spill responses or exercises.
3. Passenger and offshore supply vessels when engaged in the exploration or removal of oil, gas, or mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf.
4. A U.S. or Canadian vessel engaged in salvaging operations of any property wrecked, or rendering aid and assistance to any vessels wrecked, disabled, or in distress in waters specified in Article II of the 1908 Treaty of Extradition, Wrecking, and Salvage (35 Stat 2035; Treaty Series 502)
5. If not carrying Certain Dangerous Cargo (CDC) or controlling a vessel carrying CDCs:

- a. A vessel operating exclusively within a single COTP zone.
- b. Towing vessels and barges operating solely between ports or places in the continental U.S. (includes Alaska but not Hawaii or Pacific Islands).
- c. Public vessels.
- d. Except for a tank vessel, a U.S. vessel operating solely between ports or places of the U.S. on the Great Lakes.
- e. A U.S. vessel 300 gross tons (GT) or less, engaged in commercial service, not coming from a foreign port or place.
- f. Ferries on fixed routes meeting the requirements of 33 CFR 160.204(a)(5)(vii), which (includes international routes).

The NOA requirements generally apply to all foreign vessels **except**:

1. A foreign vessel 300 GT or less not in commercial service if not carrying CDC or controlling a vessel carrying CDCs.
2. A Canadian vessel engaged in salvaging operations of any property wrecked, or rendering aid and assistance to any vessels wrecked, disabled, or in distress in waters specified in Article II of the 1908 Treaty of Extradition, Wrecking, and Salvage (35 Stat 2035; Treaty Series 502) .
3. A foreign public vessel.
4. A foreign ferry on a fixed route as per 33 CFR 160.204(a)(5)(vii).

### **B.6.3 Force Majeure**

Vessels bound under force majeure for a U.S. port or place must now provide notice of the master's intentions, any hazardous conditions, and if the vessel is carrying certain dangerous cargo or controlling a vessel carrying certain dangerous cargo.

### **B.6.4 Certain Dangerous Cargo**

Certain Dangerous Cargo (see 33 CFR 160.202 for complete details) is as follows:

1. Division 1.1 or 1.2 explosives.
2. Division 1.5D blasting agents.
3. Division 2.3 poisonous gas.
4. Division 5.1 oxidizing materials.
5. Liquid Division 6.1 poisonous materials.
6. Class 7 radioactive material.
7. Bulk liquefied gas carried under 46 CFR 151.50-31 or listed in 46 CFR 154.7.
8. That is flammable or toxic and that is not carried as CDC residue.
9. Except when not carried as CDC residue, bulk liquid acetone cyanohydrin, allyl alcohol, chlorosulfonic acid, crotonaldehyde, ethylene chlorohydrin, ethylene dibromide, methacrylonitrile, oleum (fuming sulfuric acid), and propylene oxide.
10. Ammonium nitrate Division 5.1 material (not CDC residue).
11. Ammonium nitrate Division 5.1 fertilizer (not CDC residue).
12. Note: CDC residue does NOT include the following cargoes (they remain treated as CDCs):

- a. Ammonium nitrate in bulk and ammonium nitrate based fertilizer exceeding 1000 lbs total and/or individual quantities over 2 cu ft, even if all saleable cargo is discharged
- b. Anhydrous ammonia
- c. Chlorine
- d. Ethane
- e. Methane (Liquid Natural Gas)
- f. Sulfur dioxide
- g. Vinyl chloride

### **B.6.5 NOA Time Requirements**

The time requirements are based on the vessel's voyage time to the intended port or place of destination, not the first entry point into U.S. waters.

1. If voyage time is 96 hours or more, submit NOA 96 hours prior to intended arrival time.
2. If voyage time is 96 hours or less, submit NOA before departure but at least 24 hours before arriving at the port or place of destination.
3. Towing vessels in control of a vessel carrying CDC and operating solely between ports or places of the contiguous U.S. and/or Alaska, must submit an NOA before departure but at least 12 hours before arriving at the port or place of destination.
4. U.S. vessels 300 GT or less, arriving from a foreign port or place, if voyage time is 24 hours or less, must submit NOA at least 60 minutes before departure from the foreign port/place.
5. Canadian vessels 300GT or less, arriving directly from Canada via boundary waters, if voyage time is 24 hours or less, must submit NOA at least 60 minutes before departing the Canadian port or place.
6. Updates Required:
  - a. If remaining voyage time is 96 hours or more, or less than 96 but more than 24 hours remain, an update must be provided as soon as practicable but at least 24 hours before arriving at the port or place.
  - b. If remaining voyage time is less than 24 hours, then an update must be provided as soon as practicable but at least 12 hours before arriving at the port or place.
7. Updates not required:
  - a. Changes in arrival or departure times of less than 6 hours.
  - b. Changes in vessel location or position at the time of reporting.
  - c. Changes to crewmembers' positions or duties.

### **B.6.6 Reporting Methods and Coast Guard/Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Alignment**

Vessels must report their NOAs electronically (eNOA) to the National Vessel Movement Center (NVMC) through the NVMC website:

<http://www.nvmc.uscg.gov>

The electronic submission automates the reporting and vetting system. In addition, when a vessel sends an eNOA to the NVMC, the NOA is automatically sent to CBP’s Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS). CBP requires all commercial vessels to submit a NOA when arriving from a foreign port or place.

### **B.6.7 NOA Reporting Process**

When a vessel submits a NOA, the information is processed by the NVMC. It is first validated (for completion and some accuracy) by the NVMC. It then is entered into a database. From there, vetting and scrutiny for each arrival notice occurs on two levels. First, USCG’s Intelligence Center analyzes each notice of arrival for security purposes. Second, each USCG Sector or unit analyzes the notice of arrival for both safety and security purposes. If there is a safety or security concern with the vessel, it may be boarded or inspected by USCG.

### **B.6.8 NOA Point of Contact**

For common questions and regulatory interpretations, visit the USCG Homeport:

<http://homeport.uscg.mil>

Navigate to “Port State Control”, then “General Information”, then “Notice of Arrival and Departure (NOAD) Questions and Interpretations.”

For questions about your NOA (how to submit, whether it was submitted, technical questions) contact:

**National Vessel Movement Center**

24-hour phone line: 1-800-708-9823 or 304-264-2502

Email Address: [sans@nvmc.uscg.mil](mailto:sans@nvmc.uscg.mil)

Fax Number: 800-547-8724 or 304-264-2684

**CBP Marine Desk – Anchorage International Airport**

24-hour phone line: (907) 271-6313

**CBP Process and Vetting**

APIS – Maritime Carrier Account Manager

409-727-0285; Ext 238

### **B.6.9 Where to Call Examples**

QUESTION/PROBLEM	POINT OF CONTACT
When do I have to submit my NOA?	NVMC
Do I have to submit a NOA?	NVMC
I sent an eNOA, but don’t know if it got there....	NVMC
Was my departure notice received?	CBP
I can’t get in touch with local CBP unit...	CBP

<b>What time do I have to submit my NOD?</b>	NVMC
<b>What if I can't submit my NOD 60 minutes prior to departure?</b>	NVMC
<b>Is my NOA complete?</b>	NVMC
<b>Is my vessel cleared to enter the port?</b>	USCG Sector Anchorage
<b>I am having trouble submitting my eNOAD</b>	NVMC

The CIHSC and the USCG recommend that any foreign-flag vessel and/or large deep-draft vessels contact a competent local agent. A local vessel agency acts as a conduit to the many government agencies and non-governmental organizations that provide oversight in Cook Inlet. A competent local vessel agency is essential to the following:

1. Pre-arrival communication for disseminating port requirements, current conditions, vessel traffic, special operating issues, regulatory requirement, cold weather mitigation, security issues,
2. Many local agents are cross-trained in spill mitigation as part of an Incident Management Team.
3. Communication issues such as Advance Notice of Arrival, Asian Gypsy Moths requirements/reporting etc. are important as failure to adhere to the regulations could cause the vessel to be required to anchor and/or depart the area and thus expose the vessel and environment to unnecessary risk.

### **B.7. LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS (LNM)**

The Seventeenth USCG District publishes a weekly LNM which includes Light List and Chart updates. Use this LNM to keep your Light List and nautical charts current. The LNM covers aids to navigation, charts, channel depths, marine construction, military operations, bridge repair/construction, significant marine events and other information of interest to mariners. The web address to receive and/or view the LNM and the yearly Special Local Notice to Mariners (SLNM) is:

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lnmDistrict&region=17>

Note: The LNM and SLNM are produced only in an electronic format and no longer mailed.

Mariners are urged to take advantage of automatic chart distribution as a quick and easy way to ensure the most up to date charts are on board.

Note: NOAA Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) numbers are listed for vessels navigating using Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) that comply with International Maritime Organization (IMO) requirements for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) classed vessels.

## **B.8. COMMUNICATIONS: EMERGENCY & RESPONSE**

### **B.8.1 Introduction**

This document is designed to assist foreign and domestic commercial vessels to easily communicate with appropriate agencies regarding various emergencies and/or unusual situations while transiting Cook Inlet. This document is not intended to suggest a departure from existing procedures set forth by the International Telecommunication Union, International Maritime Organization and Federal Communications Commission for the handling of Distress or Urgency communications. The Cook Inlet region is served by the USCG Sector Anchorage Command Center. Commercial vessels should familiarize themselves with the areas of responsibility and appropriate working frequencies of the command center.

### **B.8.2 Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)**

SOLAS is of primary importance to the various agencies in Cook Inlet. Types of incidents include injury to crewman or accidents on the vessel that threaten the crew or others. Such reports trigger joint responses by Search and Rescue organizations as well as the USCG in U.S. waters.

#### **Action Items:**

- U.S. Waters - Contact USCG Sector Anchorage Command Center for search and rescue or for suspicious activity (security threats), ship emergencies (fire, salvage, oil spill, propulsion/steering problems etc.).
- National Response Center (NRC) – Contact NRC for release or potential release of oil of hazardous materials into water at 1-800-424-8802
- ADEC – Contact ADEC Oil Spill Reporting Hotline for release or potential release of oil or hazardous materials into state waters at (907) 269-3063 or 1-800-478-9300.

### **B.8.3 Marine Casualties and Other Reportable Events**

This includes collisions, anchor dragging, grounding, oil spills and hazardous material releases of any amount, equipment casualties, loss of propulsion and any other situation which results in the loss of vessel control or possible loss of control, but does not immediately put lives at risk.

NOTE: The COTP will not permit drifting, i.e. intentional or unintentional vessel movement without propulsion control. Vessels are expected to have fully functioning propulsion and steering while underway or at anchor, or a standby/escort tug(s) will be required.

Multiple entities operate in support of Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts by the USCG in Cook Inlet to provide regional specific support for their communities where a small vessel or individual may need immediate emergency support. Due to the size of Cook Inlet, currents, tides and the potential distance to rescue equipment to any particular incident, it is important to contact emergency response services immediately. Those entities in support of the USCG SAR

can include local Fire Departments, Police and or the National Guard or even commercial vessels operating in the area. Any individual or vessel in distress should call for assistance either on VHF Channel 16, Sector Anchorage Command Center at (907) 428-4100 or 911.

For more information on Coast Guard Marine Casualty Reporting and to view 46 CFR 4.05 Notice of Marine Casualty, visit the link below:

<https://www.pacificarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-17/17th-District-Units/Sector-Anchorage/Reportable-Marine-Casualties/>

**Action Items:**

- For any marine casualty, contact the following:
  - COTP through the Sector Anchorage Command Center (907) 428-4100 or VHF Channel 16
  - ADEC Oil and Hazardous Substance spill hot line at (907) 269-3063 during normal business hours or 1-800-478-9300 after normal business hours.

**B.8.4 VHF Channels**

Channel 16: International Distress and Calling. For Distress, Urgency and Safety traffic and general calling. (Vessels subject to Bridge to Bridge Radiotelephone Act and Vessel Traffic Service are not required to maintain a watch on Channel 16.)

Channel 22A: USCG Liaison. USCG does not normally monitor channel 22A so you must first establish contact on channel 16.

Channel 13: Bridge to Bridge. For passing and safety communications between vessels.

Always reduce interference by using low power transmission when practicable.

## **B.9. FISHING NET CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

### **Action Items:**

- Vessels engaged in fishing must comply with the 72 COLREGS and should not obstruct navigable channels.
- Deep draft vessels should proactively verify in advance that channels are clear before transiting.
- Parties shall work together to solve conflicts prior to calling USCG.
- Using a non-fishing vessel to move obstructing nets is a last resort and is not always a timely process.

### **B.9.1 Objective**

Public safety is one of USCG's primary missions and safety of navigation will always be of paramount concern. This guidance is applicable to all waters of Cook Inlet.

Vessel operators should coordinate with fishermen ahead of time by calling them directly or hailing them on established marine radio channels to ensure they are aware of planned vessel movements.

If commercial fishing gear extends into a navigable channel and presents an obstruction or hazard to navigation, vessel operators should report the situation to USCG. Vessel operators are required to maintain safe and positive control of their vessels in accordance with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 Navigation Rules (72 COLREGS) until the obstruction can be mitigated. On a case by case basis, inbound vessels may be directed by the COTP to proceed to anchorages or modify transit schedules in order to effectively mitigate the obstruction.

### **B.9.2 USCG Policy**

USCG has the legal authority to order movement of any vessel and other hazards to navigation when they create a significant safety hazard. It is the USCG's policy that fishing nets, moored or fleeted barges, or any other obstruction shall not prevent the safe passage of vessels in a navigable channel.

Vessels engaged in fishing shall adhere to the requirements of 72 COLREGS, in particular, rules 9 and 10.

It is the responsibility of the Master of a vessel to ensure the safe navigation of their vessel in narrow channels. Masters of vessels that are constrained by the draft, length, width, or maneuverability of their vessel should use any available resources including the vessel's owner or agent, the appropriate port, and the COTP's office, to ensure that the channel is safe to navigate prior to entering a channel.

It is the responsibility of the fishermen and barge owners/operators to ensure that reasonable measures are taken to maintain the safe navigability of a channel. The fishermen must deploy

their nets in accordance with all applicable regulations. Barge owners must limit the width of multiple moored/fleeted barges, as practicable, to minimize the impact on the available channel.

When an obstruction has been identified, USCG will expect that responsibility to alleviate the problem lies with the parties involved and they shall act in a timely fashion to clear the navigational obstruction(s) themselves. Early and proactive communication between concerned parties will greatly increase safety and promote efficient commerce.

If the matter cannot be resolved between the affected parties, the COTP may assist in clearing an obstruction or direct parties to take action to remove it.

## **B.10. PILOTAGE**

The sensitive marine environment, severe winter weather, and large size of vessels transiting Cook Inlet require experienced marine pilots. Southwest Alaska Pilots Association (SWAPA) pilots are examined, licensed, overseen and disciplined by both USCG and the Alaska Board of Marine Pilots. Both of these agencies have full investigatory and license suspension and revocation powers.

SWAPA provides marine pilots to vessels transiting Cook Inlet. The State of Alaska, under AS 08.62.157, requires marine pilots *“to safely navigate vessels under the pilot’s direction and control and to protect life and property and the marine environment while engaged in the provision of pilot services.”* All waters of Cook Inlet inside a line extending from Cape Douglas to the western tip of Perl Island then northward to the shoreline of the Kenai Peninsula are compulsory pilotage waters for vessels subject to AS 08.62.

Under 12 AAC 56.110, vessels are excluded from the use of a state licensed marine pilot in compulsory pilotage waters when proceeding directly between points outside Alaska and an established pilot station for the express purpose of embarking or disembarking a pilot travel via Cook Inlet to the Homer Pilot Station.

Note: vessels are not allowed to enter pilotage waters and heave to while awaiting time adjustment to arrive at the pilot station.

**Action Items:**

- To arrange pilotage, an agent, owner, or master of a vessel shall inform SWAPA of a vessel movement at least 36 hours before the movement in order to provide sufficient time for a pilot to arrive at the vessel by the available means of transportation. An agent, owner, or master of a vessel shall again inform SWAPA at least 24 hours before the movement. See contact information below.
- Inbound vessels are requested to establish contact with the Pilot Station on VHF Channel 10 (KCE 203 Southwest Pilots) one and a half (1.5) hours prior to arrival off the Homer Spit. Contact the pilot boat on Channel 10 a half (0.5) hour prior to arriving off the Homer Spit.
- A pilot ladder is to be rigged in compliance with SOLAS regulation 17, Chapter 5 on the leeward side about one (1) meter above the water.
- Pilot Boarding: As vessels approach the pilot station, 1.0 miles 180° true from Lands End Light; approximate position 59° 35' North latitude, 151° 25' West longitude, they should be prepared to make a lee for the pilot boat should sea conditions require it AND the pilot boat request it. During certain conditions of SW winds and seas, vessels may be requested to proceed past Coal Point and turn north to make a lee for boarding. Vessels are requested to proceed at a safe speed of about 8-10 knots during embarkation with the propeller stopped when the pilot is on the ladder.

There are two pilot boats based in Homer. The MARY DELE is a 36 foot steel hull vessel and the KATMAI is a 55 foot aluminum hull vessel. See Figures 4 and 5.



Figure 4. Pilot vessel KATMAI



Figure 5. Pilot vessel MARY DELE

For more detailed information about pilotage services: Southwest Alaska Pilots Association

(907) 235-8783

[swapa@alaskan.com](mailto:swapa@alaskan.com)

[swpilots@ak.net](mailto:swpilots@ak.net)

156.5 VHF Channel 10

156.8 VHF Channel 16

KCE 203

KCE 203

**PILOT LADDERS ALL STATIONS:** Pilot ladders must comply with IMCO, SOLAS and USCG requirements. Vessels equipped with air powered pilot hoist should check the apparatus for proper operation both up and down. Place the pilot ladder clear of scupper plug discharge drains. During winter months, keep the ladder protected on deck until ready for use to prevent ice accumulation on the ladder. Man ropes and boat ropes are not required unless requested, however a heaving line should be made ready for the pilots bag.

## **B.11. SMALL VESSELS AND MARINE EVENT MANAGEMENT**

### **Action Items:**

- Be alert for marine events in progress, especially during the summer months when boating is popular.
- Contact the Office of Boating Safety and the USCG to report observed unsafe or hazardous operations. Refer to Appendix D.3. for contact information.

USCG, under the authority of Title 33 CFR Part 100, is given the responsibility of overseeing marine events. The event sponsor has the primary responsibility of ensuring that the event is conducted in a safe and orderly fashion, so as to minimally impact other waterway users. For entities planning to stage marine events, permit applications must be submitted to USCG Sector Anchorage at least 135 days in advance. Upon consultation, the COTP may issue additional restrictions.

While there are no recurring marine events that have been permitted by USCG in Cook Inlet, there are several areas that see a concentrated amount of small recreational vessel traffic. In particular, the mouth of the Kenai River and Kasilof River are popular recreational boating locations, especially during the Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery that occurs during the months of June, July, and August. Both dipnetting and gillnetting are permitted at the mouth of both rivers, and attract a large number of small vessels and recreational boating traffic. For specific times and openings, please visit the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) website:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=PersonalUseByArea.main>

Small vessel traffic also occurs in lower Cook Inlet operating out of Homer, Anchor Point, Ninilchik, Kasilof, and Kenai where recreational and charter fishing boats often access the western part of Cook Inlet. For small vessel assistance in a marine event in this area, Sea Tow-Southcentral Alaska operates out of Homer. More information in Appendix D.3. and at the following link:

[www.seatow.com/southcentralak](http://www.seatow.com/southcentralak).

Small vessels, tankers, fast containerships, tugs with barges in tow, ferries, and other commercial vessels share the Cook Inlet waters. They frequently encounter large wakes and fog. All this creates the potential for serious marine accidents. Small vessel operators must be aware of and comply with their obligations under COLREGS 72 (Rules of the Road), specifically Rule 9, Narrow Channels. Additionally, small vessel operators should realize that large commercial vessels cannot stop or alter course quickly, and therefore cannot easily avoid a collision with smaller, more maneuverable vessels. Large vessel crews also have trouble seeing small vessels because of wave patterns, a setting or rising sun, physical size of small vessels such as kayaks or outboards or jet skis, the height of eye of the observer on the larger ship, and containers or other cargo carried on deck that can cause blind spots that often extend ahead of the vessel.

The committee supports continued local efforts to educate small vessel operators about the potential hazards to both themselves and to commercial vessels when they operate in the Cook Inlet area, in the port approaches, and near large commercial vessels.

## **B.12. AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)**

AIS is a system used by ships and Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) principally for identifying and locating vessels to aid maritime safety and environmental protection. AIS helps to resolve the difficulty of identifying ships when not in sight (e.g., in fog, at distance, etc.) by providing a

means for ships to automatically exchange identification, position, course, speed, and other ship data with all other nearby ships and VTS stations.

The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea requires AIS to be fitted aboard international voyaging ships of 300 or more GT, and all passenger ships regardless of size.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) has developed the terrestrial AIS network in Cook Inlet that is used by the Coast Guard, State of Alaska, and the maritime community. It provides real time and historical information on vessels' locations to aid safe, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations. MXAK AIS receiving sites are located at the Port of Anchorage, Kenai, Nikiski, Anchor Point and Homer. AIS transmitters (AIS ATONS) and weather stations have also been installed at Anchorage, Nikiski and Homer, broadcasting weather and navigational information to mariners over AIS and via the internet.

Since 2003, USCG has required that USCG-type approved AIS be properly installed and operational on certain vessels operating within a vessel traffic service area as listed in 33 CFR 161.12(c). The AIS carriage requirements were expanded in March 2016 to all U.S. navigable waters (12 miles) to include the following vessels:

AIS Class A device on:

1. Self-propelled vessels of 65 feet or more in length, engaged in commercial service;
2. Towing vessels of 26 feet or more in length and more than 600 horsepower, engaged in commercial service;
3. Vessels that are certificated to carry more than 150 passengers;
4. A self-propelled vessel engaged in dredging operations in or near a commercial channel or shipping fairway in a manner likely to restrict or affect navigation of other vessels; and
5. A self-propelled vessel engaged in the movement of CDC or flammable or combustible liquid cargo in bulk that is listed in 46 CFR 30.25-1, Table 30.25-1.

Some AIS users are not updating their unit to accurately reflect voyage related information, e.g., navigation status, static draft, destination, estimated time of arrival, etc. Some users fail to properly complete certain basic information. These issues require the due diligence of the users to ensure the AIS unit is always providing proper identification information so that the AIS continues to serve the intended purpose.

AIS users are further referred to the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center website:

<http://navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=AISmain>

**Note:** AIS data can be invaluable. However, as with any source of navigation information, it should not be solely relied upon in making navigational and collision-avoidance decisions.

Further, while AIS allows for safety related ship-to-ship test messaging to communicate with others and make passing arrangements, these communications do not meet the requirements of the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act (33 U.S. Code 1201 et seq) for broadcasts on

the designated bridge-to-bridge channel, nor do they relieve a vessel operator from the Navigation Rules requirement to sound whistle signals or display signals.

### **B.13. COOK INLET SUBSEA PIPELINES**

There are numerous platforms in the waters of Cook Inlet producing both crude oil and natural gas. Some platforms may not produce natural gas, but do receive natural gas from shore to power the platforms. Some platforms are also connected to each other to transport oil and gas from place to place. There are three main companies who own and operate platforms in Cook Inlet and they are as follows:

1. Hilcorp Alaska, LLC (Hilcorp)
2. Glacier Oil and Gas Corporation (Glacier)
3. Furie Operating Alaska, LLC (Furie)

There are two lines that stretch across Cook Inlet waters; Cook Inlet Gas Gathering System pipeline from East Kenai to West Kenai and Marathon Alaska Pipeline from Kenai to Anchorage. The table below lists subsea pipelines in Cook Inlet. Keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive list and may not account for some lines that has been abandoned between 1964 and 2017. There are approximately 48 subsea pipelines. Figure 6 is a map of Cook Inlet Platforms and Infrastructure. For an update on the Cook Inlet Pipeline Infrastructure Assessment, click on the following link: [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org).

**Cook Inlet Subsea Pipeline Inventory**

PIPELINE FACILITY	SHORE FACILITY	LENGTH (Miles)	DESCRIPTION	OWNER
<b>Anna to Bruce Platform</b>	Granite Point Facility	1.62	Oil	Hilcorp
<b>Anna to Bruce Platform</b>	Granite Point Facility	1.62	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Anna Platform to Shore</b>	Granite Point Facility	19.9	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Anna Platform to Shore</b>	Granite Point Facility	19.9	Abandoned	
<b>Bruce Platform to Shore</b>	Granite Point Facility	3.4	Oil	Hilcorp
<b>Bruce Platform to Shore</b>	Granite Point Facility	3.4	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Granite Point Platform to Shore</b>	Granite Point Facility	6	Oil	Hilcorp
<b>Granite Point Platform to Shore</b>	Granite Point Facility	6	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Spark Platform to Shore</b>	Granite Point Facility	7.2	Oil (Not in Service)	Hilcorp

<b>Spark Platform to Granite Point Tank Farm</b>	Granite Point Facility	7.2	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Spurr Platform to Shore</b>	Granite Point Facility	8.4	Oil (Not in Service)	Hilcorp
<b>Spurr Platform to Granite Point Tank Farm</b>	Granite Point Facility	8.4	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Spark to Spurr Platforms</b>	Granite Point Facility	1.2	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>West CIGGS to Granite Point Tank Farm (Provides fuel gas to Spark and Spurr platforms.)</b>	Granite Point Facility	0.5	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>West CIGGS to Granite Point Tank Farm (Provides fuel gas for Granite Point, Anna, and Bruce platforms.)</b>	Granite Point Facility	0.5	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Monopod to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	9	Oil	Hilcorp
<b>Monopod to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	9	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>King Salmon Platform to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	7.5	Oil	Hilcorp
<b>King Salmon Platform to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	7.5	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Grayling Platform to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	6	Oil	Hilcorp
<b>Grayling Platform to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	6	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Dolly Varden Platform to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	5.3	Oil	Hilcorp
<b>Dolly Varden Platform to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	5.3	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Steelhead Platform to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	6.84	Oil	Hilcorp

<b>Steelhead Platform to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	6.84	Gas (Line A)	Hilcorp
<b>Steelhead Platform to Shore</b>	Trading Bay Production Facility	6.84	Gas (Line B)	Hilcorp
<b>Dillon Platform to Shore</b>		5.63	Not in Service	
<b>Dillon Platform to Shore</b>		5.63	Not in Service	
<b>Baker to “A” Platform</b>		2.33	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Baker to “A” Platform</b>		2.33	Not in Service	
<b>“A” Platform to Shore</b>		7	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>“B” Platform to Shore</b>		7	Oil	Hilcorp
<b>“C” to “B” Platform</b>		2.3	Oil	Hilcorp
<b>“A” to “C” Platform</b>		7	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>“C” to Dillon</b>			Oil (Abandoned 1999)	Hilcorp
<b>“C” to Dillon Platform</b>			Gas (Not in Service)	Hilcorp
<b>CIGGS to Shore</b>	Swanson River	19	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>CIGGS to Shore</b>	Swanson River	4.7	Gas	Hilcorp
<b>Osprey Platform to Shore</b>	Kustatan Production Facility		Oil	Glacier
<b>Shore to Osprey Platform</b>	Kustatan Production Facility		Gas	Glacier
<b>Julius R Platform to Shore</b>			Oil	Furie
<b>Shore to Julius R Platform</b>			Gas	Furie
<b>Kitchen Light Unit 1 Platform to Shore</b>			Gas	Furie
<b>Marathon Alaska Pipeline from Kenai to Anchorage</b>			Oil (Refined Oil)	Marathon

*Note: CIGGS – Cook Inlet Gas Gathering System*

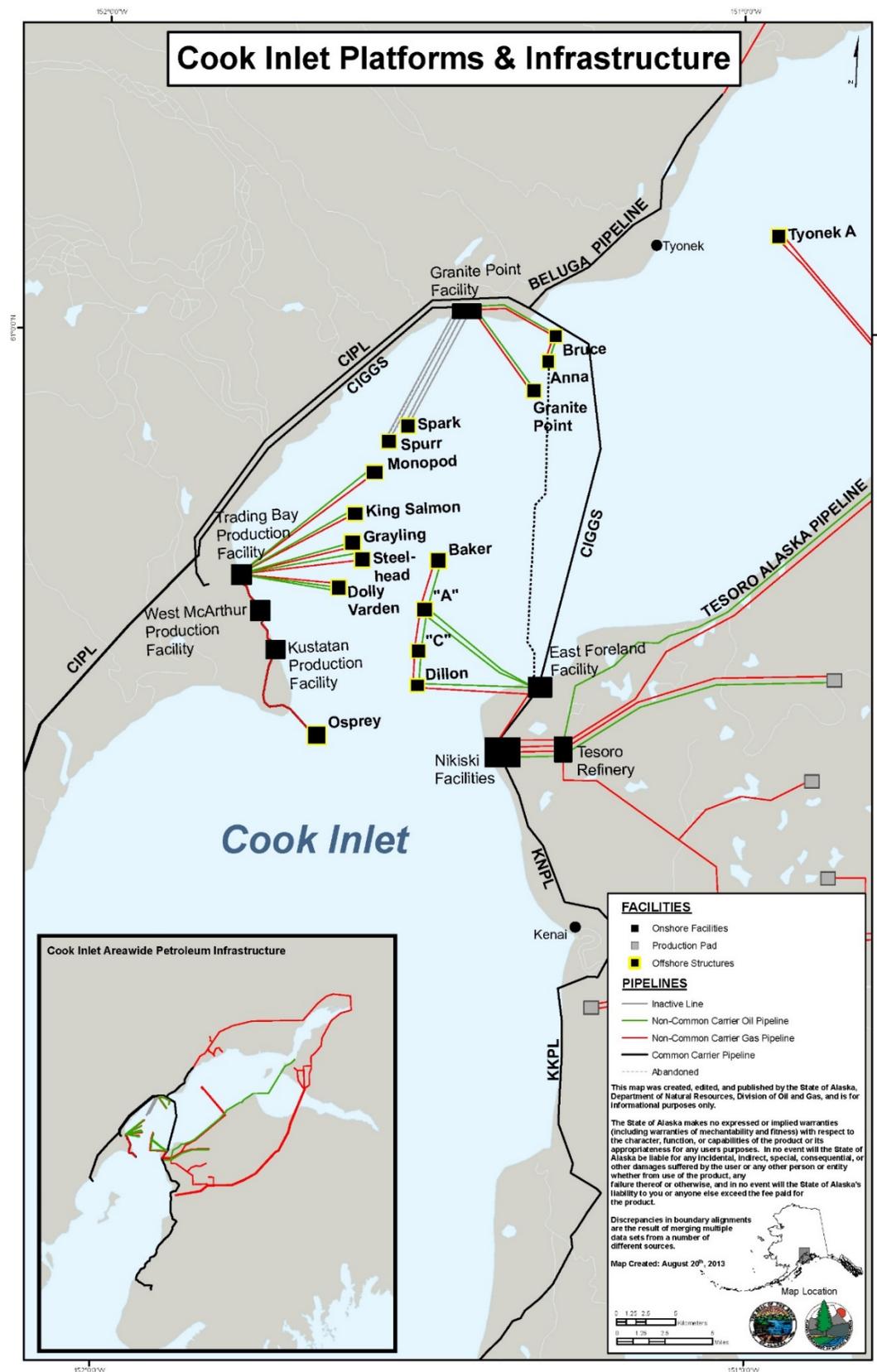


Figure 6. Cook Inlet Platforms and Infrastructure.

## **B.14. SEASONAL/GENERAL FISHING ACTIVITY IN COOK INLET**

The following table provides seasonal information on the major commercial fisheries. All fishing seasons are subject to emergency opening and closure, and most seasons are only open for a portion of the time specified in the regulations. Also, fishing regulations and seasons can change from year to year. Specific information on which species are currently being harvested may be obtained from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) Division of Commercial Fisheries in Anchorage:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingCommercial.main>

Commercial fishing in the federal waters of the Cook Inlet and the Gulf of Alaska are managed under the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska:

<https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/fmp/GOA/GOAfm.pdf>.

Information on current fishery activity in federal waters (3nm to 200nm off Alaska) can be found on the NOAA fisheries webpage or by calling NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division at 907-586-7519.

<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/>

Economically speaking, the salmon fishery is the most important commercial harvest activity. The upper Cook Inlet sockeye drift net fishery generally brings the greatest cash return. Set net and pink salmon seine harvests are economically significant as well. The lower Cook Inlet groundfish fishery is also productive.

**Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Season**

<b>SALMON</b>	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	
<b>Upper Cook Inlet</b>													
Chinook						Gillnet							
coho							Gillnet						
pink							Gillnet						
sockeye						Gillnet							
chum							Gillnet						
<b>Lower Cook Inlet</b>													
pink							Gillnet/Seine						
sockeye						Gillnet/Seine							
chum						Gillnet/Seine							
<b>HERRING</b>													
sac roe and food/bait					Gillnet								
<b>SHELLFISH</b>													
razor clam												Shovel	
hardshell clam												Rake	
scallop												Dredge	
<b>GROUNDFISH</b>													
Pacific cod		Parallel					State waters (Pot/Jig)			Parallel			
rockfish		Bycatch only (mand. full retention all year)								Jig (directed)			
lingcod									Jig (directed)/Longline (bycatch only)				

**B.15. FERRIES AND PASSENGER VESSELS**

<b>Passenger Vessel Operator</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Alaska Marine Highway System</b>	<a href="https://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/">https://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/</a>	800-642-0066
<b>Seldovia Bay Ferry</b>	<a href="http://seldoviabayferry.com/">http://seldoviabayferry.com/</a>	907-435-3299
<b>Mako's Water Taxi</b>	<a href="http://makoswatertaxi.com/">http://makoswatertaxi.com/</a>	907-235-9055
<b>Bay Excursions Water Taxi and Tours</b>	<a href="https://www.bayx.net/">https://www.bayx.net/</a>	907-235-7525

## SECTION C: STANDARDS OF CARE

## **C.1. WHAT ARE STANDARDS OF CARE?**

Standards of Care (SOC) are the procedures and practices, beyond regulatory requirements, that experienced and prudent maritime professionals follow to ensure safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations.

Formalized SOC are “good marine practices” that are developed and published to provide a guide for maritime professionals to consider and incorporate into their decision-making process.

SOC are not regulations and thus not enforceable. In some special circumstances, they may not be the best course of action to take. Alternative procedures may be more appropriate.

Mariners should be mindful that if they are involved in a maritime incident when not following relevant SOC they could be subject to legal action based on a rebuttable presumption of negligence.

These SOC are not all inclusive. They complement the laws and regulations and should they seem to conflict with law or regulation, the law or regulation is always superior.

## **C.2. ANCHORING IN COOK INLET**

Accepted Cook Inlet anchorages are listed in Coast Pilot 9: Chapter 4: Cape Spencer to Cook Inlet. To confirm appropriate anchorage follow the link below:

<https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov>

### **C.2.1 General Information**

Vessels at anchor shall observe all Port Tariffs, COLREGS, State of Alaska, and USCG regulations and procedures for anchoring in U.S. waters. This SOC is not intended to replace existing company and vessel procedures; it simply institutionalizes sound marine operating practices that responsible vessel operators follow voluntarily.

### **C.2.2 Applicability**

All vessel owners and operators are subject to lawful directions of the COTP under Title 33 CFR Part 160, as well as those of the State of Alaska. All waterborne craft shall practice safe navigation and prudent seamanship, including all necessary precautions to prepare for heavy weather. In addition, the standards of care below apply specifically to the following commercial vessels:

1. Power-driven vessels of 20 meters (approximately 66 feet) or more in length.
2. Towing vessel of 8 meters (approximately 26 feet) or more in length.

General Anchorages are intended for the use of commercial deep draft vessels over 200 feet (approximately 61 meters) in length. This includes Articulated and Integrated Tug Barge combinations, and Government vessels.

### **C.2.3 Actions in All Weather Conditions**

**Action Items:**

- At all times, monitor VHF Channel 16 for USCG Sector Anchorage and VHF Channel 13 for vessel bridge-to-bridge navigation safety communications.
- For additional information or to report emergencies, contact USCG Sector Anchorage Command Center on VHF Channel 16 or by telephone at (907) 428-4100.

The following is a description of what the COTP expects vessel owners and operators to do with respect to anchored vessels during various weather conditions. Vessels covered by Title 33 CFR Part 164.19 are reminded that these regulations are in effect at all times. The COTP, through the USCG Sector Command Center, may notify relevant industry members via fax, email, telephone, or VHF marine radio if and when any of the following preventive measures should be implemented. These measures may be advisory in nature or may consist of a COTP Order directing certain actions to be taken. Any lack of prompt notification in no way lessens the responsibility of owners, operators, and masters to take appropriate action.

Sector Anchorage's Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) provide information to mariners about a variety of issues, including regulatory interpretations, policies, procedures and guidance. Local MSIBs are distributed to interested port stakeholders and publicly listed at the following link:

<http://www.uscg.mil/d17/sectoranchorage/msib.asp>

#### **C.2.3.1 All Weather Visibility**

**Action Items:**

- At all times, monitor VHF Channel 16 for USCG Sector Anchorage and VHF Channel 13 for vessel bridge-to-bridge navigation safety communications.
- Maintain a 24-hour bridge watch by an English speaking individual.
- Confirm vessel's position and under keel clearance at a minimum of once per hour.

#### **C.2.3.2 Gale Warnings (sustained winds or frequent gusts between or exceeding 34 – 47 knots)**

**Action Items:**

- All of the actions in C.2.3.1. above plus:
- The bridge watch must be maintained by a licensed English speaking deck officer.
- Maintain a listening watch on the Bridge-to-Bridge working frequency
- Put the propulsion plant on standby and be ready to provide immediate propulsion and maneuver.
- All vessels getting underway should exercise extreme caution.

### **C.2.3.3 Storm Warnings (sustained winds or frequent gusts exceeding 48 knots):**

**Action Items:**

- All of the actions in C.2.3.1 and C.2.3.2. above plus:
- Consider increasing the scope of anchor chain as appropriate (use caution due to depth of water).
- Determine the availability and locations of potential stand by tugs (with appropriate size and horsepower), which could assist the vessel in holding position.
- Assess the need for a pilot, and get one onboard if necessary.
- Evaluate weather forecast and consider getting underway.

All reasonable efforts should be made to bring a pilot on board if vessel must get underway, or must reposition after dragging anchor. However, in an emergency, safety of personnel is paramount and lack of a pilot on board does not release the master from his obligation to take all necessary and prudent actions to protect the vessel.

### **C.2.3.4 Restricted Visibility:**

**Action Items:**

- The bridge watch must be maintained by a licensed English speaking deck officer.
- Increased assessment of radar contacts.
- Ensure all actions required in the COLREGS are complied with.

## **C.3. BRIDGE TEAM MANAGEMENT (BTM)**

**Action Items:**

- Have on the bridge at all times a deck watch officer capable of effectively communicating in English with the pilot.
- Ensure bridge resource team properly trained in BTM in accordance with the Standards for Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), if applicable.
- Ensure watch officers are properly rested per STCW and U.S. laws and regulations.

### **C.3.1 Introduction**

BTM prevents incidents, accidents, and oil spills by improving communication and situational awareness.

### **C.3.2 Basic Components of Bridge Team Management**

1. A watch size and structure appropriate to expected operating conditions (i.e., restricted waterways, traffic concentrations, and restricted visibility);
2. A watch size and structure that effectively addresses the three primary bridge functions: navigation, collision avoidance, and communication;
3. Clear roles and responsibilities for each bridge team member;
4. Clear guidelines for internal and external communications;
5. Procedures for navigating with a Pilot on board; and
6. Comprehensive voyage planning that includes chart updates, plotted tracklines, turn ranges/bearings, tide and weather information, and thorough review of all applicable Notices to Mariners.

### **C.3.3 Expectations**

While operating in Cook Inlet, vessel owners, operators, and Masters are expected to ensure that bridge watchstanders:

1. Are properly rested per STCW and U.S. laws and regulations, (i.e. officer in charge of the deck watch on a vessel when leaving or immediately after leaving port must have been off duty for at least 6 hours within the 12 hours immediately before the time of leaving; have not worked beyond the maximum hours in a 24 hour period). See STCW Section A-VIII, Title 46 U.S. Code Section 8104 and Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations Part 15 for details.
2. Are properly trained in BTM in accordance with the Standards for Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), if applicable;
3. Practice effective BTM;
4. Prepare a comprehensive voyage plan for transiting Cook Inlet from entry into U.S. waters to their final berth or anchorage (and for the outbound transit);
5. Have on the bridge at all times a deck watch officer capable of effectively communicating in English with the Pilot; and
6. Follow the communication procedures below.

### **C.3.4 Communication Procedures When a Pilot is Embarked**

1. The Master should advise the Pilot, upon boarding, which members of the Bridge Team speak English, and discuss how communications between the Pilot and the Bridge Team will be handled.
2. The Master should discuss the voyage plan with the Pilot, and inform bridge watchstanders of the Pilot's intentions and special concerns.
3. The Master or deck watch officer on duty should immediately advise the Pilot when, at any point in the transit:
  - a. The maneuverability of the vessel has been adversely affected;
  - b. When he or she has information necessary for the safety of the ship's transit; or,
  - c. When he or she is uncertain of the Pilot's intentions regarding the ship's movements.

## **C.4. EQUIPMENT FAILURES AND EQUIVALENT LEVELS OF SAFETY**

### **Action Items:**

- A vessel's Master transiting in the Cook Inlet region shall immediately notify the COTP Western Alaska directly of any mechanical or operational deficiency that would reduce the vessel's capabilities.
- Masters shall *immediately* relay the following information:
  1. Nature of the defect, deficiency, damage, failure or breakdown of the vessel's, machinery or navigational/radio equipment
  2. Type of vessel, cargo and fuel capacity
  3. Location and proximity to land or other navigational hazards
  4. On-scene weather, visibility, tide, current, wind and sea state
  5. Traffic density
  6. Maneuverability of the vessel
  7. Proposal to mitigate the deficiency (follow the table below for proposals to the COTP)

The CIHSC and the USCG COTP Western Alaska are committed to ensuring vessels safely transit the waters of the U.S. and Cook Inlet, while also keeping these waters from environmental damage caused by vessel casualties. The COTP Western Alaska will require additional measures when necessary to provide an "equivalent level of safety" to vessels with reduced capabilities.

The following decision table serves as a guideline to vessel Masters to make timely and effective decisions to ensure an equivalent level of safety during a mechanical or operational deficiency:

Defects/Deficiencies	Additional Safety Measure
<b>Propulsion loss/reduced capabilities while underway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately obtain the services of an escort or a rescue tug of adequate size and horsepower</li> <li>• Maintain frequent communication with Sector Anchorage Command Center and relay status of vessel and propulsion capabilities</li> <li>• Make both anchors ready for letting go</li> <li>• Prepare to anchor at closest anchorage or moor at nearest harbor of safe refuge upon direction of the COTP</li> <li>• Correct deficiency before departing</li> </ul>
<b>Loss or reduction of steering capabilities or ship service generator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately obtain the services of an escort or a rescue tug of adequate size and horsepower</li> <li>• Maintain frequent communication with Sector Anchorage Command Center and relay status of vessel and propulsion capabilities</li> <li>• Make both anchors ready for letting go</li> <li>• Prepare to anchor at closest anchorage or moor at nearest harbor of safe refuge upon direction of the COTP</li> <li>• Correct deficiency before departing</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of all radars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit only in daylight and good visibility</li> <li>• Maintain frequent communication with Sector Anchorage Command Center and relay status of vessel and propulsion capabilities</li> <li>• Provide additional navigation officer on bridge</li> <li>• Correct deficiency before departing</li> </ul>
<b>Gyro failure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit only in good visibility</li> <li>• Maintain frequent communication with Sector Anchorage Command Center and relay status of vessel and propulsion capabilities</li> <li>• Provide additional navigation officer on bridge</li> <li>• Correct deficiency before departing</li> </ul>
<b>Automatic Radar Plotting Aid (ARPA) failure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain frequent communication with Sector Anchorage Command Center and relay status of vessel and propulsion capabilities</li> <li>• Provide additional navigation officer on bridge to assist manual radar plotting</li> <li>• Correct deficiency before departing</li> </ul>
<b>Missing navigation chart(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact agent to supply chart(s) at the pilot station</li> </ul>
<b>Propulsion/electrical power reduction or main engine maintenance while at anchorage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain the services of an escort or a rescue tug of adequate size and horsepower prior to taking the plant off line and the permission of the COTP</li> <li>• Maintain frequent communication with Sector Anchorage Command Center and relay status of vessel and propulsion capabilities</li> </ul>

## **C.5. ABANDONED & DERELICT VESSELS (ADV)**

### **Action Items:**

- Any vessel of concern should be reported to the COTP Western Alaska and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) utilizing the Alaska's Joint Agency Vessel of Concern Reporting Form. Report sightings to the COTP, particularly if any may threaten safe navigation or public health and safety to the environment:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/sail/adv/map/>

Neglected, abandoned, or otherwise compromised vessels can pose a substantial threat to public health and safety, the environment and navigation in Cook Inlet. Vessels of concern should be reported as soon as possible. According to state law, a state agency, municipality, or peace officer may take custody of a derelict vessel if it is in immediate danger of sinking, is obstructing a waterway, or is endangering life or property (AS 30.30.090, AS 30.30.100).

### **Alaska's Derelict Vessel Program**

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources's ADV program uses its authority under AS 30.30 to prevent more vessels from becoming ADVs by conducting public outreach and education, outlining strategies for dismantling and removing ADVs, and leveraging available funds to support its efforts. Find more information at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/sail/adv/>

## **C.6. HEAVY WEATHER**

Heavy weather conditions in Cook Inlet mandate that all maritime stakeholders exercise increased vigilance and implement additional and appropriate measures to ensure the safety of ships and to protect the environment. STCW Convention and the International Safety Management (ISM) Code direct a ship's complement to effectively coordinate their activities in an emergency situation and in performing functions vital to safety or to prevent pollution.

Alaska Ocean Observing System provides real time sensors for weather data in Cook Inlet.

<http://www.aos.org/cook-inlet/>

### **C.6.1 Deep-Draft Vessels Underway, High Risk Locations, and Vessels with Problem Histories**

**Action Items:**

- Call for additional tugs or take other action early, before dangerous situations develop.
- Review approved tank vessel Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan or Non-Tank Vessel Response Plan and COFR (Vessel > 400 GT) for reporting requirements and mitigating actions

In all cases, the vessel master and pilot should make a proactive evaluation of the current and forecasted weather, and if necessary delay movement, call for additional tugs, or take other appropriate measures. Vessels which have particular attributes that introduce additional risk should be especially sensitive to environmental conditions that could affect the vessel's material and operational conditions.

Masters and Pilots should consult the Coast Pilot and other sources of local knowledge when transiting these areas, and be prepared for strong tides, currents, and weather conditions.

Vessels with problem histories are those that the COTP has noted as:

1. Having experienced previous propulsion control or steering problems;
2. Having lost anchors or damaged anchors;
3. Having poor or negligent operating histories.

### **C.6.2 Tugs With Tow Underway, High Risk Locations, Tow Configuration / Cargo Dependent**

**Action Items:**

- Close all watertight openings on the tug and tow.
- Reduce speed when necessary, post extra lookouts to monitor the tow.
- Inspect terminal gear, including bridle, pendant, chafe gear, drum and brake; ensure compliance with Title 33 CFR Part 164.74.

Tug masters must be especially cognizant of the high-risk areas in Cook Inlet. Tug masters should consider the area to be transited, vessel cargo, forecasted weather conditions, and tidal/current predictions when deciding the specific tow configurations, and size and type of barges to be used. During periods of heavy weather, tug masters should follow actions covered in the “Action items” portion of this SOC.

### **C.6.3 Recreational Vessels**

**Action Items:**

- Ensure that all prudent actions have been taken to minimize water entry into the vessel.
- Check the condition of anchor and mooring lines, pendants, chafe gear.
- Move vessels to safe areas or remove from water before severe weather.
- Prior to getting underway, check bilge or sump pump for accumulation of water, oil or oil residue.
- Prior to getting underway, check for proper operation of bilge pump, and/or bilge pump float switch.

### **C.6.4 Mooring, Cargo Handling, Crane Operations, Cargo Securing**

**Action Items:** Individual facilities should have a developed, written heavy weather plan, policy or procedure that addresses:

- Designation of personnel to monitor weather, and assess need for additional security.
- Shore crane securing and tie down requirements (per manufacturer's instructions).
- Container/cargo height reductions and location away from the water or other hazardous areas.
- Potential relocation and security of general operating equipment.
- Applicable federal, state, local, as well as contractual labor safety regulation compliance.
  - Refer to Appendix D-6 for facility specific requirements.
  - There may be private mooring available, refer to Appendix D-6

Each individual cargo handling operation has its own unique operating concerns requiring more or less procedural oversight, depending on the complexity of the operation and its exposure to the weather elements. In any case, heavy weather procedures are a critical centerpiece of a company's emergency response plan, regardless of location in Cook Inlet. Port, pier, terminal and dock authorities, operators and/or owners are encouraged to conduct annual reviews of internal heavy weather procedures specific to vessel/dock operations at their facilities. Procedures should be updated and distributed to key personnel to ensure the safety of employees, cargo, equipment, the public and the environment during periods of heavy weather. Procedures should cover all the items in the "Action items" portion of this SOC.

#### **C.6.4.1 Mooring Policies in Heavy Weather**

Refer to the individual facility heavy weather mooring plan, policy, or procedures. Individual facility point of contact information may be found in Appendix D-6.

#### **C.6.5 Floating Plant, Dredging, Port Operations**

**Action Items:**

- Adhere to written policy for modifying/securing operations under certain weather conditions.
- Identify a safe anchorage/moorage for each job.
- Proactively consider the activity's impact on safe navigation in all weather conditions.

Companies that conduct these types of relatively fixed operations should also be cognizant of the impact of heavy weather. Companies should develop written guidance to operations supervisors to take into account current and forecasted weather, and have specific plans for ceasing operations and moving to a safe anchorage or mooring at a specific weather threshold. Operations supervisors should be especially cognizant of how their operations impact navigable waterways. For further guidance, see the HSP Anchoring Standards of Care.

#### **C.6.6 Potential Captain of the Port Actions**

**Action Items:**

- Direct bunkering and lightering operations to cease.
- Direct hazardous materials and explosives loading to cease.
- Direct changes in mooring configuration or location for vessels at terminals.
- Direct vessel movement including course/speed.
- Direct vessels to seek shelter and hold position.
- Require stand-by tugs or tugs in attendance.

If individuals or vessels are not taking actions to mitigate the risks posed by heavy weather, the COTP is authorized under various federal laws to take or direct certain actions, including but not limited to those described in the "Action Items" section of this SOC.

### **C.6.7 Reporting Process to USCG and ADEC**

Everyone can take ownership in making the waterways safe during heavy weather, just as anyone located on the water can be affected by weather induced problems. Mariners going about their business in the port should report any actual or potential problems on or near the water to the COTP at (907) 428-4100, and a spill to water to ADEC at (907) 269-3063. A timely report can expedite correction of an unsafe condition. If the USCG identifies unsafe situations, they will, if time permits, bring the situation to the attention of the responsible party. If the responsible party is not taking timely action, then the USCG will assist them by helping to identify and organize other resources. If the responsible party is not taking action, and does not look capable or willing to do so, then the COTP or ADEC may issue directions to compel action, or take independent actions to mitigate unsafe situations. The responsible party may be liable for the costs associated with the actions required.

### **C.7. HOT WORK**

This standard of care in no way supersedes or is meant to take the place of applicable local requirements from the local fire prevention authority. Where requirements from the local authority are in excess of this standard, they must be met.

#### **Action Items:**

- Follow all applicable Federal regulation requirements for hot work and confined spaces
- Follow all State and local hot work requirements.

### **C.7.1 Hot Work Defined**

Flame heating, welding, torch cutting, brazing or carbon arc gouging.

Any operation which produces temperatures of 204°C (400°F) or higher.

Note: Operations not producing hot sparks or flame such as spark-producing or arc-producing tools or equipment, static discharge, friction, open flame or embers, impact, and non-explosion proof equipment such as lights, fixtures, or motors are not considered hot work unless in the presence of flammable liquids or in a flammable atmosphere.

### **C.7.2 Responsibilities**

Any hot work operation has the potential to ignite combustible or flammable materials. It is the Master's responsibility to take precautions to prevent fires caused by the exposure of combustibles to the effects of hot work.

### **C.7.3 Confined Spaces – Marine Chemists**

Contact marine chemists to certify confined spaces as safe for hot work. Marine chemists are also extremely valuable to use in evaluating spaces and attendant conditions for hazards.

## **C.7.4 Precautions**

### **C.7.4.1 Cleaning and Ventilating for Hot Work**

1. Before hot work is started, the space should be inspected, emptied of flammable cargo, cleaned, ventilated and tested to ensure the atmosphere is at least ten percent or less of the Lower Explosive Level (LEL) and that toxic concentrations are limited to the Permissible Exposure Level (PEL).
2. Extraneous flammable or combustible materials such as scrap wood, paper, ropes or rags should be removed from the space or moved in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or applicable Federal requirements, whichever is more stringent. Combustible materials that cannot be removed should be adequately protected.
3. Fans, blowers, motors and other such equipment utilized to ventilate atmospheres containing flammable or explosive vapors, fumes, mist or dust shall be approved, explosion-proof equipment or intrinsically safe equipment.

### **C.7.4.2 Flammable Liquids/Atmospheres**

1. Do not perform hot work when flammable liquids or flammable atmospheres are present.
2. When hot work is to be performed on fuel tanks, cofferdams, voids, vent spaces or other spaces containing flammable liquids/atmospheres (e.g., paint lockers, flammable liquid storerooms), the adjacent spaces above, below and on all sides (boundary spaces) should first be inspected and tested, cleaned and ventilated or inerted as appropriate.
3. Hollow connections to a space can present the same hazards as the space itself. Pipes, tubes, coils or similar items that service, enter or exit a confined space should be flushed, blown, purged or otherwise cleaned before the performance of hot work on such items. If not so treated, the space should not be considered safe for hot work.
4. Valves to pipes, tubes or similar items should be closed, or the pipes blanked off, to prevent inadvertent discharge or backflow of material into the space.

### **C.7.4.3 Fire Watch**

1. Hot work should only be conducted in those spaces where it is certain that no combustible materials or flammable residue exist. Even then, when flame heating, welding, torch cutting, brazing or carbon arc gouging or any operations that produce temperatures of 204°C (400°F) or higher are conducted, establish a trained fire watch at the worksite with an unobstructed view of the hot work operation.
2. When hot work may transmit a fire hazard into adjacent spaces by overheating the connecting deck, overhead or bulkhead, provide fire watches on both sides of the deck, overhead or bulkhead.
3. When more than one fire watch is appropriate, a means of communication is required; this will enable the fire watch to report hazardous conditions on the opposite side of separating structures and provided a signal to stop the work.

4. Fire watches on both sides of the separating structures should have and know how to use fire-extinguishing equipment suitable to the exposure.
5. After completion of the hot work operation, fire watches should remain on station until all hot work is cool to the touch or 30 minutes (whichever is greater), ensuring that no smoldering embers remain.

### **C.7.5 Handling Dangerous Cargo at Waterfront Facilities**

1. When handling dangerous cargo (all hazardous materials listed in 49 CFR 170 through 179, except those materials preceded by an “A” in the Hazardous Materials Table in 49 CFR 172.101 and all cargo listed in Title 46 CFR Part 148) at designated waterfront facilities, the provisions of 33 CFR 126.15 and 33 CFR 126.30 must be adhered to. This includes safety requirements, fire extinguishing equipment, and welding and hot work conditions.
2. Contact USCG Sector Anchorage at 907-428-4100 for more information.

## **C.8. MOVEMENT IN RESTRICTED VISIBILITY**

### **C.8.1 General**

Conditions of restricted visibility pose an increased risk to the mariner. As set forth in Rule 19 of the COLREGS, vessel operating in conditions of restricted visibility, not in sight of one another, shall proceed at a safe speed adapted to the prevailing circumstances, have her engines ready for immediate maneuver and, if a risk of collision exists, take avoiding action in ample time.

### **C.8.2 Standards**

1. When getting underway or transiting an area of restricted visibility the master, pilot, or vessel operator shall make a positive evaluation, including but not limited to the following operating factors:
  - a. Qualification of personnel.
  - b. Maneuvering characteristics of the vessel.
  - c. The vessels size and draft relative to the waters to be transited.
  - d. The quality of the vessels radar picture and navigational system.
  - e. Vessel traffic/congestion in the area.
  - f. Proximity of hazards to navigation to the transit route.
  - g. Weather, Tides, Currents.
  - h. Watertight Integrity.
2. Crews should be informed of the situation for heightened awareness.

#### **Action Items:**

- Smaller vessels (vessels under 20 meters or approximately 65 feet in length) take on an increased risk in restricted visibility due to the difficulty in detecting these vessels with radar. Smaller vessels should use a radar reflector to increase the possibility of being detected by other vessels.

## **C.9. TOWING VESSEL OPERATIONS**

For the purpose of the HSP, the CIHSC notes that the American Waterways Operator's (AWO) Responsible Carrier Program (RCP) contains the standards of care that responsible towing vessel operators follow in the Cook Inlet region. Tug and barge vessels should also utilize the Pre-Arrival Checklist included as Appendix D.4.

RCP has three principal parts:

1. Management and administration
2. Equipment and inspection
3. Human factors

Each part reflects the role that each of these components plays in ensuring safe and efficient vessel operations. The program is intended to serve as a template for AWO member companies and other towing companies to use in developing company specific safety programs that are consistent with applicable laws and regulations, that incorporate sound operating principles and practices not currently required by law or regulation, and that are practical and flexible enough to reflect a company's unique operational needs. The three sections of the program are meant to be used in conjunction with one another; the policies and procedures called for in the management and administration section, for example, should reflect the recommended principles and practices outlined in the equipment and inspection and human factors sections, as well as the variables of a company's trade, area of operations, size and organizational structure, and the like.

### **C.9.1 Management and Administration**

The management and administration section, the first section of the program, requires companies to look at nine principal aspects of their operations and to develop written company policies and procedures for each. These nine aspects are:

1. Vessel operating policies/procedures.
2. Safety policy/procedures.
3. Environmental policy/procedures.
4. Incident reporting procedures.
5. Emergency response procedures.
6. Internal audit/review procedures.
7. Vendor safety.
8. Organization/levels of authority.
9. Personnel policies.

### **C.9.2 Equipment and Inspection**

The second section of the program contains guidelines for vessel equipment and inspection, and it's divided into two parts: one for inland towing vessels and one for coastal towing vessels. In most respects, the two sets of guidelines are identical, but there are some differences that reflect the significant differences in the inland and coastal operating environments. This section of the program addresses six major areas:

1. Hull.
2. Machinery.
3. Firefighting and lifesaving equipment.
4. Navigation and communication equipment.
5. Rigging or towing gear.
6. Environmental controls.

### **C.9.3. Human Factors**

The last section of the program deals with human factors: manning, watchstanding and work hours, and training. The program outlines a set of comprehensive criteria to be taken into account by companies in establishing safe manning levels for their vessels. It establishes maximum work hour limits for all towing vessel personnel. And, it focuses heavily on training, requiring that all vessel crewmembers receive initial and periodic refresher training in a specified list of subjects.

Training requirements are based on the position an individual holds aboard a towing vessel, not the Coast Guard license he or she happens to hold, and these requirements cover everyone, from the captain and mate to the engineer, tankermen, and deckhands - both experienced and entry-level.

The practices and principles outlined in the RCP are, in large measure, based on principles of safe and sound operation that many companies in the maritime industry have already voluntarily embraced. This program aims to build upon that foundation by extending those practices and principles throughout the industry as a whole.

### **C.10. UNDERKEEL CLEARANCE**

Under-keel clearance standards shall be adhered to by all commercial vessels in Cook Inlet. These standards of care are written with the understanding that certain vessels such as tugs with uninspected barges and commercial fishing vessels are required by the very nature of their business to operate with less than these minimum under-keel clearances when in specific locations and conditions. However, operating with the hull touching or resting on the bottom is no longer considered a prudent or appropriate practice.

The determination of an appropriate minimum under-keel clearance for a specific vessel transiting a specific waterway must take into account many factors in addition to vessel draft and least depth, including but not limited to: vessel size, configuration, speed, trim, and list; the shape, size and hydrography of the waterway; and variations from predicted tidal levels.

For more information regarding underkeel clearance, in Cook Inlet, please see the United States Coast Pilot, Volume 9.

### **C.11. ICE OPERATIONS IN COOK INLET**

Ice season in Cook Inlet occurs during each winter from November through April. Ice typically forms between November and is gone by late March. Historically, during a moderate or severe winter, ice in navigable waters requires the implementation of additional safety measures; thus, the development of the Ice Guidelines. Vessel masters should contact their local vessel agent or office for up-to-date information on ice conditions.

### **C.11.1 Ice Guidelines in Cook Inlet**

During ice season, as prevailing weather conditions dictate, USCG Sector Anchorage will set an appropriate ice condition of readiness throughout its area of responsibility.

Below the conditions are defined:

1. Upper Cook Inlet. North of 60° 45' N latitude (East and West Forelands). Historically been activated in Jan/Dec and removed in March/April when ice concentration was approximately 7-8 tenths in Cook Inlet. USCG determines the actual activation by utilizing ice forecasts by the National Weather Service (NWS) Ice Desk and communications with the Pilots and industry representatives.
2. Lower Cook Inlet. South 60° 45' N latitude (East and West Forelands). Historically activated when ice coverage reached 7-8 tenths in lower Cook Inlet, especially along the eastern shore near Kenai and Nikiski docks.

The COTP, Western Alaska, through consultation with SWAPA and members of the CIHSC, developed the operating guidelines for vessels operating in Cook Inlet during winter ice conditions. They represent a culmination of best practices for mitigating risk to life, property and the environment. For a copy of the most current version of the Cook Inlet Ice Guidelines, visit the CIHSC website at the following link:

[www.cookinletharborsafetycommittee.org/documents](http://www.cookinletharborsafetycommittee.org/documents)

### **C.11.2 Contact Information for Ice Operations**

NOAA/ NWS:

Regional Operations Center (ROC): (907) 271-6540, [nws.ar.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.ar.roc@noaa.gov)  
Alaska Sea Ice Program (ASIP): (907) 266-5138, [nws.ar.ice@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.ar.ice@noaa.gov)

USCG:

Command Center, Sector Anchorage: (907) 428-4100  
Waterways Management Division, Sector Anchorage: [Anchorage.Waterways@uscg.mil](mailto:Anchorage.Waterways@uscg.mil)

SWAPA, Homer: (907) 235-8783

## SECTION D: APPENDIX

**D.1. GLOSSARY**

<b>Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Plan Glossary</b>	
<b>Captain of the Port (COTP)</b>	The Coast Guard officer designated by the Commandant to command a Captain of the Port Zone as described in Part 3 of Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations.
<b>COTP Zone</b>	A zone specified in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 3 and, for coastal ports, the seaward extension of that zone to the outer boundary of the EEZ.
<b>Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service (CVTS)</b>	The system of vessel traffic management established and jointly operated by the United States and Canada within adjoining waters. In addition, CVTS facilitates traffic movement and anchorages, avoids jurisdictional disputes, and renders assistance in emergencies occurring in adjoining United States and Canadian waters.
<b>District Commander</b>	The Coast Guard officer designated by the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard to command a Coast Guard District as described in Part 3 of Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations.
<b>Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)</b>	The zone contiguous to the territorial seas of the United States, extending to a distance up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial seas is measured.
<b>Marine Transportation System (MTS)</b>	The U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS) consists of waterways, ports and their inter-modal connections, vessels, vehicles, and system users, as well as federal maritime navigation systems. Specifically, it consists of: 25,000 miles of navigable channels; over 300 ports; 238 locks at 192 locations; Great Lakes; St. Lawrence Seaway; over 3,700 marine terminals; and numerous recreational marinas. Through 1400 designated inter-modal connections, it connects with over 174,000 miles of rail connecting all 48 contiguous States, as well as Canada and Mexico); over 45,000 miles of interstate highway (supported by over 115,000 miles of other roadways); and over 460,000 miles of pipelines.
<b>Preparedness</b>	The range of deliberate, critical tasks and activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the operational capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents. Preparedness is a continuous process involving efforts at all levels of government and between government and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations to identify threats, determine vulnerabilities, and identify required resources.
<b>Prevention</b>	Actions taken to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. Prevention involves actions taken to protect lives and property. It involves applying intelligence and other information to a range of activities that may include such countermeasures as deterrence operations; heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; investigations to determine the full nature and source of the threat; public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and, as appropriate, specific law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity and apprehending potential perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Glossary (Cont.)	
<b>Response</b>	Activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. Response also includes the execution of emergency operations plans and of incident mitigation activities designed to limit the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and other unfavorable outcomes. As indicated by the situation, response activities include applying intelligence and other information to lessen the effects or consequences of an incident; increased security operations; continuing investigations into the nature and source of the threat; ongoing public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and specific law enforcement operations aimed at preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity, and apprehending actual perpetrators and bringing them to justice.
<b>Sector Commander</b>	Field level Coast Guard operational command. The senior Coast Guard official is the Sector Commander and, in most cases, this individual will also be the designated COTP.
<b>Stakeholder</b>	Those individuals or groups who can have an effect on, or be affected by, maritime operations and other events with the coastal marine environment.
<b>Standard of Care (SOC)</b>	Procedures and practices, beyond regulatory requirements, that experienced and prudent maritime professionals follow to ensure safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations. Formalized Standards of Care are “good marine practices” that are developed and published to provide a guide for maritime professionals to consider and incorporate into their decision making process. Standards of Care complement the laws and regulations and should they seem to conflict with law or regulation, the law or regulation is always superior.
<b>State</b>	Any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States. (As defined in section 2(14) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, et seq. (2002).) For purposes of this Plan, we mean the State of Alaska.
<b>Tribe</b>	Any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native Village as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C.A. and 1601 et seq.], that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.
<b>Vessel Response Plan</b>	The oil spill response plan, to which the vessel is subject, as required by Federal and/or State regulations.
<b>Vessel Traffic Service</b>	The service implemented by the United States Coast Guard designed to improve the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and to protect the environment. The VTS has the capability to interact with marine traffic and respond to traffic situations developing in the VTS area. In the Pacific Northwest, we have a Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service – see description above.

## D.2. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Acronym List	
<b>AC</b>	Area Committee
<b>ACOE</b>	(United States) Army Corps of Engineers
<b>ADEC</b>	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
<b>ADFG</b>	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
<b>ADNR</b>	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
<b>ADV</b>	Abandoned and Derelict Vessels
<b>AIS</b>	Automatic Identification System
<b>AMSC</b>	Area Maritime Security Committee
<b>APIS</b>	Advance Passenger Information System
<b>ATB</b>	Articulated Tug Barge
<b>ATBA</b>	Area to be Avoided
<b>ATON</b>	Aids to Navigation
<b>AWO</b>	American Waterways Operators
<b>BTM</b>	Bridge Team Management
<b>CBP</b>	(United States) Customs and Border Patrol
<b>CCG</b>	Canadian Coast Guard
<b>CDC</b>	Certain Dangerous Cargo
<b>CFR</b>	Code of Federal Regulations
<b>CIHSC</b>	Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee
<b>COLREGS</b>	Int'l Regulations for Avoiding Collisions as Sea (Rules of the Road)
<b>COTP</b>	Captain of the Port
<b>CVTS</b>	Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service
<b>DWT</b>	Deadweight Tons
<b>ECDIS</b>	Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>eNOAD</b>	Electronic Notice of Arrival/Departure System
<b>ETA</b>	Estimated Time of Arrival
<b>ETD</b>	Estimated Time of Departure
<b>GT</b>	Gross Tons
<b>HSP</b>	Harbor Safety Plan
<b>ITB</b>	Integrated Tug Barge
<b>ITU</b>	International Telecommunications Union
<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organization
<b>LEL</b>	Lower Explosive Level
<b>LNM</b>	Local Notice to Mariners
<b>MARAD</b>	(United States) Maritime Administration
<b>MARPOL</b>	International Convention of the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
<b>MDA</b>	Maritime Domain Awareness
<b>MMSI</b>	Maritime Mobile Service Identity

Acronym List (cont.)	
<b>MTS</b>	Marine Transportation System
<b>NOA</b>	Notice of Arrival (i.e., U.S. 96 hour Notice of Arrival)
<b>NOD</b>	Notice of Departure
<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>NVMC</b>	National Vessel Movement Center
<b>NVPZ</b>	Naval Vessel Protection Zone
<b>OPA</b>	Oil Pollution Act of 1990
<b>OSRO</b>	Oil Spill Removal Organization
<b>PEL</b>	Permissible Exposure Level
<b>PIC</b>	Person in Charge
<b>PPOR</b>	Potential Places of Refuge
<b>RCP</b>	Responsible Carrier Program
<b>RRT</b>	Regional Response Team
<b>SLNM</b>	Special Local Notice to Mariners
<b>SOC</b>	Standard of Care
<b>STBL</b>	Ship to be Lightered
<b>SOLAS</b>	Safety of Life at Sea
<b>STCW</b>	Standards for Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers
<b>SWAPA</b>	Southwest Alaska Pilots Association
<b>SWL</b>	Safe Working Load
<b>USC</b>	United States Code
<b>USCG</b>	United States Coast Guard
<b>VRP</b>	Vessel Response Plan
<b>VTS</b>	Vessel Traffic Service
<b>WX</b>	Weather

### **D.3. USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
<b>USCG Sector Anchorage Command Center</b>	907-428-4100
<b>USCG Sector Anchorage Inspections Division</b>	907-428-4163
<b>USCG Sector Anchorage Waterways Management</b>	907-428-4189
<b>USCG Marine Safety Detachment Homer</b>	907-235-3292
<b>Marine Exchange of Alaska</b>	907-463-2607
<b>Southwest Alaska Pilots Association</b>	907-235-8783
<b>NOAA Alaska Region Navigation Manager</b>	907-271-3327
<b>NOAA Alaska Sea Ice Program</b>	907-266-5138
<b>Marine Desk – Anchorage International Airport</b>	907-271-6313
<b>Sea Tow – Southcentral Alaska</b>	907-315-6688
<b>Office of Boating Safety</b>	907-269-8700
<b>Cook Inlet Tug &amp; Barge – 3 tugs, Anchorage</b>	907-277-7611
<b>Ocean Marine Services – 2 offshore supply vessels, Nikiski</b>	907-776-3685
<b>Harley Marine Services – 1 tug, Nikiski</b>	206-628-0051

#### **D.3.1. Oil/Hazardous Material Spill Reporting**

(This is not an all-inclusive list. Operators should follow their Facility/Vessel Response plan as per applicable laws and regulations):

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 1. National Response Center                        | 800-424-8802 |
| 2. USCG Sector Anchorage Command Center            | 907-428-4100 |
| 3. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation | 907-269-3063 |
| Division of Spill Prevention and Response          | 800-478-9300 |

**D.4. TUG/BARGE PRE ARRIVAL CHECKLIST**

<b>Tug/Barge Pre-Arrival Checklist</b>	
<b>NAVIGATION/STEERING</b>	
1. Steering unit(s) operation and fluid level checked	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. For all wheelhouse helm stations, each steering motor energized and rudder operated hard over to hard over.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. For remote steering stations, air switch activated and rudder operated hard over to hard over.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Steering alarms, as fitted, tested.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Rudder angle indicators at all stations verified operational.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Visual inspection of terminal gear, steering components and linkages current.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Off-line generator started and test run. Alarms, as fitted, operational.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Wheel house VHF/ FM marine transceivers tested.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Portable VHF radios tested.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Internal communication system operational.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Radars operational and energized.	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Navigation lights checked (tug and barge).	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Depth sounder checked	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. GPS checked and operational	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. AIS checked and operational	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ECS checked with latest updates (if equipped)	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Charts and nav pubs for intended transit area(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Current Local Notice to Mariners	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PROPULSION</b>	
1. Each main propulsion system tested for throttle response/control in ahead and astern.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Propulsion system alarms, as fitted, operational.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Control system alarms, as fitted, operational.	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Tug/Barge Pre-Arrival Checklist (cont.)</b>	
<b>Deck Machinery</b>	
1. Check operation and control of tow winch	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Check operation and control of bow/anchor winch (if equipped)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Check operation and control of deck capstan(s) (if equipped)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tow Gear</b>	
1. Tow wire terminus and "D" inspected	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Tow shackle connections and safety keepers inspected	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Safety Gear/Equipment</b>	
1. Life raft in date	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Sufficient immersion suits to accommodate crew on board	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Sufficient approved work vests to accommodate crew on board	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Sufficient cold weather gear for accommodate crew on board	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Sufficient fire-fighting equipment on board with in date inspection(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Routing</b>	
1. Local knowledge/recency in area	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Tow wire catenary adjusted for intended transit route	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Tide/current tables reviewed	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Safe anchorages identified	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Local weather forecasts reviewed	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **D.5. OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR ICE CONDITIONS IN COOK INLET**

Current and past operating guidelines for ice conditions in the upper & lower Cook Inlet areas can be found here: <https://www.cookinletharborsafetycommittee.org/>

### **UPPER COOK INLET (Formerly PHASE I)** (above 60 degrees 45 minutes North Latitude)

### **LOWER COOK INLET (Formerly PHASE II)** (below 60 degrees 45 minutes North Latitude)

## **D.6. COOK INLET PORT AND HARBOR FACILITY INFORMATION**

### **D.6.1. Port of Alaska**

#### **History**

The Port of Alaska (formerly the Port of Anchorage) commenced operation in September 1961, with a single berth. In its first year of operation, 38,000 tons of cargo crossed the Port's dock. On average, around four million tons passes over the dock every year, equating to about 250,000 commercial truck trips through Port property. The Port of Alaska is a major economic engine and one of the strongest links in the Alaska transportation chain. This chain enables residents statewide, from Cordova to Barrow, to take full advantage of the benefits of inexpensive waterborne commerce through this regional Port. The Port and its stakeholders have maintained a notable safety record throughout the five decades the Port has been in operation. The Port is one of 21 nationally designated Department of Defense Commercial Strategic Seaports.

#### **Physical Plant**

##### **Real Estate: 1,641 total acres**

- 128 acres of developed uplands
- 65 acres currently under construction
- 48 acres of newly acquired land from JBER
- 400 acres of economically developable tidelands to the north and south of the existing Industrial Park and dock area
- 1,000 acres of submerged lands offshore from tidelands holdings

##### **Terminals:**

- Three General Cargo Terminals, totaling 2,109 ft. of dock face, container, bulk cement, dry bulk and break bulk capabilities
- Two Bulk Petroleum Product Terminals with 600 feet each of berthing space with four 2,000-bbl./hr.-product pipelines each
- Operating depth at all facilities: dredged to -35 feet MLLW
- Maximum vessel tonnage: 60,000 DWT
- Maximum length and breadth: No limit
- On-dock Transit Shed with 27,000 square foot heated storage/office space
- One dry barge berth, available spring through fall, and 15 acres of uplands for any type commodity movement

**Cargo Handling Equipment:**

- Rail mounted, electric Container Cranes:
  - (2) 30 long tons and (1) 40 long tons
- Forklifts to 30 tons available
- Bulk Petroleum Valve Yard capable of accommodating multiple simultaneous marine/shore and/or inter-user shore side transfers.
- Other material handling equipment (MHE) as can be made available through arrangements with Port tenants and/or permitted terminal operators

**U.S. Port of Entry: Foreign Trade Zone service available.**

**Services**

Approximately 50% of all waterborne freight entering the State, and 90% of all refined petroleum products sold within the Railbelt and beyond (87% of the State's population) move through the Port on an annual basis. Container service is available twice a week from the Port of Tacoma through two domestic ocean carriers. Bulk shipments, both domestic and foreign, involve imports of basic commodities such as cement, refined petroleum products and construction materials. The Port, due to its strategic global position and close proximity to neighboring military bases Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Fort Wainwright, is a key transportation node for the Department of Defense for mobilization planning, shipping/transporting of jet fuel and other related petroleum products and bulk cargo for military use.

The Municipality of Anchorage is the Grantee of Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) No. 160, the only activated FTZ in the State of Alaska. The Port of Alaska is the Municipal department responsible for the administration of the FTZ program in Anchorage. At the present time, FTZ No. 160 is comprised of seven sites totaling some 1,000 acres located at the Port of Anchorage, Anchorage International Airport and at five private sites throughout the Municipality. An application for subzone status for the Tesoro Petroleum refinery in Kenai was approved by the United States Department of Commerce, Foreign Trade Zones Board in May 2001.

## **Regulation**

Dock revenue rates for the Port are established in the Port of Alaska Terminal Tariff and through contractual Terminal Preferential Usage Agreements. Changes to the tariff and adjustments to the Preferential Usage Agreements' charges require initial approval by the Anchorage Port Commission, and are subject to final approval by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly. You will find the current terminal tariff at:

<https://www.portofalaska.com/>

## **D.6.2. Port of Homer**

### **History**

The Port of Homer is a public owned and managed enterprise. The first dredging of the harbor basin and entrance commenced in 1963 with boats moored from buoys before float construction in 1965. In 1964 Homer, Alaska was established as a first-class municipality and access to federal funding allowed for the first efforts of the harbor to be rebuilt after being damaged by the Good Friday Earthquake. The Harbor then consisted of three ramps, floats B through K, a Fish Dock with two cranes, a single lane Load and Launch Ramp w/ fuel dock, a main dock, and a wooden grid. Expanded in 1984 to the current 48.7 acres, the Homer Harbor now has 920 reserved stalls, 6,400+ linear feet transient moorage, 2 tidal grids, a 5-lane load and launch ramp, a fish dock with 8 public accessible cranes, and several more access ramps and floats. 1990 brought the addition of a deep-water dock, and in 2003 the construction of the Pioneer Dock replaced the 40-year-old main dock.

### **Docks/Facilities**

Pioneer Dock: AMHS State ferry terminal for the Tustumena & Kennicott, USCG Hickory berth, and fuel barge transfer facility,

Outer face: 469' width 40'; Depth at outer face -40' MLLW; Height of deck +32MLLW; Azimuth of pier NW 315'; East Trestle 364' width 30'; West Trestle 445' width 28' and 46'; berthing limits with dolphins 750' LOA, 80,000 displacement tons

Deep Water Dock: Secure facility-available for Regulated and Un-regulated vessels, gated with heated guard station and restrooms

Outer face: 345'; inside berth face 240'; approach trestle 532' by 24'; Depth at outer face -40' MLLW; Height of deck +28' MLLW; Azimuth of pier NW 340'; Berthing limits with dolphins and buoys 820' LOA, 65,000 displacement tons: One 5 ton pedestal base crane, 3900T Manitowoc crane with stevedoring services available by contractor.

Fish dock: Common Carrier vessels are prohibited

Face: 383', 50' end (side) berths; Depth -20' MLLW; Height of deck: +31' MLLW; Azimuth of pier: NE 30'

Ice Plant: 200-ton ice storage, Cold storage available on short-term and seasonal basis, Ice delivered by auger to totes and/or vessels

### **Grids/Repair**

Wood grid: 50-ton limit, vessels up to 59'

Steel Grid: Max 200 displacement tons, vessels 60' to 120',  
Large vessel haul out facility: Open from approximately Mid-September of each year until Mid-May the facility is managed as an "Open Yard" providing space for haul out and giving large vessel owners the opportunity for management of repairs.

### **Other Services and Amenities**

The Homer Harbor supports a diverse mix of marine commercial industry from commercial fishing, to freight, vessel haul out and repair, and tourism. Surrounding the harbor are a host of shops, charter businesses and restaurants. The Harbor provides fish cleaning tables, restrooms, and boardwalks lined with informational and educational signage for the public.

The Port of Homer also provides opportunities for cargo loading and off-loading and offers a barge/landing craft loading ramp in the harbor and a beach landing area in addition to our Pioneer and Deep Water Docks.

Harbor Coverage: There is a harbor officer on duty 24 hours a day, we stand by on channel 16 vhf. Other amenities the harbor has to offer include but are not limited to transient and reserved stall moorage, parking, potable water, electricity, oil and battery disposal, sewage pump out/eco barge, and fuel.

### **Regulation**

The Terminal Tariff No.1 was issued by the City of Homer for the purpose of naming rates, charges, rules and regulations for wharfage, terminal storage, demurrage and other terminal services. The provisions, rules and regulations in the Tariff may be supplemented by other rules and regulations in conformance with Federal, State and City of Homer requirements under a separate document.

A complete copy of the Port of Homer Terminal Tariff No. 1 can be found on the City of Homer website: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/port-homer-terminal-tariff-no-1>

### **Port of Refuge**

Kachemak Bay is designated as the Port of Refuge for Cook Inlet by the USCG Captain of the Port, and the Pilot station is located just offshore of the Homer Spit.

### **Regional Transportation Hub**

The Port and Harbor of Homer is home port for all of the escort and oil spill response vessels stationed in the Cook Inlet. The Homer fleet works throughout this great State from Ketchikan to Prudhoe Bay, be it commercial fishing, transportation of goods, or transporting construction materials and equipment to non-road connected communities. Homer Harbor also has seen an increase in use as a winter layover port for long range cruising vessels traversing the globe by way of the Northwest Passage.

## **D.6.3. Kenai Pipe Line Terminal (KPL)**

### **General Information**

The Kenai Pipe Line Company (KPL) Terminal is located on the East side of Cook Inlet just south of the East Forelands. The KPL Dock is located at Latitude 60° 41' 00" North and Longitude 151° 23' 48" West. Neighboring facilities, just south of KPL, include the Conoco-Phillips LNG dock followed by the Agrium dock. To the North of KPL is the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) dock.

The KPL Dock is a T-head pier that has an overall length of 350 feet at the breasting platform and 1,295 feet from the outer dolphin to outer dolphin. The fender to fender width is 329.25 feet. The dock is of steel pile and concrete construction. The dock is connected to the shoreline by a 965 foot piled causeway. KPL Dock deck level is 35 feet 6 inches above MLLW. The dock is available 24 hours per day 7 days a week. Dock heading is approximately 160° or 340° true.

The dock can accommodate Tank Vessels (up to 125,000 tons deadweight) and Barges. The dock is equipped with several hoses for cargo transfer and can transfer via a maximum of three (3) (8" x 75") hoses simultaneously depending on cargoes and the vessel. There are 3 crude/dark products and 3 clean product hoses available. Only one vessel is allowed alongside the dock at a time.

Access to the KPL Dock is via the Gulf of Alaska through Kennedy Entrance north into Cook Inlet. The use of a South West Alaska Pilots Association (SWAPA) Pilot is compulsory. Pilots board and disembark at the Homer Pilot Station.

Land access to the KPL Dock is via the Kenai Spur Highway at mile 22.5 approximately **11.5 miles from the City of Kenai. Air services, medical, dental, and stores are available.**

### **Visitor Access**

Access to Kenai Pipeline Company or other Tesoro property is limited to authorized Tesoro, government, vessel, and contractor personnel. Visitors will not be granted access without prior authorization. All personnel accessing the facility must check in with Tesoro Security located at the main gate.

### **Terminal Services**

- Bunkers are available if pre-arranged.
- Potable water is not available at the KPL Dock.

### **Ships Agent**

Any local services required by visiting vessels must be arranged by the owner, vessel, or through their local agents.

### **Access to the KPL Dock**

All vessel crewmembers are only allowed access to the dock via the main entry road. Vessel crewmembers are not allowed in the Tank Farm area.

- No taxicabs or public transport vehicles will be allowed access to KPL property.
- All vessels must provide a crew list to the Dock Person In Charge (PIC) for security reasons.
- All personnel going ashore are required to contact the KPL Dock "Person in Charge" via radio or telephone to request transportation from the dock to the KPL main gate. The PIC will request security to respond to the dock and provide transportation. Crew must remain

on board the vessel until security personnel arrive on the dock. Upon arrival of the security officer, personnel going ashore may disembark the vessel and meet the officer at the bottom of the gangway. Upon return to the facility crew will report to the security officer at the main gate for transportation back to the vessel. Crew going ashore and returning to the vessel must provide the security officer acceptable government issued photo ID such as a TWIC, passport or mariners card.

- Any persons attempting to enter KPL Terminal with alcohol, illegal drugs, or weapons will be denied access, and the vessel master will be immediately notified. The vessel owner/operator may also be notified.
- Any individual requesting transport that displays hostile or abusive action will be denied access to the facility and the vessel master will be immediately notified. Local law enforcement authorities and vessel owner may also be notified.
- All personnel will board and depart the vessel via a secured gangway or the permanently installed dock ladder. Access to Tug/Barges and other small vessels will use the permanently installed dock ladder.

#### **D.6.4. Port MacKenzie**

##### **Background**

Port MacKenzie is owned and operated by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and is located approximately two nautical miles from Anchorage across the Cook Inlet. 2002. Port MacKenzie operates year-round and has been called on by some of the largest vessels ever to enter Upper Cook Inlet. The port offers extensive opportunities for industrial development and bulk commodity storage on 14 square miles of uplands. Both international and domestic imports and exports have crossed Port MacKenzie's docks including; wood chips, saw logs, sand, gravel, cement, coal, scrap metal, heavy equipment, and modular homes.

##### **Facilities and Real Estate**

- 16 acre barge dock, gravel surface with load capacity of 1,000 lbs/sq ft
- 500' barge dock (-22' MLLW)
- Filter rock ramp for vessels equipped with ramps
- 1,200 ft deep-draft dock (-60' MLLW)
  - Maximum vessel tonnage: 60,000 DWT
  - Maximum length and breadth: No limit
- Bulk commodities conveyor capable of loading 2,000 tons/hour
- 7,000 sq ft Terminal building with Class A office space
- Rail extension from existing mainline with a 1.5 mile loop is currently under construction
- 14 square miles of uplands

**Regulation**

Rates, charges, rules and regulations for wharfage, dockage, demurrage and other services for the Port are established in the Port MacKenzie Terminal Tariff No. 2. Changes to the tariff require initial approval by the Port MacKenzie, Port Commission and are subject to final approval by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly. A complete copy of the Port tariff can be found on the Port website. <https://www.matsugov.us/port>

**D.6.5. Port and Harbor Facility Contact Information**

Port/Harbor	Phone	Email	Website
Port of Alaska	(907)343-6200	<a href="mailto:portofalaska@muni.org">portofalaska@muni.org</a>	<a href="http://www.portofalaska.com">www.portofalaska.com</a>
Port of Homer	(907)235-3160 24hr Harbor Officer: 907-399-1649	<a href="mailto:port@cityofhomer-ak.gov">port@cityofhomer-ak.gov</a>	<a href="http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port">www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port</a>
KPL Terminal			
Port MacKenzie	(907)861-7799	<a href="mailto:port@matsugov.us">port@matsugov.us</a>	<a href="https://www.matsugov.us/port">https://www.matsugov.us/port</a>
Seldovia Small Boat Harbor	(907)234-7886	<a href="mailto:harbormaster@cityofseldovia.com">harbormaster@cityofseldovia.com</a>	<a href="http://www.cityofseldovia.com">www.cityofseldovia.com</a>