

City of Whittier Boat Harbor Update

August 31, 2011

Parking:

- ⇒ The “Launch Only” and “Retrieve Only” signs arrived mid-August replacing the hand-painted “In / Out” cones and have helped reduce confusion at the launch ramp.
- ⇒ The Public Restrooms in the Triangle continued to be a problem, especially on cruise ship days, since the buses use the Triangle as a rest stop. We have increased our cleaning rounds to the restrooms on the days that a cruise ship is in port.
- ⇒ The Parking attendants also patrol and maintain the Head of Passage Canal (HOPC) parking lot providing trash pick-up and restroom cleaning.
- ⇒ Two of the three parking attendants have left for the season—the remaining attendant will stay through September and help with cleaning and closing the public restrooms and parking areas.

Harbor:

- ⇒ Harbor Officers continued patrol of Smitty’s Cove at unannounced intervals.
- ⇒ Repairs: replaced hatches on A-float, replaced broken collar on the end of X-ray, thorough cleaning of EVOS building; replaced roof on the east-end generator shed; changed oil on west-end generator.
- ⇒ Harbormaster building’s roof was repaired on August 29, and met the test of the first major rainfall on August 30th. We came in to a dry floor, and have put away the 3 drip-buckets.
- ⇒ The skirting around the Harbormaster Building will be finished after the foundation timbers are put in place. The timbers will be delivered the 10th or 11th of September.
- ⇒ A maintenance assessment of both generators is scheduled for early September.
- ⇒ The two cooperative agreements between the City and ADF&G to fund the launch ramp and the new “W” transient dock outline the priorities of the ramp and dock use. While the use is to be primarily for recreational and sport fishers; we continue to manage the Whittier Boat Harbor according to the restriction placed on the Harbor by Alaska DOT&PF during the transfer from State to the City of Whittier—which is to manage the harbor as a public use facility on a fair and equitable basis.
- ⇒ We have increased vigilance of use of the launch ramps; we encourage commercial fishing vessels to load and off-load their nets from our City Dock facilities or trailer their vessels to load their nets; we urge recreational boaters to be ready to launch and be underway when lining up in the boat-launch lane; and we recommend water-taxis to load and off-load from our Passenger Dock located below the Inn at Whittier.

The longer Harbor operating hours (especially on the busy week-ends):

- improved the flow of launch traffic;
- alleviated confusion of “where to park my boat”, and decreased the number of boat moves for Harbor staff the next morning;
- provided needed guidance and informational assistance for our visitors; which,
- provided a more enjoyable Whittier experience.

Respectfully,

Sue Miller
Harbormaster