



## Alaska Clean Harbors ACWA Grant 2023-2024



Photo: Volunteers celebrate following the underwater clean up in Whittier harbor, February 2024.

Report Prepared for Alaska Sea Grant and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation,  
July 2024

Biz Wallace  
Alaska Sea Grant Fellow  
17101 Point Lena Loop Road  
Juneau, AK 99801  
hewallace@alaska.edu

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States EPA under assistance agreement number 02J41001 to the Department of Environmental Conservation through the Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) program. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial product mentioned in this document.

All photos courtesy of Biz Wallace unless noted.

## Acknowledgements

This project was completed under coordination between the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the Alaska Sea Grant. Without the support of Tav Ammu of Alaska Sea Grant, Laura Eldred of DEC, and Mary Inovejas of DEC this project would not have been possible. We are deeply grateful for their time and expertise. We would also like to thank Sarah Orlando of Ohio Sea Grant, Aaron Barnett of Washington Sea Grant, Pat Durett of North Carolina Clean Marinas, and Theresa Qualls of Wisconsin Clean Marinas for their feedback in creating the tiered certification system.

Thank you to our current ACH Advisory committee members: Dave Borg, Matt Creswell, Maryann Fidel, AJ Keeton, Jeremy Norbryhn, Daniel Miller, and Sarah VonBargen for your stewardship and guidance in administering this program.

Thank you to our creative contributors: Nicole Cobb of [Nicole Cobb Design](#) for the website update and [Savannah LeCornu](#) for the original illustration for our outreach materials.

We are very appreciative to all of the Alaska Native, community, and governmental organizations and agencies that shared their knowledge or resources with us: Dive Alaska (Alex Fancher), Ocean Conservancy (Kristina Tirman), Yakutat Tern Festival (Mary Graves), Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, US Forest Service, Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, NOAA Marine Debris Program (Peter Murphy), US Coast Guard Sector Southeast, Alaska Marine Exchange, Net Your Problem, Friends of the Landfill Dillingham, and Backhaul Alaska.

And finally, a heartfelt thank you and acknowledgement to all the communities and harbormasters that welcomed this project and worked hard to make it happen. We are grateful for their trust and collaboration on this project and their efforts illustrate that protecting water quality truly takes a village.

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## Executive Summary

Alaska Clean Harbors (ACH) is a voluntary program working throughout the state to help harbor managers, communities, and boaters prevent pollution and reduce waste in harbors and waterways. This report details grant activity over the 2023-2024 fellowship period and highlights newly certified harbors as well as outreach efforts across the state. Over the past year, Alaska Clean Harbors:

- Created an outreach and communication plan
- Designed a tiered certification process that allowed for more harbors in Alaska to highlight their achievements and work towards becoming a fully “Certified Clean Harbor”
- Updated the Clean Harbors website and outreach materials
- Worked with select harbors to create tailored action plans towards certification
- Participated in several outreach events in coastal communities throughout Alaska

## Introduction

Whether working, playing, or traveling, spending time on the water is a way of life for many Alaskans. Alaska's small boat harbors serve a vital role in many communities, providing economic opportunities in tourism or shipping, access to commercial or subsistence fishing, and functioning as hubs for cultural or recreational activities. According to the [2021 Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure](#), there are 125 small boat harbors in the state. However, the same report notes that many harbors are in disrepair, giving the state a D+ grade in port infrastructure. A lack of consistent funding and staffing challenges, accelerated by the global pandemic, has underscored the need for renewed investment in Alaska's public harbors. A lack of ongoing investment has deleterious effects on water quality as harbor facilities struggle to keep pace with growing and ever-changing demands of their communities and the challenges of the modern maritime environment. The ACH program seeks to remedy some of these harmful environmental impacts by providing a pathway to further investment and awareness of issues surrounding water quality and environmental stewardship in Alaska.

ACH represents a collaborative effort uniting harbor managers, communities, and boaters under a common goal: to mitigate environmental impact and foster sustainable practices within Alaska's maritime infrastructure. The program is a voluntary, non-regulatory program working throughout the state to help harbor managers, communities, and boaters prevent nonpoint-source pollution and reduce waste in harbors and waterways. ACH provides free technical assistance, tools, and resources to help harbor staff protect Alaska's waters but relies on the dedication of harbor and municipal staff to achieve shared goals of clean waterways. Additionally, ACH engages boaters around the state in best practices for personal and commercial watercraft through various outreach events, guidance materials, and boater-focused festivals.

Established in 2010, the ACH program was reinvigorated through a pilot marine sewage outreach project supported by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

and Alaska Sea Grant in 2021. This project incorporates feedback gained from previous outreach efforts and survey results. Over the 2023-2024 year, an Alaska Sea Grant fellow representing the ACH program traveled to pledged Clean Harbors (Whittier, Yakutat, Dillingham, Homer), boater and harbormaster outreach events, and worked remotely with many other interested and previously certified harbors, which culminated in certifying one new harbor, two previously certified harbors, and beginning the process for four harbors.

This report endeavors to provide a summation of the Alaska Clean Harbors' 2023-2024 initiative, delving into its objectives, methodologies, and impact across the expansive maritime landscape of Alaska. By examining the program's lessons learned, key initiatives, and notable achievements, this report will illuminate the program's vital role in fostering a culture of responsibility among stakeholders. From the icy waters of the Bering Sea to the majestic fjords of Southeast Alaska, Alaska Clean Harbors illustrates the power of collaborative, community-led action in safeguarding our planet's most precious resources.

## Campaign Overview

### Goals

Design a process to allow for ease of certification for new harbors, update outreach materials and website, and attend outreach events in service of increasing public awareness of Alaska Clean Harbors program.

### Objectives

- Increase awareness and accessibility of the Alaska Clean Harbors webpage and resources
- Promote the importance of signage at harbors
- Identify key messages to harbormasters, harbor staff, and harbor users
- Design and promote tiered certification process
- Attend in-person outreach activities (e.g., industry meetings, community events)
- Develop new signage or other outreach materials
- Update website to include Advisory Committee contact information, printable resources and best practices information
- Implement Outreach & Communication Plan (See Appendix I)

### Campaign Messages

- Alaska Clean Harbors certification is a supportive process that offers recognition for excellent harbor management and pollution prevention
- Many Alaskan harbors only require minor adjustments to achieve Clean Harbors status and this program provides resources to cross the finish line
- Clean harbors are good for business and good for the community

- The Alaska Clean Harbors program is non-punitive and helps identify barriers to certification/recertification
- Improving and protecting water quality benefits both aquatic life and those who rely on marine resources for their livelihoods or subsistence fishing

## A New Path to Certification

### Phase One

To better meet the needs of Alaska’s coastal communities, the initial phase of the ACH roll-out campaign took place ahead the creation of the new certification program. During this phase, an ACH representative traveled to the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) annual conference in September to announce the overhaul of the program as well as appeal for feedback on the existing program structure. The goal of attending the conference was to garner interest in participating in a new, accessible program that prioritized the needs of each respective community as well as the clean water goals of the ACWA grant.



Figure 1: A slide from the AAHPA presentation outlining additional benefits of participation in ACH.



Figure 2: ACH representative and Alaska Sea Grant fellow Biz Wallace presents at the 2023 AAHPA conference.

After presenting at the conference, ACH spent the next few months following up on leads and reaching out directly to harbors. ACH reached out to a total of 25 harbors within Alaska and generated interest in 15.

ACH representatives also met with harbor officials and boaters at the Pacific Marine Expo in November. Though hosted in Seattle, PME is a significant gathering of Alaskans (hosting an entire section of the convention center as the “Alaskan Wing”), and it was an efficient way to connect with many potential interested harbors. ACH distributed stickers to around 80 harbor users and met with 8 harbor officials.



Figure 3: Sea Grant MAP agent Tav Ammu and Biz Wallace meet with interested fishers and boaters at the November 2023 Pacific Marine Expo.



Following both conferences, a short list of harbors was targeted based on interest. An ACH representative facilitated multiple teleconference meetings with interested harbors and then generated tailored action plans based on feedback. During phase two of the campaign, ACH commenced site visits and implementation of the action plans.

Harbor	Name	Email	Interest	Status
Aleutian East Borough	(Akutan, King Cove, Sand Point)	eweiss@aeboro.org	Maybe 2025	
Bethel	Ed Flores	port@cityofbethel.net	Interested but no contact	
Cordova	Tony Schinella	harbor@cityofcordova.net	Potentially for 2025	
Craig	Hans Hjort	harbormaster@craigak.com	Contact for clean up with Ocean Conservancy	
Dillingham	Danny Miller	harbor@dillinghamak.us	high	
Dutch Harbor	Trever Schliebe	trschliebe@ci.unalaska.ak.us	Maybe 2025	
Haines	Shawn Bell	sbell@haines.ak.us	Maybe 2025	certified 2013
Homer	Aaron Glidden	aglidden@cityofhomer-ak.gov	high	certified 2010, 2014, 2018
Hoonah	Andy Gray	harbormaster@cityofhoonah.org	Contact for clean up with Ocean Conservancy	
Hydaburg		hydaburgharbormaster@gmail.com	No response	
Juneau	Jeremy	Jeremy.Norbryhn@juneau.gov	completed	certified 2023
Ketchikan	Dan Berg	danb@ktn-ak.us	No response	
Kodiak	Dave Johnson	djohnson@city.kodiak.ak.us	high	
Metlakatla	Genelle Winter	gwinter@metlakatla.com	Interested in capital improvement	
Nome	Lucas Stotts	lstotts@nomealaska.org	No response	
Pelican	Philip Spencer	harbormaster@pelicanity.org	No response	
Petersburg	Glo DeBoer Wollen	gwollen@petersburgak.gov	No response	
Seldovia	Layla Jandt-Pedersen	harbormaster@cityofseldovia.com	No response	
Seward	Tony Sieminski	tsieminski@cityofseward.net	high	certified 2012, 2015
Sitka	Stan Eliason	stan.eliason@cityofsitka.org	Potentially 2025	certified 2015
Skagway	Matt O'Boyle	m.oboyle@skagway.org	yes	

Valdez	AJ	akeeton@valdezak.gov	high	certified 2020
Whittier	Dave Borg	harbor@whittieralaska.gov	high	
Wrangell	Steve Miller	smiller@wrangell.com	No response	
Yakutat	Ann Holcomb	harbormaster@yakutatak.us	high	

*Table 1: Working Table of Harbor Contacts and Interest Level from Fall 2023.*

## Phase Two

Phase two of the project consisted of creating a new certification checklist and process, beginning site visits, and implementing the outreach and communication plan. After overcoming communication and marketing challenges, the checklist was reworked to better suit the needs of harbors and communities. An ACH representative visited Whittier, Yakutat, Dillingham, and Homer. Site visits and the implementation of the plan will be more thoroughly discussed in the Select Harbors section below.

## Changing the Message

Overcoming a series of misconceptions held by harbor managers and communities about ACH was an initial hurdle to reinvigorating the program, namely that participation in the program would require costly capital improvement projects. Stakeholders were reassured that many ACH checklist items required a low investment (e.g., picking up trash) or that ACH could help cover the costs of some items (e.g., fuel spill prevention materials or signage.) Another misconception is that the program would invite government regulation. Messaging was adjusted to emphasize that the program was entirely voluntary and could prevent more costly or challenging regulations in the future. Finally, due to the length and structure of the previous checklist, many harbor managers believed the certification process to be lengthy and time-intensive. An ACH representative reached out directly to demonstrate that the program had a dedicated staff member to help with certification and communicate that most of the process could be completed in an afternoon and that many recommended pollution prevention methods could be completed in a few hours per week. Through direct outreach, ACH began to disassemble old and incorrect assumptions around the program and begin the work towards shared common goals.

Another obstacle in rethinking the ACH program was understanding and addressing pollution prevention challenges unique to Alaska. Though many excellent Clean Marinas programs in the lower 48 were consulted for the updated checklist, the scale of Alaska's coastline coupled with limited infrastructure in remote areas meant that some recommendations were impractical. Thus, ACH conducted informational interviews with stakeholders around the state to better understand the challenges on the ground. The best practices on the current checklist come from these interviews, the prior Alaska-based checklist, and recommendations from the ACH advisory committee.

Finally, through many conversations with stakeholders, it became clear that the program's benefits needed to be communicated more effectively. Though the primary goal of the ACH program is clean water, the benefits of participating in this program include community engagement, supporting economic vitality, and increased awareness around the hard work of harbor managers and their communities to prevent pollution. Through the creation of tailored action plans, ACH identified methods of directly supporting communities and harbors through beach clean-ups or by building partnerships with related organizations.

## Redesigning the Process

A lesson learned from the previous funding cycle was that many remote or under-resourced harbors felt left out of the process. One of the goals of restructuring the program was to make the process accessible to more harbors in the state and to attempt to minimize the cost of certification, as many municipalities and boroughs cannot afford capital investment projects. Thus, after researching and speaking with other Clean Marinas programs around the country and Alaskan harbor managers, a tiered system was developed to allow for a range of certification efforts.

The new Clean Harbors Tiered Certification Program is a flexible system that can adapt to each harbor's unique capabilities and resources. It consists of three levels: Silver, Gold, and Platinum. Each level requires a specific number of checklist items within each category. Harbors can strategically select which BMP checklist items to focus on, based on their individual capabilities and resources. For instance, a remote harbor aiming for a Silver certification only needs to meet the regulatory requirements and 3 out of the 20 items in the Harbor Operations category. These could include tasks such as posting signage, collecting trash, and correctly storing fuel and hazardous waste, among others, depending on the harbor.

The BMP checklist has also been revamped with broader categories and an expanded range of issues, including coastal resiliency. As the immediate threat of climate change looms over coastal communities, the checklist has been updated with items such as protecting the coast from erosion and community planning and awareness around natural hazards. The intention is for the checklist to continue evolving in response to the changing environment and the evolving needs of coastal communities, ensuring it remains a relevant and effective tool for harbor management.

Additionally, the tailored action plans proved vital to success as each harbor could quickly and easily identify issues preventing them from achieving certification. A common complaint from harbormasters was feeling overwhelmed by the length and detail of the prior checklist so the action plan focused their efforts on two to three items. These collaborative action plans addressed the biggest pollution contributors in the harbor while providing a clear path forward with support for the harbormasters.

## Select Harbors

Alaska Clean Harbors is currently working with eleven harbors in various stages of certification. This section of the report will detail outreach efforts, pollution mitigation techniques, and needs of each harbor. Below is an overview of selected harbors for quick reference.

### Harbor Snapshot

Harbor	Status	Harbor Contact	Email	Needs	Relevant Dates
Juneau	Re-cert. 2023	Jeremy Norbryhn, Dep. Harbormaster	jeremy.norbryhn@juneau.gov	Flags	Due 2026
Seward	Re-cert. 2023	Tony Sieminski, Dep. Harbormaster	tsieminski@cityofseward.net	Flags	Due 2026
Yakutat	New cert. 2024	Ann Holcomb, Harbormaster	harbormaster@yakutatak.us	Flags, Press Release	Due 2027
Dillingham	In-Progress	Daniel, Harbormaster	harbor@dillinghamak.us	Backhaul for used fuel	Expected 2024
Homer	In-Progress	Aaron Glidden,	aglidden@ci.homer.ak.us		Expected 2024
Valdez	In-Progress	AJ Keeton, Maintenance Tech	akeeton@valdezak.gov		Expected 2024
Whittier	In-Progress	Kyle Loan, Dep. Harbormaster	harborofficer3@whittieralaska.gov	Letter of support	Expected 2024
Cordova	Interested	Tony Schinelli, Harbormaster	harbor@cityofcordova.net		Expected 2025
Dutch Harbor	Interested	Trever Shliebe, Harbormaster	trschliebe@ci.unalaska.ak.us		Expected 2025
Kodiak	Interested	Dave Johnson, Harbormaster	djohnson@city.kodiak.ak.us		Expected 2025
Skagway	Interested	Rebecca Kameika, Port Administrative Manager	r.kameika@skagway.org		Expected 2025

Table 2: Quick reference table of harbors involved in ACH.

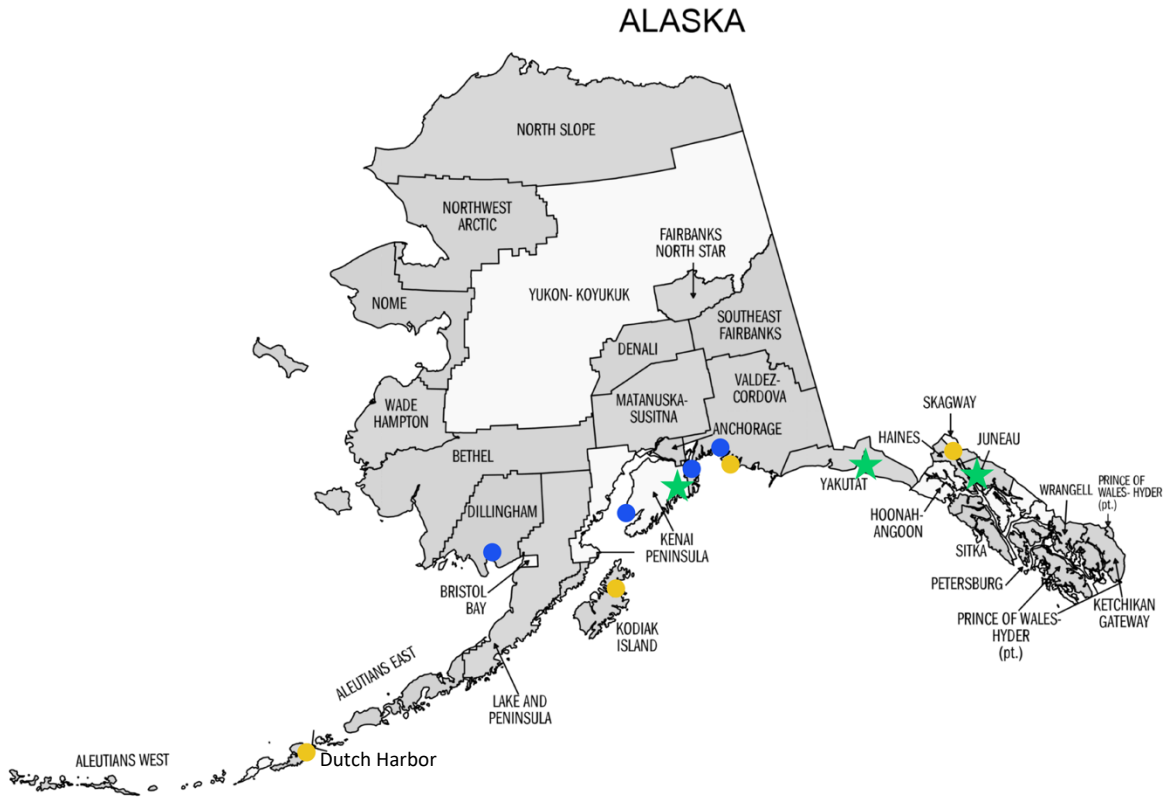


Figure 4: Quick reference map of harbors involved in ACH. Green stars are certified. Blue dots are in-progress. Yellow dots are pledged or interested harbors.

## Certified Harbors

### Juneau

Jeremy Norbryhn

Deputy Harbormaster

[Jeremy.Norbryhn@juneau.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Norbryhn@juneau.gov)

Juneau successfully re-certified as a Clean Harbor in 2023 and we acknowledged their accomplishment at the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) conference in September of 2023. In November of 2023, Deputy Harbormaster Norbryhn and an ACH representative completed a site visit at Statter Harbor to inspect some of the modifications made for pollution prevention including new pump out and pet waste signage and modified waste receptacles.

In January 2024, nine vessels and one boat shelter sank due to snow accumulation and Norbryhn and Harbormaster Matt Creswell worked with ADEC and the Coast Guard to mitigate pollutants from the event. Though Juneau harbors currently have an alert text system in place, calls for assistance were made via social media. ACH is researching ways that boater community communication can be improve in regard to pollution events resulting from severe weather incidents. ACH ordered ten fuel fill filters and a number of fuel bibs to support harbors like Juneau with minor fuel spill prevention.



Figure 5: At left, a modified recycling container prevents contamination with fish or solid waste in Statter Harbor, Juneau. At right: Boaters are encouraged to use pump out stations which are conveniently located at multiple locations.

Additionally, an ACH representative participated in several outreach efforts in Juneau. ACH assisted DEC in setting up a public information booth at the Juneau Maritime Festival where they reached over one hundred boaters in the greater Southeast area and distributed over 50 fuel bibs. ACH also assisted with the NOAA administrated Sea Week program in helping middle school students test water quality in the stream adjacent to Statter Harbor. Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers has also expressed interest in partnering with ACH in outreach or harbor clean-up effort.



Figure 6: Visitors explore the 2024 Juneau Maritime Festival. At right: An ACH/DEC table display at the festival.

## Seward

Tony Sieminski

Deputy Harbormaster, 907-224-4357

[tsieminski@cityofseward.net](mailto:tsieminski@cityofseward.net)



*Figure 7: Seward harbor as seen from above. Photo courtesy Seward Chamber of Commerce.*

Seward recertified their Clean Harbor status in 2023 and was able to do so quickly as all the Best Management Practices (BMP) were still in place. Deputy Harbormaster Sieminski is interested in continuing to improve water quality and pollution prevention in Seward. He is looking into installing a centrifuge for their used oil burner and is researching marine debris skimmer options. To give public recognition of the re-certification and support Seward harbor's strides towards constant improvement, ACH is planning a celebratory event and press release.



## Yakutat

Ann Holcomb

Harbormaster, 907-410-7306

[harbormaster@yakutat.ak.us](mailto:harbormaster@yakutat.ak.us)



*Figure 8: Harbormaster Ann Holcomb with ACH rep. Biz Wallace.*

Yakutat is the first rural harbor to gain a Gold certification with the updated BMP checklist. Harbormaster Holcomb completed the legacy BMP checklist in February and an ACH representative took part in a site visit in April to begin implementation of the action plan. ACH provided Yakutat with two pet waste clean-up stations as well as additional signage and storage recommendations. Additionally, ACH partnered with Ocean Conservancy, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, US Forest Service, and Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment to lead a beach clean-up with local school children and tribal members as well as a DIY community clean up as part of the Yakutat Tern Festival. These resources assisted with Yakutat's certification.

Holcomb is working with the city and the Tribe to see if there is money available for small items such as additional animal resistant trash cans. ACH is also assisting with implementing partnerships with Net Your Problem, a nonprofit that recycles fishing nets, and Backhaul Alaska, an organization that removes harmful waste from rural communities. Holcomb hopes that energizing folks around the harbor will help keep it clean as they begin to break ground for new infrastructure investments such as a bathroom and fuel dock.

Holcomb's recommendations for the ACH program:

- Assistance with used oil disposal
- Oil spill response training
- Help with grant proposals and opportunities



Figure 9: Pet waste clean-up signs in Yakutat. At right: Bear-proof trash cans in front of environmental signage in the harbor.



Figure 10: Kristina Tirman of Ocean Conservancy and Biz Wallace host a DIY clean up table in addition to an organized beach clean-up as part of the Yakutat Tern Festival.

## In-Progress Certifications

### Dillingham

Daniel Miller

Harbormaster, 907-843-1379

[harbor@dillinghamak.us](mailto:harbor@dillinghamak.us)



*Figure 11: Dillingham Harbormaster Daniel Miller in front of the harbor truck and dredging equipment.*

Dillingham is a seasonal fishing harbor, operational for three months out of the year and Harbormaster Daniel Miller is the sole full-time employee. Miller has reviewed a draft of the Silver Tier checklist and Dillingham could be ready for certification by the late summer. A major hurdle to certification is the accumulation of used fuel oil and the lack of disposal options for rural harbors. ACH is assisting with building partnerships to solve this issue.

In January, an ACH representative took part in a meeting with Friends of the Landfill (FOL), a local non-profit, where the topic of assisting the harbor in scaling its solid waste capacity for the summer fishing season was discussed. FOL also discussed reviving the Friends of the Harbor program to assist with ACH goals. An ACH representative then traveled to Dillingham in May to assist with the community clean-up, led by FOL, and to connect about summer trash removal. ACH sat in on a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding dredging in the harbor and met the mayor to inform her of program efforts.



Figure 12: Sea Grant MAP agent Tav Ammu and fellow Biz Wallace assist with the Dillingham community clean up.



Figure 13: At left, signage in Dillingham harbor promotes best practices. At right, waste oil overwhelms harbor facilities.

ACH contributed additional signage to Dillingham harbor and completed a site visit with Harbormaster Miller. Miller is currently developing additional harbor policies in line with the BMP checklist and has been a significant contributor to the updated checklist.

Harbormaster Miller's suggestions for the ACH program:

- How-to videos or other aids for boater education
- Assistance with training seasonal staff re. oil spills
- Research/information to help with set up of used oil burner to address abundance of used oil
- Assistance with grants for infrastructure improvements
- Partnerships to help with hauling waste out of Dillingham

## Homer

Contact:

Aaron Glidden

Deputy Harbormaster, (907) 299-5332

[AGlidden@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:AGlidden@ci.homer.ak.us)



*Figure 14: Homer harbor seen from above. Cranes in the foreground are available to the public for vessel operations.*

In June 2024, an ACH representative traveled to Homer and met with Port Director Bryan Hawkins, Harbormaster Matt Clarke, and Deputy Harbormaster Aaron Glidden to discuss the bigger picture issues affecting the harbor. Like many harbors detailed in this report, Homer needs capital investment funds after years of deferred maintenance. Homer is also seeking funding for addressing the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels. Additionally, challenges with the borough landfill and the increase in tourist traffic has led to an overwhelming amount of solid waste in the summer. Port Director Hawkins hopes that the port expansion project coupled with the reinvigoration of the Clean Harbors program will help raise the profile for the above issues and potentially provide more support for future funding efforts.

During the site visit, the used fuel oil collection and burner system and the fish waste collection system were documented. Harbor representatives also discussed the utility and potential drawbacks of tidal grids. In Homer harbor, fish waste bins are placed around the

facility, collected daily, and then the fish waste is run through a grinder before being pumped offshore. There are also many used oil collection centers around Homer harbor. The harbor has a pump truck that periodically collects oil from the barrels and then delivers it to a separator which “cleans” the oil before being used in the burner that heats the maintenance shed. As used fuel oil is a major issue across the state, Homer’s facility could serve as an example for interested harbors. They estimated their burner cost around 15 thousand dollars plus the salary for someone to help maintain it but claim that it has paid for itself many times over in saved heating costs. Finally, an ACH representative examined one of the tidal grids that Homer offers their customers for boat maintenance. Deputy Harbormaster Glidden expressed his concern that they would be outlawed due to potential pollution concerns and could drive boat owners to use more destructive methods of hull maintenance or perform maintenance in secret.

Deputy Harbormaster Glidden has begun working through the BMP checklist and hopes to have it complete by late summer. He has not requested much support with the checklist as Homer has been certified previously and much of their paperwork is readily available. Homer harbor is in the initial phases of a harbor [expansion project](#) and intends to fold their Clean Harbor efforts into this project. The harbor is also onboarding a new property manager who will help maintain the facilities on a day-to-day basis. Glidden hopes to have the checklist completed by late summer of 2024 and has offered his assistance in updating the checklist and program. We anticipate Homer will receive a Gold or Platinum rating based on their extensive environmental mitigation efforts.

ACH Program suggestions from Homer harbor:

- Digital content relating to boater education/ how-to videos
- Help in subsidizing or facilitating access to HAZWOPER training as it has been a significant burden
- A list of grant funding opportunities
- Explore pollution mitigation methods for tidal grids so that they may continue to be used by community members
- Letters of support from Clean Harbors to show municipal leaders



Figure 15: Homer uses an extensive waste oil collection network which is then used to heat their workshop with a burner. Their facility also boasts an oil filter crusher (right) to maximize reuse.



Figure 16: From left, Port Director Bryan Hawkins, Deputy Harbormaster Aaron Glidden, ACH representative Biz Wallace, and Harbormaster Matt Clarke meet to discuss pollution issues in Homer harbor.

## Valdez

AJ Keeton

Harbor Maintenance Tech, 907-835-4981

akeeton@valdezak.gov



*Figure 17: Valdez small boat harbor. Photo courtesy of Discover Valdez.*

Valdez harbor has a history of environmental stewardship and implementation of pollution prevention methods. Valdez is currently working on [improving](#) the small boat harbor and has been the recipient of several grants related to water quality including funding a pump out vessel. Harbor Maintenance Tech AJ Keeton is checking things off the BMP list and is also working on renewing the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Keeton and Harbormaster Sarah VonBargen have also been contributing their edits to the updated BMP checklist.



## Whittier

Kyle Loan

Deputy Harbormaster, 907-854-2897

[harborofficer3@whittieralaska.gov](mailto:harborofficer3@whittieralaska.gov)



*Figure 18: Scuba and land-based volunteers complete a harbor clean-up in Whittier.*

Whittier is located on the road system, convenient to Anchorage, but access to the town is limited by a one-way tunnel controlled by the Alaska Railroad Corporation. The majority of Whittier's harbor users are transient, and officials struggle to communicate with them or impart a sense of ownership regarding harbor stewardship. Due to past lax enforcement, Whittier also suffers from a poor reputation regarding following harbor policies. Harbor officials expressed a need for public awareness and education as well as a need for a letter of support or testimony for their local government.

In February, an ACH representative completed a site visit with Whittier Harbor and met with both Deputy Harbormaster Loan and Harbormaster Borg. Loan went through the legacy version of the checklist, and he has completed 75% of it. The site visit was partially incomplete as temperatures were below zero and some facilities were inaccessible. Loan has offered to put together an itemized list including photographs and city code for the checklist to assist other harbors. We anticipate that Whittier will achieve certification later this year.



Figure 19: Volunteers sort decades of underwater trash accumulation in Whittier Harbor.

In addition, ACH participated in a [harbor clean-up](#) organized by Dive Alaska and supported by Ocean Conservancy and Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation. Over 90 volunteers showed up and removed 3,780lbs of trash from the harbor. Whittier tunnel fees were also waved for the event. The organizer, Alex Fancher, discussed the opportunities for future events and the extreme interest he has received from harbormasters. The event was featured on Alaska's News Source and harbor officials hope that it will begin to shift Whittier's reputation as a dumping ground. ACH also distributed two [Clean Way](#) fuel fill kits to the harbor to contribute to their certification efforts.

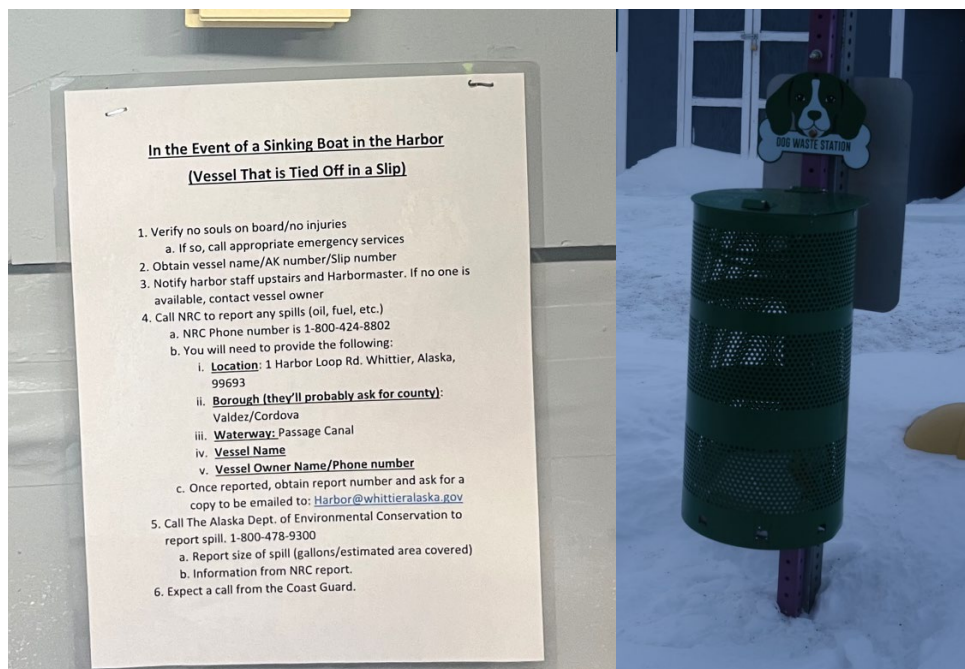


Figure 20: At left, Whittier Harbor has created many SOP documents for common issues. At right, a pet waste clean-up station.

Whittier harbor's recommendations for the ACH program:

- Assistance with city council on getting pollution prevention budget items approved and support for the Clean Harbors initiative
- Brainstorming ways to make waste disposal user-friendly
- Relevant grant funding opportunities

## Interested Harbors

### Cordova

Tony Schinella  
Harbormaster, 907-424-6400  
[harbor@cityofcordova.net](mailto:harbor@cityofcordova.net)

Cordova has expressed interest in the certification process but is busy with a multi-million dollar port [redevelopment program](#). ACH looks forward to working with Cordova in the coming years.

### Dutch Harbor/Unalaska

Trever Schliebe  
Harbormaster  
[trschiebe@ci.unalaska.ak.us](mailto:trschiebe@ci.unalaska.ak.us)



*Figure 21: Fishing vessels in Dutch Harbor.*

Dutch Harbor/Unalaska consists of multiple boat harbors dedicated to shipping, commercial fishing, and small boat operations. Dutch Harbor is of particular interest to DEC due to the level of water impairment. We initiated a kick-off meeting with Harbormaster Trever Schliebe in June 2024 and delivered pet waste signage as well as Clean Harbors swag. Harbormaster Schliebe and staff are interested in achieving certification ahead of the AAHPA conference in 2025. However, due to the industrial operations of the harbor, multiple canneries and fish processing facilities, or other non-point pollution sources such as runoff from parking

areas, completing certification will most likely take a concentrated effort as well as additional resources.

In the meantime, Harbormaster Schliebe is in the process of getting the city involved in an official pledge and is looking forward to participating more in the process later in 2024.



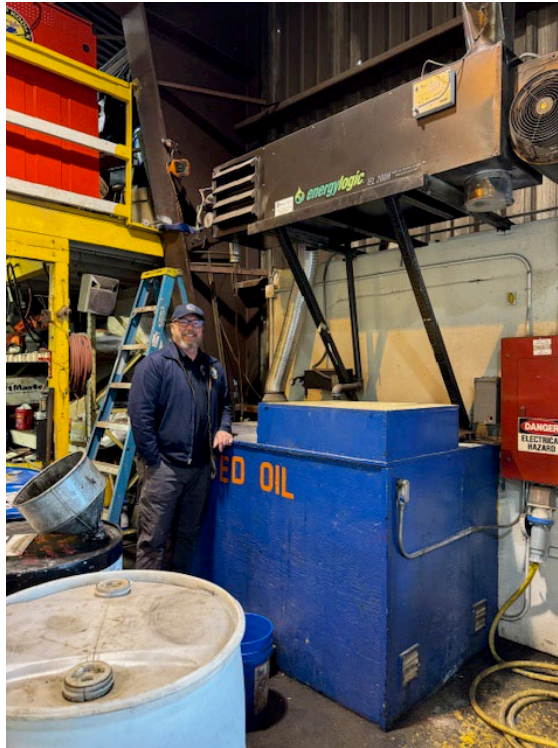
*Figure 22: ACH rep. Biz Wallace and Harbormaster Trever Schliebe in Unalaska.*

## Kodiak

Dave Johnson

Harbormaster, 907-486-8086

[djohnson@city.kodiak.ak.us](mailto:djohnson@city.kodiak.ak.us)



*Figure 23: Harbormaster Dave Johnson poses with Kodiak's waste oil burner. The waste oil burner heats the workshop and subsidizes the heating bill.*

Kodiak consists of multiple small boat harbors, fish processing facilities, a cruise ship dock, and a boatyard. The harbor is currently working through the Waterfront Masterplan to expand and replace many parts of the harbor as deferred maintenance has caused many docks to be nearly unusable.

In June 2024, ACH completed a kick-off visit with Kodiak Harbormaster Dave Johnson. Like many harbors in Alaska, Kodiak suffers from lack of preventative maintenance and past lax enforcement. Thus, in Old Harbor, many of the docks are rotting or are full of abandoned vessels. Though some funding exists to remove these vessels, it is often thinly stretched as vessel removal programs are not designed for large commercial fishing vessels. Further, investment from local legislators could also help pollution prevention efforts. Harbormaster Johnson recently went before city council in 2024 and was able to get a law passed preventing dumping in the harbor.

ACH is assisting Kodiak in researching funding for portable pump out equipment through the Alaska Clean Vessels Act as well as locating a marine skimmer company to help with marine

debris. Alaska Sea Grant's new Marine Debris Center may also be an important future contributor. Johnson hopes to achieve certification by the end of this year.

Kodiak's recommendations for the ACH program:

- Help organize community clean up event to help manage marine debris
- Speaking with the city council in support of the Clean Harbors program
- Participation in a Dive Alaska harbor clean up (See Whittier)

## Skagway

Rebecca Kameika

Port Administrative Manager, (907)983-9716

r.kameika@skagway.org

ACH and Skagway took part in a remote kick-off meeting to discuss the harbor's participation in the coming years. Skagway is very interested in the program and looks forward to further discussion later this summer.

# Additional Outreach & Communications

## Website Redesign

Though the current website provided a large amount of information, feedback suggested it was difficult to navigate and often obscured the primary tasks of the program. A request for proposal for an updated website was released in December 2023. The RFP sought out a designer that had worked with government and nonprofit organizations, was comfortable with the Squarespace hosting platform, and had an eye for organization and prioritizing user experience. Nicole Cobb of Elysian Designs was selected in January due to her below budget price, portfolio of work with government agencies, and mastery of information hierarchy. Work was slow to start due to a lengthy contractor onboarding process from University of Alaska Fairbanks resulting in a significant delay.

Web design work began in earnest in late April and a first draft was submitted for review in late June. The new website will remove friction for harbor masters seeking certification materials. It will also inform interested boaters or local leaders of program information and upcoming events. The new website features updated photos and materials and additional blog posts regarding the evolution of the program. A full roll out is expected end of July.

## Outreach Materials

Multiple stakeholders requested alternatives to paper brochures or signage as they felt it was ineffective and that harbor users are often overwhelmed with information. They also felt that traditional informational materials often have a short lifespan and quickly end up in the landfill. ACH utilized the grant budget to order functional materials to directly solve problems or on items that were useful to boaters and had a longer lifespan. Materials include:

- 500 fuel bibbs to minimize small spills at the fuel pump. Bibbs are emblazoned with the Clean Harbors logo to help raise the program profile.
- 2 pet waste clean-up stations to assist with Yakutat's certification
- 10 Clean Way fuel fills to distribute to harbors with fuel pumps to prevent small spills
- 80 neck gaiters as an initial test order for outreach materials. ACH quickly ran through this supply as these proved popular with boaters.
- 250 additional neck gaiters were ordered for summer outreach efforts. These neck gaiters are meant for participants in Clean Harbor clean-up events as well as general outreach. We commissioned an original design from Alaska Native artist Savannah LeCornu to pay tribute to the environmental leadership and stewardship exhibited by the Alaska Native tribes.

We also distributed 6 pet waste clean-up signs, 4 spill reporting signs, 10 pump out quick adapters, and hundreds of ACH logo stickers which were created in the previous funding cycle.



## Alaska Forum on the Environment

An ACH representative attended AFE to research and network with environmental professionals around Alaska. This conference proved fruitful for understanding issues of marine debris and spill prevention and led to many of the partnerships listed in this document.

## Looking Ahead

### Common Issues & Potential Solutions

#### Problem: Lack of Resources

Many of the harbors involved in ACH have identified a lack of resources as a significant barrier to implementing the BMP checklist. Key challenges include staffing shortages, limited options for waste removal, inadequate preventative maintenance and infrastructure investment, and budget constraints. The global pandemic exacerbated these issues, leading to staff losses and high turnover rates, resulting in a loss of institutional knowledge crucial for addressing pollution issues. The remote locations of Alaskan harbors further complicate waste management, with many lacking the funds or infrastructure to transport waste to the lower 48 for proper disposal. Additionally, deferred maintenance has reached critical levels in some harbors, leading to condemnation of entire float systems. Despite operating within tight budgets fueled by dock fees, moorage charges, parking revenues, and occasional taxes on fishing or tourism, these funds primarily cover day-to-day operations and do not allow for capital improvements.

#### Potential Solutions:

##### *Website Updates*

Though not a replacement for grant funding itself, the updated ACH website will feature a list of potential grant and capital funding opportunities for harbors in Alaska. The aim of creating and updating this list is to minimize the time harbor managers spend looking for opportunities. As some harbormasters are newer to the process of securing funding, the list will also include opportunities for grant writing workshops.

##### *Community Partnerships*

The foundation of activities in this report owes much to the frameworks established by various Tribal and community-based organizations. Moving forward, ACH remains committed to identifying key partnerships within communities, recognizing that this work is ongoing and primarily grassroots driven. Throughout the 2023-2024 ACWA grant funding cycle, an ACH representative facilitated multiple environmental working groups and initiated several partnerships, empowering communities to enhance their

capabilities. It is recommended to further engage with Tribal organizations, nonprofits, and harbor associations in upcoming funding cycles. A comprehensive list of past partners and accomplishments will be published on the website to inspire future collaborative endeavors.

### *Alaska Focused Work*

In exploring future opportunities for the ACH program, representatives met with the Association of Marina Industries to discuss their clean marina program. Though the AMI program is admirable in its scope, it does not address many of the issues faced by Alaskan harbors and may be cost prohibitive in implementation. Thus, ACH recommends maintaining an independent Alaska-focused program at this time.

### *Aggregated Solutions*

A suggestion for future funding cycles is to develop a comprehensive database or manual showcasing how various harbors have successfully tackled common pollution prevention challenges. Hosted on the ACH website, this resource would feature photos and detailed funding information, aiming to streamline efforts for harbor managers and prevent redundant work. For instance, harbors like Seward and Kodiak have shown interest in marine skimmers as a solution for marine debris. A pilot study on this topic could be initiated for other affected harbors, potentially in collaboration with the Alaska Association of Harbormasters.

## **Problem: Lack of Public Education & Unseen Labor**

The majority of harbor managers contacted for this report expressed a need for support in public education and engaging city or borough managers on pollution prevention topics. Many harbor users across the state still adhere to traditional practices, leading to frustration when new requirements are encountered compared to previous methods. Pollution prevention efforts can also go unrecognized or are undervalued by harbor users. Additionally, discussions with harbor managers statewide indicate a feeling of their work being underappreciated or overlooked. Despite their commitment to community service, many harbor managers feel disconnected from the public and city or borough officials.

## **Potential Solutions:**

### *Visibility & Brand Recognition*

Through an updated website and social media presence, ACH aims to spotlight the hard work of participating harbors, aiming to bring attention to the diligent efforts in pollution

prevention that frequently go unrecognized. Through ongoing publicity efforts, ACH will raise awareness about the crucial role harbors play in environmental stewardship. By showcasing their initiatives and achievements, we hope to inspire broader recognition and support for their vital contributions to preserving Alaska's coastal ecosystems. ACH also aims to increase public awareness of the program so that there is a greater cultural awareness of water quality and environmental stewardship in Alaska.

### *Building Trust and Providing Ongoing Support*

ACH recognizes the critical importance of fostering trust and offering sustained support to our harbor partners, which forms the bedrock of successful partnerships and sustainable development. Through site visits and public outreach events, ACH has effectively cultivated positive sentiment towards harbor operations and underscored the supportive role of our program. It is advisable that future funding cycles prioritize ongoing engagement with our harbor partners. For instance, Pat Durrett of North Carolina Clean Marinas maintains an updated mailing list enabling certified marinas to procure pollution prevention supplies at no cost. Continued communication and targeted support are essential for the program's enduring success. Additionally, future funding cycles should include outreach materials tailored for city and borough managers, illustrating the potential cost savings and benefits of pollution prevention initiatives.

## Immediate Next Steps

- Apply for next stage of grant
- Continue to work with in-progress harbors to achieve certification for 2024
- Brainstorm additional incentives for harbors
- Identify funding opportunities for harbors
- Identify potential outreach events or ways to promote ACH
  - Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators Fall conference, Homer, AK, October 2024
  - Pacific Marine Expo, Seattle, WA, November 2024
  - Anchorage Boat Show, Anchorage, AK, February 2025
  - Fall Fish derby, various locations around Alaska

## Conclusion

Investing in the Alaska Clean Harbors program is not just a commitment to environmental stewardship; it's a strategic investment in the sustainable future of Alaska's waterways and coastal communities. Anchored in voluntary participation, this program serves as a crucial catalyst for preventing pollution and reducing waste in our harbors and beyond.

At its core, Alaska Clean Harbors operates on the principles of collaboration and empowerment. By providing free technical assistance, tools, and resources, the program equips harbor managers, communities, and boaters with the knowledge and support necessary to uphold the integrity of Alaska's pristine waters. Through its certification program, harbor partners pledge to adopt and uphold best practices for pollution prevention and mitigation, laying the groundwork for long-term environmental sustainability.

However, the effectiveness of the Alaska Clean Harbors program hinges on sustained investment and support. As a voluntary initiative, its success relies heavily on the dedication of harbor and municipal staff who champion its mission. To ensure the continued progress and impact of this program, increased investment is essential to expand outreach efforts, enhance technical assistance, and bolster resources for harbor communities statewide.

Increasing investment in the Alaska Clean Harbors program, not only safeguards the ecological health of Alaska's waterways but also fosters economic resilience and community well-being. From safeguarding marine habitats to preserving recreational opportunities, the benefits of a thriving Alaska Clean Harbors program extend far beyond its immediate stakeholders.

According to Bryan Hawkins, Homer Port Director and a champion of the ACH program, "Alaska Clean Harbors represents a generational undertaking." Alaska is just starting to address the environmental legacies of prior generations and progress is measured in decades, not days. The future remains uncertain, requiring continued collaborative efforts from government and communities to establish a foundation for a sustainable future and clean waters for all Alaskans.

# Appendix

## I. Outreach and Communications Plan

### Alaska Sea Grant Clean Harbors Outreach and Communications Plan

#### Background

Alaska Clean Harbors is a voluntary, non-regulatory program working throughout Alaska to help harbormasters, communities, and boaters prevent pollution and reduce waste in harbors and waterways. The Alaska Clean Harbors program was recently reinvigorated through a pilot marine sewage outreach project supported by DEC and Alaska Sea Grant. This project will build on that work to focus on completing certification for currently “Pledged Clean Harbors” (Whittier, Dillingham, Kodiak, and Bethel)\*, recertifying current “Certified Clean Harbors” (Sitka, Haines, Seward, and Homer)\* as well as working with multiple harbors that have expressed interest but have not pledged or taken steps towards becoming certified (Skagway, Cordova, and Petersburg)\*. This outreach plan addresses the Alaska Sea Grant deliverables in the work plan agreement for the time period August 1, 2023– July 30, 2024. The Alaska Sea Grant Fellow will:

- Create outreach and communication plan
- Design a tiered certification process that will allow for more harbors in Alaska to work towards becoming a “Certified Clean Harbor”
- Update Clean Harbors website and outreach materials
- Work with select harbors to create tailored action plan towards certification
- Participate in several outreach events in coastal communities throughout Alaska
- Prepare final report summarizing outreach activities, certifications, and website updates

\* Harbors subject to change based on interest

#### Personnel Involved

Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program Agent: Tav Ammu, [tammu@alaska.edu](mailto:tammu@alaska.edu)

DEC Grant Manager: Laura Eldred, [laura.eldred@alaska.gov](mailto:laura.eldred@alaska.gov)

Alaska Sea Grant Fellow: Biz Wallace, [hewallace@alaska.edu](mailto:hewallace@alaska.edu)

#### Goal

Design tiered process to allow for ease of certification for new harbors, update outreach materials and website, and attend outreach events in service of increasing public awareness of Alaska Clean Harbors program and ways to reduce water pollution.

#### Objectives

- Increase awareness and accessibility of the Alaska Clean Harbors webpage and resources
- Promote the importance of signage at harbors
- Identify key messages to harbormasters, harbor staff, and harbor users
- Design and promote tiered certification process

- Attend in-person outreach activities (e.g., industry meetings, community events)
- Develop new signage or other outreach materials
- Update website to include Advisory Committee contact information, printable resources and best practices information

#### Key Messages

- Alaska Clean Harbors certification is a supportive process that offers recognition for excellent harbor management and pollution prevention
- Many Alaskan harbors only require minor adjustments to achieve Clean Harbors status and this program provides resources to cross the finish line
- Clean harbors are good for business and good for the community
- The Alaska Clean Harbors program is non-punitive and helps identify barriers to certification/recertification
- Improving and protecting water quality benefits both aquatic life and those who rely on marine resources for their livelihoods or sustenance

#### Stakeholders and Target Audience

Target Audience A: Harbormasters

Target Audience B: Harbor users and boat operators

Target Harbors (this list may change and will be updated as needed once discussions start with harbors)

- Recertified harbors: Sitka, Haines, Seward, Homer
- Pledged harbors: Whittier, Dillingham, Kodiak, Bethel
- Interested harbors: Skagway, Cordova, Petersburg

#### Key Messages

Key messages common to all target audiences:

- Working towards clean harbor certification benefits the environment, boaters and the greater community
- Benefits of participating as a Clean Harbor have been shown to include reduction of waste disposal cost, increased compliance with environmental regulations, more effective communications with harbor users, and the potential for grant funding for capital improvements
- Alaska Clean Harbors provides resources to improve and protect water quality to ensure a healthy environment for aquatic life to thrive

Key messages specific to harbormasters:

- Clean Harbor certification provides harbormasters and boaters with free tools and resources to reduce waste and minimize pollution
- Alaska Clean Harbors program has templates and information for signage and paper hand-outs and can provide technical assistance on pollution prevention

Key messages specific to harbor users and boat operators:

- The harbor is an office or home to many and taking better care of it only benefits everyone
- Many tourists who travel to Alaska are interested in eco-tourism and achieving an Alaska Clean Harbor certification provides a promotional opportunity
- Alaska Clean Harbors program provides resources on the website to make following regulations easier

## Communications Activities

Harbormasters and harbor staff

- Presentation at the Harbormaster Annual Meeting
- Harbor site visits and walk-throughs
- Support certification/recertification with tailored action plans
- Update Alaska Clean Harbors website to include handouts, photos of best management practices, and how-to/informational videos
- Update communication materials and share with select harbors

Commercial boaters, recreational boaters, community members

- Community engagement (meeting with community representatives, talking to community members with booths at area festivals or events related to the marine environment or other public events)
- Rack cards and visible signage at harbors
- Public service announcements played at frequent intervals on local radio stations prior to and during fishing and boating season
- News articles regarding benefits of program and how to get involved
- Commercial vessel and recreational boater direct outreach
- Short form videos to be hosted on social media

Communications Tools

- Events –
  - Outreach events at select harbors
  - Outreach at marine/harbor focused events, including the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) Annual Meeting and Pacific Coast Congress (PCC) of Harbormasters and Port Managers Conference
  - Community engagement activities to encourage community involvement
- Technical assistance –
  - Alaska Sea Grant Fellow will meet with harbormasters, stakeholder groups, harbor users, and community members to provide support on the ground
  - Fellow will develop tailored action plans for interested harbors
- Presentation(s) – Alaska Sea Grant Fellow will
  - Present at annual harbormasters meetings
  - Provide information/presentations to other stakeholder groups
- Website/Social Media/Radio/Video/Stickers

- Alaska Sea Grant Fellow will design and implement media (Fliers, Signs, Posters, newspaper articles, radio announcements, short videos) outreach targeting harbor users
- Fellow will update website and create new content for distribution
- Harbormasters and harbor users will be directed to the Alaska Clean Harbors website for additional resources on pollution prevention

### Strategy and Timeline

FY 2023						
Date	Activity	Tools	Location	Audience	Budget	Personnel
August	Create communication and outreach plan	Online	N/A	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	N/A	Biz Wallace
August	Create presentation for conference	Online	N/A	Harbormasters	N/A	Biz Wallace
September	Begin harbormaster outreach	Email and Phone	Statewide	Harbormasters	N/A	Biz Wallace
September	Present at AAHPA Annual meeting (Sept. 25th-29th)	In person	Ketchikan	Harbormasters	TBD	Biz Wallace
October	Generate list of interested harbors and contacts	Email and Phone	Statewide	Harbormasters	N/A	Biz Wallace
October	Site visit to select harbor	In person	Whittier/ Kodiak/ Dillingham	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace
November	Compile meeting notes of harbor consultations	Internet and phone	Statewide	Harbormasters	N/A	Biz Wallace
November	Site visit to select harbor	In person	Whittier/ Kodiak/ Dillingham	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace
November	Sitka Whalefest (Nov. 2-5)	In person	Sitka	Harbormaster, community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace
November	Pacific Maritime Expo	In person	Seattle	Community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace
December	Begin action plans for select harbors	Online	N/A	Harbormasters	N/A	Biz Wallace
December	Draft/update outreach materials for spring events	N/A	N/A	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace



FY 2024

Date	Activity	Tools	Location	Audience		Personnel
January	Draft action plans for select harbors	Online	N/A	Harbormasters	N/A	Biz Wallace
January	Draft tiered Clean Harbors certification plan	Online	N/A	Harbormasters	N/A	Biz Wallace
January	Finalize, order, and upload outreach materials	Online	N/A	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace
February	Finalize tiered Clean Harbors certification plan	Online	N/A	Harbormasters	N/A	Biz Wallace
February	Draft Alaska Clean Harbors website updates	Online	N/A	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	N/A	Biz Wallace with IT Assistance from Alaska Sea Grant
February	Whittier Harbor Clean-Up Day	In Person	Whittier	Community members, and harbor users	N/A	Biz Wallace
March	Finalize Alaska Clean Harbors website updates	Online	N/A	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	N/A	Biz Wallace
March	Comfish	In Person	Kodiak	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace
March	Beaver Round Up	In person	Dillingham	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace
April	Create Public Service Announcements for clean harbors	Radio	Statewide	Community members and harbor users	N/A	Biz Wallace
April	Spring Fling	In person	Haines	Community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace
May	Juneau Maritime Festival (May 4, 2024)	In person	Juneau	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace
May	Seward Mermaid Festival (May 18-19)	In Person	Seward	Community members, and harbor users	TBD	Biz Wallace
May	Edit short form videos and photos	N/A	N/A	Harbormasters, community	N/A	Biz Wallace

	from site visits and outreach activities			members, and harbor users		
May	Public service announcement or video for National Safe Boating week	N/A	Statewide	Community members, and harbor users	N/A	Biz Wallace
June	Draft Final Report	N/A	N/A	Sea Grant & DEC	N/A	Biz Wallace
June	Finalize short form videos	N/A	N/A	Harbormasters, community members, and harbor users	N/A	Biz Wallace
June	Submit list of outreach events and number of individuals contacted	N/A		Sea Grant & DEC	N/A	Biz Wallace
July	Final Report	N/A	Statewide	Sea Grant/DEC	N/A	Biz Wallace

#### Master List of Potential Festivals & Outreach Events

Name	Location	Date
Pacific Coast Congress (PCC) of Harbormasters and Port Managers Conference	Valdez	September 19-22, 2023
Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) Annual Meeting	Ketchikan	September 25-29, 2023
Sitka Whalefest	Sitka	November 2-5, 2023
Pacific Marine Expo	Seattle	November 8-10, 2023
Kodiak Harbor Lights Festival	Kodiak	Late December, 2023
Alaska Marine Science Symposium	Anchorage	January 29- Feb. 2, 2024
Anchorage Boat Show	Anchorage	February 16-18, 2024
ComFish	Kodiak	March, 2024
Beaver Round Up	Dillingham	March, 2024
Great Alaska Sportsmans Show	Anchorage	April, 2024
Spring Fling	Haines	April 27, 2024
Juneau Maritime Festival	Juneau	May 4, 2024

Copper River Shorebird Festival	Cordova	Early May, 2024
Seward Mermaid Festival	Seward	May 18-19, 2024
Little Norway Festival	Petersburg	May 18, 2024
National Safe Boating Week	Statewide	May 18-24, 2024
Kodiak Crab Festival	Kodiak	May 24-27, 2024
Yakutat Tern Festival	Yakutat	May 30-June 2, 2024

### Deliverables

Required Deliverable(s)	Proposed Activity/Number
Communication materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop new signage to be posted at harbors advertising best management practices and the Clean Harbors program resources</li> <li>• Develop new and innovative outreach materials/displays for outreach events (e.g., buttons, posters, social media posts, etc.)</li> <li>• Short PSA style videos explaining best practices or demonstrating community involvement</li> </ul>
Tiered Certification System and Action Plans for Select Harbors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify barriers to certification/recertification</li> <li>• Develop timelines and action plans with interested harbors to achieve Clean Harbors certification</li> <li>• Develop a tiered certification system that will allow more harbors in Alaska to participate in the Clean Harbors program</li> </ul>
Final report describing certification system and outreach efforts	<p>Final report should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the outreach plan</li> <li>• Clean Harbors website updates</li> <li>• Description of outreach events attended</li> <li>• Updated status of recertified and newly certified Clean Harbors</li> <li>• Description of tiered Clean Harbors certification process</li> <li>• Recommended next steps for the Clean Harbors program</li> </ul>

## II. Original Best Management Practices Checklist



### ALASKA CLEAN HARBORS Certification Checklist

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Harbormaster: \_\_\_\_\_

ACH Point Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Background Information**

Facility Types Present (Check all that apply):

- Harbor
- Sewage Pumpout(s)
- Tidal Grid(s)
- Wash-down Pad
- Upland Boat Storage/Maintenance
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Number of basins: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of slips: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of ramps: \_\_\_\_\_

Feet of transient moorage: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of permanent staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of seasonal staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours of operation: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

This checklist is the backbone of your application to become a certified Alaska Clean Harbor. Use this form to conduct a self-assessment of your facility; we will then help you devise an action plan to reach certification goals. This checklist should be used in conjunction with the Alaska Clean Harbors Guidebook and/or the ACH website: <http://www.alaskacleanharbors.org>.

Place a checkmark in the appropriate box (yes, no, not applicable [N/A], or future) next to each question and tally your score on the last page. Check N/A if a particular BMP is not applicable to your facility, i.e. your community does not have recycling, making BMP #4 not feasible. If you check no or N/A, please explain why in the space provided at the end of each section. In addition, if you check the future box, please explain what you need to do to implement the item. For each 'Yes', please provide a brief explanation, photograph or reference to document how you implement that BMP. Shaded 'sub questions' help us better understand your facility. Many best practices can be a judgement call – they aren't a black and white yes/no answer. ACH staff and the Advisory Committee can help you figure out how well you are implementing best practices to meet the goals of reducing waste and preventing pollution.

To become certified as an Alaska Clean Harbor, you must answer, "yes" to 100% of the regulatory federal and state legal requirements (indicated in bold print and with a **U**) and either "yes" or "future" to 80% of the remaining goals that apply to your facility (BMPs that are checked N/A do not count in the scoring).

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SECTION 1: Solid Waste Management

GOAL: Properly dispose of solid wastes produced by the operation, cleaning, maintenance, and repair of boats to limit entry of solid wastes to surface waters.

Do you have local regulations regarding littering?

Do you have policies on what can and cannot be stored on harbor floats? Are your policies enforceable by harbor employees?

What does your community recycle?

What does your harbor facility offer for recycling?

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
1.	Train harbor employees to talk to boaters about on-board strategies to prevent littering?				
2.	Train employees to pick up trash and pet waste as a daily practice?				
3.☐	Provide adequate trash cans/dumpsters (18 AAC 64.005):				
3a.	Provide trash cans/dumpsters that are covered?				
3b.	Provide trash cans/dumpsters that are labeled?				
3c.	Are your trash cans/dumpsters situated away from the water?				
3d.	Are your trash cans/dumpsters conveniently located for customers?				
3e.	Are your trash cans/dumpsters conveniently located for staff?				
4.	Provide recycling for customers and staff?				
4a.	Do you have well-marked recycle bins for your customers?				
4b.	Do you have well-marked recycle bins in your harbor office?				
4c.	Do you have well-marked recycled bins in your maintenance shop?				
5.	Educate employees and customers about separation requirements and your recycling program?				
6.	Have signage or other ways to let your customers know their options for gear disposal?				

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
7.	<p>Have a fish waste management plan that controls the disposal of fish wastes to areas/methods which will not impair water quality?</p> <p>NOTE: It is legally required to not impair water quality at your facility. While the law does not implicitly call out fish waste, this is a waste stream that can be particularly polluting. Please explain, at a minimum, how your facility manages fish waste.</p>				
8.	Post signs displaying the rules for fish waste storage and disposal?				
9.	Require customers to clean up after their pets, and/or provide bags to scoop up waste?				
10.	Prohibit the feeding of wild animals?				

SECTION 2: Liquid Chemical & Hazardous Waste Management

**GOAL: Provide and maintain appropriate storage, transfer, containment, and disposal facilities for non-petroleum liquid materials, including hazardous chemicals such as solvents, antifreeze and paints, and encourage recycling of these materials.**

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
1.☐	Conduct hazardous waste determinations on all chemicals prior to disposal?				
2.☐	Have established procedures for the storage, disposal, and recycling of all hazardous waste, in accordance with federal and state regulations?				
3.	Provide customers with information on the proper storage and disposal of wastes not accepted on- site?				
4.	Label the contents of hazardous waste container(s), including accumulation start dates?				
5.	Store hazardous waste on an impervious surface with containment able to retain 110% of the volume of the largest container?				
6.	Ensure that local response officials, particularly the fire department, are familiar with the location and character of hazardous materials stored on site?				
7.	Ensure the proper storage and disposal of used batteries?				
8.	Ensure the proper storage and disposal of used antifreeze?				
9.	Ensure the proper storage and disposal of paint products?				
10.	Provide easy disposal options for zincs at your grid, boatyard, and/or other upland areas where customers do boatwork?				
11.☐	Keep copies of SDS for all hazardous substances used at your facility for vessel or engine maintenance?				

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
12.	Train employees in hazardous materials management practices and safety requirements?				
13.	Avoid using toxic cleaning products?				
14.	Have information for customers on the proper handling of older refrigeration systems that may have CFCs as refrigerants?				



SECTION 3: Petroleum Product Management

**GOAL: Reduce the amount of fuel and oil from boat bilges and fuel tank air vents entering marina and surface waters.**

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
1.	Routinely inspect and repair fuel transfer equipment, such as hoses and pipes, and other dock equipment (i.e. forklifts and cranes)?				
2.	Clearly label all fuel storage and waste oil tanks?				
3.	Store used oil in a manner that does not allow releases to the environment?				
4.	Provide used oil and oily rag collection and disposal?				
4a.	Provide oil filter disposal?				
5.	Post adequate signage on proper disposal of used oil, oil absorbent materials and rags, and oil filters?				
6.	Send used oil to an approved recycling facility or reuse on site?				
7.	Direct boaters to the local used oil collection facility if none is available on-site?				
8.	Encourage clean oil changes and fueling through the use of tip sheets and other educational materials and outreach for boaters?				
9.	Provide an oil/water separation service to filter bilge water?				
9a.	Provide customers information on how they can properly dispose of contaminated bilge water?				
10.	Train employees on bilge maintenance best practices?				
10a.	Provide information to customers on bilge maintenance best practices to avoid polluting discharges?				
11.?	Report all spills to ADEC and U.S. National Response Center (NRC)?				

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
12.☐	Have a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) or other oil spill contingency plan in place?				
13.	Have spill response equipment readily available and labeled in the event of a spill?				
14.	Train staff in spill response and cleanup procedures?				

SECTION 4: Boat Cleaning & Hull Maintenance

**GOAL: Promote boat cleaning and hull maintenance practices that minimize the amount of cleaners, solvents, paint, and debris that enter the marine environment.**

Approximately how many customers use your tidal grid each year? Does your facility haul vessels?

Do you store vessels on-site?

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
1.	Have "yard rules" for customers performing debris-producing boat maintenance written into harbor policy and available for harbor users?				
2.	Have tidal grid use policies for all users outlining policies that reduce wastewater and debris from grid activities?				
3.	Have signs for tidal grid users that clearly state grid use policies?				
4.	Put tarps or drop cloths under boats to catch chips and drips while scraping, sanding, and painting boats on the upland?				
5.	Prohibit abrasive blasting and/or contain and appropriately manage debris from blasting activities?				
6.	Limit in-water painting to interior surfaces and brightwork, where paint materials and spills can be contained and prevented from entering the water?				
7.	Prohibit paint spraying on the water without protective sheeting?				
8.	Actively promote painting best practices to encourage careful application of paints, including mixing paint within a covered area and using secondary containment?				
9.	Communicate alternative antifouling options to your customers?				

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
10.	Promote responsible use and disposal of solvents and other hazardous materials used in boatwork?				
11.	Pro-actively communicate good boat washing practices to customers?				
12.	Have established upland boat washing stations with drainage collection and filtration in place?				
13.	Disallow in-water hull scraping or any process that occurs underwater which removes paint from the boat hull?				
14.	Actively communicate engine repair best practices with customers?				
15.	Provide customers with information on how to prevent pollution while doing winterization work?				
16.	Have best practices in place for preventing pollution while hauling and launching vessels?				

SECTION 5: Sewage & Pumpout Facility Operation

**GOAL: Ensure that sewage pumpout facilities are maintained in operational condition and encourage their use.**

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
1.	Provide designated sewage pumpout stations that are well signed and compatible with the needs of harbor users?				
2.	Educate harbor users about sound sewage management practices and impacts of effluent on our waterways?				
3.	Educate boaters about reducing gray-water discharges from shower, dishwashing, and laundry uses?				
4.☐	Prohibit discharge of untreated human and pet waste within the harbor basin and grounds?				
4a.	Prohibit discharge of treated human waste within the harbor basin?				
5.	Have clean, functional, and ample restrooms available 24 hours a day?				
6.	Discourage discharge from Type I and Type II MSDs at the slip or mooring?				

SECTION 6: Harbor Management

**GOAL: Promote harbor management practices that foster compliance with pollution-reduction BMPs amongst harbor staff and harbor users.**


<b>SECTION 6: Harbor Management</b>					
<b>DOES YOUR FACILITY:</b>		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>FUTURE?</b>
1.	Promote practices for boaters to prevent the spread of invasive species?				
2.	Educate staff and customers on detecting aquatic invasive species?				
3.	Provide educational materials to harbor users on preventing the spread of rats?				
4.	Have ordinances or sections of your tariff that address Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV)?				
5.	Monitor and remove ADV from your facility whenever possible?				
6.	Have disposal policies in place for construction and replacement projects at your facility?				
7.	Have Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in place for employees?				
8.	Train employees to watch for inappropriate discharges?				
9.	Have a predetermined procedure for approaching polluters?				
10.	Incorporate best management practices into all contracts?				
11.	Post signs detailing best management practices in highly visible areas?				
12.	Encourage and recognize boaters who try to prevent pollution?				
13.	Publicize your harbor's pollution prevention and waste management activities and accomplishments?				
14.	Educate all employees (including seasonal employees) about pollution prevention in routine meetings and/or trainings?				

**SECTION 6: Harbor Management**

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
15.	Keep disposal and recycling records and compare the amount of waste generated and shipped with past years to monitor progress?				
16.	Regularly review emergency response procedures with staff?				
17.	Maintain staff training records?				

SECTION 7: Stormwater Management

**GOAL: Implement effective runoff control strategies which include the use of pollution prevention activities.**

DOES YOUR FACILITY:		YES	NO	N/A	FUTURE?
1.	Have vegetative buffers between parking lots and the water?				
2.	Make an effort to protect and expand where possible vegetative buffers to reduce runoff?				
3.	When starting construction projects, work on designs to minimize impervious cover and runoff?				
4.	Stencil storm drains to alert customers and visitors that storm drains lead directly to waterbodies without treatment?				
5. 	<p>Have an APDES (formerly a NPDES) Stormwater permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan?</p> <p><i>Your facility needs to determine whether you either need to apply for an APDES permit, OR send in a Certificate of No Exposure (which states that you determined that although you are a regulated facility type, your operations don't trigger the need for a permit). Call William Ashton at ADEC for more information (907-269-6283)</i></p>				
6.	Have prevention measures in place to protect against discharges from floor drains and sumps in your facility buildings?				



**SECTION 8: Extra Credit**

List any additional operating practices that your facility uses that have reduced waste or otherwise reduced pollution. (Note: Each practice is worth the same as one question.)

**SECTION 10: Calculate Your Score**

If your score is equal to or greater than the minimum requirements, please contact the Alaska Clean Harbors Program at tel. #. *Applicable items are just yes or no, not NA.*

CALCULATE YOUR SCORE		
Legal & Regulatory Areas ♦	# of Yes responses____/ # of applicable items____X 100 =	%
Alaska Clean Harbors Program	# of Yes responses____/ # of applicable items____X 100 =	%
<b>Your Scores</b>		<b>Minimum Required Scores</b>
Legal & Regulatory Areas ♦	_____ %	<b>100%</b>
Alaska Clean Harbors Program	_____ %	<b>80% (or more)</b>

If you answered “yes” to all the legal requirements (**bold** marked with a ♦) that apply to your facility and received a score of 80% or higher out of the remaining goals, then you are eligible to be certified as an Alaska Clean Harbor.

Verified by Alaska Clean Harbors Program Representatives:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Affiliation Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Affiliation Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Affiliation Date

III. New BMP Checklist for 2024



# ALASKA CLEAN HARBORS

## TIERED CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_

Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

ACH Point Person \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Slips \_\_\_\_\_

Feet of Transient Moorage \_\_\_\_\_

**Facility Types Present**  
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Wash-down Pad
- Boatyard
- Upland Boat Storage
- Pump Out Facility
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Fuel Dock
- \_\_\_\_\_

Site Review Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

- Preliminary
- Certification
- Recertification

**Site Features**

Check all that apply that are specific to your facility and staff

Number of employees: Full-time (year-round) \_\_\_\_\_ Part-time (year-round) \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal \_\_\_\_\_

What type of docking system do you have?  Floating docks  Fixed docks  Dry Stack

What are the docks made of? \_\_\_\_\_

**Operations Performed**

Check all that apply including work performed by contractors or vendors

- Use of shrink wrap covers
- Fiberglass Repairs
- Boat bottom washing
- Winterization
- Bottom sanding and painting
- Oil changes
- Mechanical/engine shop
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Does your community recycle? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there local regulations prohibiting littering? \_\_\_\_\_

This checklist is the backbone of your application to become a certified Alaska Clean Harbor. Use this form to conduct a self-assessment of your facility. We will help you devise an action plan to reach certification goals. This checklist should be used in conjunction with the Alaska Clean Harbors Guidebook and/or the ACH website: <http://www.alaskacleanharbors.org>.

Our goal is to be inclusive of all types of harbors in Alaska, so ACH staff and the Advisory Committee are available to help you figure out how to meet the goals of reducing waste and preventing pollution. In 2024 we implemented a tiered program with the objective of including more harbors. Harbors can apply for Silver, Gold, and Platinum based on the number of Best Management Practices (BMPs) achieved.

Place a checkmark in the appropriate box (yes, no, not applicable [N/A]) next to each question. If an item is in progress, mark yes and then explain at the bottom of the page. Check N/A if a particular BMP is not applicable to your facility, i.e. your community does not have recycling.

To become certified as an Alaska Clean Harbor, you must achieve 100% of the regulatory federal and state legal requirements which are on the third page. You must also mark “yes” to a certain number of the remaining goals. The number corresponding with the tier level achieved is at the top of each checklist.

## Regulations and Permits

The following items are federal or state requirements:

Solid Waste Management	Yes	No	In Progress
a. Your facility provides adequate trash cans/dumpsters (18 AAC 64.005).			
b. The facility's trash cans are covered and labeled.			
Liquid Chemical & Hazardous Waste Management	Yes	No	In Progress
a. Your facility conducts hazardous waste determinations on all chemicals prior to disposal.			
b. There are established procedures for the storage, disposal, and recycling of all hazardous waste, in accordance with federal and state regulations.			
c. Safety Data Sheets for all hazardous substances used at your facility for vessel or engine maintenance are readily available for staff.			
Petroleum Product Management	Yes	No	In Progress
a. Your facility reports all fuel spills to ADEC and U.S. National Response Center (NRC).			
b. There is a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) or other oil spill contingency plan in place and your employees are trained to execute it.			
Sewage & Pump Out Facility Operation	Yes	No	In Progress
a. Discharge of untreated human and pet waste is prohibited within the harbor basin and grounds.			
Stormwater Management	Yes	No	In Progress
a. Have an APDES (formerly a NPDES) Stormwater permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan? For more information: <a href="https://dec.alaska.gov/water/wastewater/stormwater/multisector/">https://dec.alaska.gov/water/wastewater/stormwater/multisector/</a>			

## Harbor Operations

(Best practices for harbor facilities or operations)

Choose from the following criteria: Silver Certification = 3, Gold = 7, Platinum = 16

	Yes	Not Yet	N/A
a) Fuel storage and waste tanks are clearly labeled and stored in a manner that does not allow release to the environment.			
b) Facility provides used oil and oily rag collection and disposal.			
c) There is an ordinance or policy addressing abandoned and derelict vessels. They are removed when possible.			
d) Signs are posted informing boaters and staff of harbor environmental policies.			
e) Litter and pet waste is picked-up within harbor and along shoreline daily.			
f) Facility provides collection bins and bags for pet waste.			
g) Clean, functional restrooms are provided when harbor is open for business.			
h) Some of the following items are available to boaters for maintenance activity at the marina: tarps, trash bags, oil pads and/or bilge socks.			
i) Oil boom and spill response materials are available and easily accessible.			
j) The contents of hazardous waste containers are appropriately stored and labeled including accumulation start dates. Note: the recommendation for storage of hazardous waste is on an impervious surface with containment able to retain 110% of the volume of the largest container.			
k) Facility properly stores and disposes of batteries, antifreeze, and paint products.			
l) Facility retains disposal and recycling records and compares the amount of waste generated and shipped with past years to monitor progress.			
m) Local response officials, particularly the fire department, are familiar with the location and character of hazardous materials stored on site.			

n) There are disposal options for zincs at grid, boatyard, and/or other upland areas where boaters do maintenance.			
o) Disposal policies for dock or facility construction and replacement projects at your facility are in place and followed.			
p) If recycling is available in your community, it is provided for your boaters and staff.			
q) Facility sends used oil to an approved recycling facility or it is re-used on site.			
r) Harbor policy covers minimizing pollution and debris from tidal grid and boatyard use including abrasive blasting, painting, and sanding.			
s) Facility provides sewage pump out stations that are well signed and accessible.			
t) Provide example(s) of innovative best management practices not listed above that are unique to your marina.			
Future or in-progress items:			

## Water Management and Coastal Resiliency

(Best practices to address water quality and to minimize damage from natural disasters)

Choose from the following criteria: Silver Certification = 1, Gold = 4, Platinum = 9

	Yes	Not Yet	N/A
a. Facility cleans storm drains, gutters and other water management structures on a systematic schedule.			
b. All storm drains are labeled (i.e. No Dumping, Drains to Ocean) and staff ensures impermeable surfaces remain free of waste from employees and boaters.			
c. New construction or renovation projects minimize impervious cover (such as asphalt and concrete) and runoff. Examples include utilizing gravel, grass, or permeable pavers.			
d. Facility incorporates techniques that reduce stormwater pollutants, such as planting native shrubs around maintenance areas, and/or replacing impervious areas with pervious areas.			
e. Boaters are encouraged to minimize gray-water discharges. Also, discharge from Type I and Type II MSDs is discouraged in the slip or mooring.			
f. Facility has prevention measures in place to protect against discharges from floor drains and sumps in buildings.			
g. A fish and bait management plan limits fish waste disposal to areas that do not impair water quality.			

h. Facility provides an oil/water separation service to filter bilge water.			
i. Facility promotes the use of aquatic safe herbicides and pesticides if applicable.			
j. A completed natural hazard emergency document is on file and reviewed with staff annually.			
k. Employ living shoreline techniques or no wake signs to protect shoreline from erosion.			
l. Provide example(s) of innovative best management practices not listed above that are unique to your marina.			
Future or in-progress items:			



## Boater Education

(Best practices to minimize pollution from boaters)

Choose from the following criteria: Silver Certification = 1, Gold = 3, Platinum = 7

	Yes	Not Yet	N/A
a) Facility provides educational materials about best boating practices that are readily accessible to boaters in the form of brochures, factsheets, pamphlets and/or other publications.			
b) Facility incorporates language or educational materials about environmental best management practices in boater slip agreements.			
c) Pollution prevention and waste management activities are regularly published by harbor (includes press release, social media, email).			
d) Publicly recognize boaters when they demonstrate environmental stewardship (newsletters, boater of the month, social media, etc.).			
e) Boaters are provided information on the proper handling of older refrigeration systems that may have CFCs as refrigerants.			
f) Options for fishing gear disposal are made available to boaters.			
g) Boaters are provided with information on the proper storage and disposal of wastes not accepted on-site.			
h) There is signage prohibiting the feeding of wild animals.			
i) Provide example(s) of innovative best management practices not listed above that are unique to your marina.			
Future or in-progress items:			

# Employee Training and Community Outreach

(Best Management Practices for staff and communities)

Choose from the following criteria: Silver Certification = 1, Gold = 3, Platinum = 7

	Yes	Not Yet	N/A
a) All employees (including seasonal employees) are educated about pollution prevention in routine meetings and/or trainings.			
b) Facility trains employees on best practices for bilge maintenance and to watch for inappropriate discharges.			
c) Employees are trained in management of hazardous materials as well as other relevant safety requirements.			
d) Facility maintains staff training records.			
e) Employees are trained to talk to boaters about strategies to prevent littering and pollution.			
f) Encourage and assist employees to attend professional development trainings and certifications in relation to environmental issues.			
g) Publicly recognize employees when they demonstrate environmental stewardship (newsletters, employee of the month, social media, etc.).			
h) Partner with a local school, youth club or other organization to offer field trips, clean-up efforts or collaborative programs.			
i) Provide example(s) of innovative best management practices not listed above that are unique to your marina.			
Future or in-progress items:			

Certification Tier Achieved (Circle):	Silver	Gold
	Platinum	

Verified by Alaska Clean Harbors Program  
Representative:

Name:

Affiliation & Date: