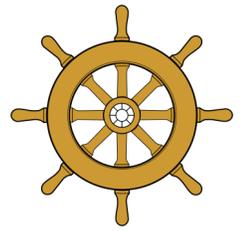


WHITTIER HARBOR NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2016

MORE ABOUT PARKING...

We get a lot of questions about parking at Smitty's Cove. The city only owns a very small area near the launch ramp, and there's simply not enough room to park vehicles with trailers. Vehicles with trailers will be cited. Parking fees are posted, and can be paid at either of the machines outside the Harbormaster's office or at the launch ramp. The area just to the west is owned by Alaska Railroad Corporation. They will patrol this area and ticket vehicles that are not authorized to be there. Any parking permit issued by the City of Whittier is not valid for that area, therefore ensure you obey the signs.

We admit the yellow machines that issue the parking permits can be confusing to use, especially for the first time. We're working with the manufacturer to make it easier. In the meantime, feel free to ask any of the harbor staff for assistance. A few folks mentioned they miss coming inside the office to chat. You can still do that, but you won't have to wait in line inside the office to pay for parking while those ahead of you are conducting other business.

BUILDING REPAIRS

The Harbormaster's office is finally undergoing some overdue repair. The new roof is complete, and we're no longer catching rain water in coffee cans. Considerable water damage within the walls was repaired, and the new siding is about 50% complete.



SALMON FRY



Tinoi Maae, pictured to the left, feeds the salmon fry. Harbor staff has been feeding 100,000 Coho salmon fry that are due to be released on June 3. The following week we should receive another 100,000 King salmon fry, and they will be released 2 weeks later.

Grid Use, Bottom Work and the Clean Water Act

I want to make an attempt to explain how the clean water act affects us without all the “lawyerly” language. In very basic terms, it’s a federal law that simply prohibits intentionally introducing any hazardous material into the water. It’s enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Most paint products used today are not hazardous. If you allow paint chips and grinding dust to reach a waterway, you’re probably not violating the clean water act- you’re littering. This is a water purity violation, and you can be fined by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

The good news is it’s easy to stay out of trouble by placing a tarp or other material under the boat to catch any material that falls off. If it’s not a hazardous material, just throw it in the nearest dumpster when you finish. When you use the grid or the dry storage / vessel maintenance areas, you’ll sign a contract stating you agree to abide by those terms.

I’ve appreciated everyone’s cooperation thus far. As long as we all follow the rules, we don’t have to get any outside enforcement agencies involved.

Campground

As you enter Whittier from the tunnel, you’ll see a new sign to the South that says “City of Whittier Campground” with an arrow pointing toward the head of Passage Canal. The waterfront is blocked to prevent vehicle access and you’ll find a few park benches in the area. The parking area was converted to a campground for tents and RVs. I spoke with a gentleman who believed these changes are not friendly for visitors and that we were chasing them away. I explained what we’ve done so far, and what we intend to accomplish. We hauled away several truckloads of old furniture, appliances, broken glass and other garbage. We picked up several buckets of nails. It no longer looks like a dumping area, and we want it to stay that way. It’s still a work in progress, but the goal is to create a better place where residents and visitors want to go for a clean and scenic area to camp or relax.