

# HOMER PORT & HARBOR

Homer Harbor was certified as an Alaska Clean Harbor in October 2011 by the Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Committee. In this document you will find a summary of best management practices employed by the Homer Harbor as a pro-active approach to pollution prevention and protection of Alaska's marine environment.



*Alaska Clean Harbor  
Certified October  
2011*



# Homer Port & Harbor Introduction

Bryan Hawkins, Homer Harbormaster began working with Alaska Clean Harbors in 2007 on developing the statewide program from the ground up. Matt Clarke, Deputy Harbormaster, took the lead in the Homer application process. Staff at the Homer Harbor have proactively implemented best management practices to reduce pollution and promote clean boating. We are pleased to present them with certification as Alaska's first Clean Harbor. The Homer Port and Harbor facility has 920 reserved stalls and over 6,000 linear feet of transient moorage available. There is a commercial fish dock and deep water dock, 5-lane boat launch ramp, and harbor officers offer 24-hour coverage of the facilities.

## Best Management Practices Highlights

As of October 2011, the Homer Harbor implements 100% of the legally required Best Management Practices (BMPs) and 90% of the Alaska Clean Harbors BMPs. Below we have highlighted some practices employed at the Homer Harbor from each of the eight Alaska Clean Harbors BMP sections that help reduce pollution and protect the marine environment while providing boaters with a safe and productive marina for business and recreation. The Homer Harbor has shown dedication to improving water quality and improving pollution prevention services to their customers through these and other actions. The Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Committee applauds them for these efforts and looks forward to continuing work with them and the boating fleets in Homer on creative solutions to prevent pollution.

### Solid Waste Management

- New labels on all dumpsters at each ramp
- Recycling satellite available near the Harbormaster's office
- Dumping fish waste is prohibited in the harbor; cleaning tables are seasonally available and fish waste is ground and disposed of according to an approved fish waste management plan

### Hazardous Waste Management

- Emergency response drills and coordination is in place with the City Fire and Police Departments
- Storage and proper disposal is available and conveniently located for used batteries, used antifreeze, and zincs for all customers

### Petroleum Product Management

- All spills are reported immediately to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the National Response Center
- Spill response equipment is available in drums around the harbor that are available to the public 24 hours a day. The harbor maintains a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan and all staff are trained in spill response procedures



*Top to bottom: New signs are on all dumpsters; used zinc receptacles are at the top of both the steel and wood grids; drums full of spill response equipment on all floats; used oil collected at 2 satellites.*

- Used oil, rags, and filters are collected, stored, and either used to heat the waste oil collection building or transferred to Emerald Alaska for processing

## Boat Cleaning & Hull Maintenance

- Sand blasting, hull scraping, and any pressure washing that removes paint is prohibited at all locations, including the steel and wood grids. Paint spraying is also prohibited throughout the facility
- New signage at both the steel and wood grids clearly outlines grid policies

## Sewage & Pumpout Facility Operation

- The Homer Harbor is a No Discharge Zone – all treated and untreated human and pet waste is prohibited in the harbor basin and uplands, including from Type I and Type II marine sanitation devices
- There are 6 restrooms for men and women, and two outhouse facilities around the harbor, available 24 hours a day

## Vessel Operation Management

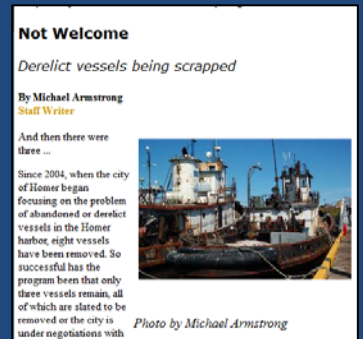
- The Homer Harbor works with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sample for rats, invasive tunicates, and green crabs to prevent the spread of marine invasive species
- Homer's derelict vessel policies and removal program are providing leadership to other harbors around Alaska in dealing with this prevalent problem and common environmental hazard

## Harbor Management

- Best Management Practices are posted on new signs at all ramp access points, and relevant policies are visibly posted at tidal grids, dumpsters, and used oil/hazardous waste collection satellites
- The Homer Harbor website now includes a page on Clean Harbors Rules and Practices, and references the Alaska Clean Harbors program. Their participation in Alaska Clean Harbors is referenced on all ramp access signs

## Stormwater Management

- Regarding industrial stormwater discharges, Homer Harbor obtained a Certificate of No Exposure from the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation in September 2011
- The Port of Homer's maintenance employees maintain an oil/water filtration sump inside the maintenance building in order to prevent any discharges



Top to bottom: 2011 Homer News article on derelicts; Signs at the steel grid and ramps indicate environmental policies and BMPs; Homer Port & Harbor website includes a page on Clean Harbors.