

SITKA HARBOR DEPARTMENT

The Sitka Harbor Department was certified as an Alaska Clean Harbor in October 2015 by the Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Committee. In this document you will find highlights of best management practices employed by the Sitka Harbor Department staff as a pro-active approach to pollution prevention and protection of Alaska's marine environment.



*Alaska Clean Harbor
Certified October
2015*



Sitka Harbor Department Introduction

The Sitka Harbor Department operates 5 harbor basins that together have 1,315 boat slips and 4,386 lineal feet of transient moorage available. The harbor supports commercial, sport, and recreational fleets. There are 9 permanent staff and 3 seasonal staff employed by the Harbor Department.

Best Management Practices Highlights

As of October 2015, the Sitka Harbor Department implements 100% of the legally required Best Management Practices (BMPs) and 87% of the Alaska Clean Harbors BMPs. Below we have highlighted some practices employed at the 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 Sitka Harbor has shown dedication to improving water quality and improving pollution prevention services to their customers through these and other actions. Future suggestions for improvement from the ACH Advisory Committee are included at the end.

Solid Waste Management

- A basic recycling center established at Eliason Harbor
- Harbor office recycling is available for employees
- A complete fish waste management plan and infrastructure for keeping fish waste out of the harbor basins.

Hazardous Waste Management

- Staff conduct routine emergency response drills and communicate with the local fire and police departments as well as USCG on emergency response.
- New signage was developed to instruct customers on how to properly dispose of common waste streams.
- A collection barrel for used zincs was installed at the grid.

Petroleum Product Management

- Used oil tanks throughout the harbor system are double-walled. Used oil is monitored, collected, cleaned by the Harbor Department, and is donated to the local asphalt company.
- All used oil from the harbor is sent to an approved recycling facility.
- A Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure plan is in place and is communicated with the local USCG Marine Safety Detachment.

Boat Cleaning & Hull Maintenance

- Best management practices for boat maintenance are on new signs at the harbor, and are provided to customers and are enforced by harbor staff.
- A new sign was installed at the tidal grid, outlining grid use policies.

Sewage & Pumpout Facility Operation

- The Harbor Department has three sewage pumpout systems, located in Crescent Harbor, Thomsen Harbor and Eliason Harbor.



New signage was added around the harbor facility, including best management practices (top), 'Where Do I Take It' instructions for common waste disposal locations (middle) and tidal grid policies (bottom).

- The Sitka Harbor prohibits the discharge of both treated and untreated human and pet waste within the harbor basins and uplands.
- There are four restrooms open and available 24 hours per day.

Vessel Operation Management

- Harbor staff work with community and statewide partners to help educate and monitor for invasive species.
- Sitka has abandoned & derelict vessel ordinances that are included in their harbor code.

Harbor Management

- Best Management Practices are posted on new signs around the facility.
- The Sitka Harbor Department is a proud supporter of Alaska Clean Harbors, and looks to future outreach partnerships to encourage clean boating and best management practices.
- Disposal records are maintained for used oil, trash and recycling.
- New employees are trained in pollution prevention through daily operations, monthly and quarterly trainings and meetings.
- Harbor staff participate in statewide and West Coast harbor associations.

Stormwater Management

- Vegetative buffers are maintained around harbor basins to reduce runoff from parking lots into the water.
- Upland storm drains (outside of the harbor system) are labeled “Dump No Pollutants” and “Outfall to Stream”.

FUTURE SUGGESTIONS

- A development plan for the Eliason Harbor recycling station.
- Regular oil collection tank assessments
- A stated plan for moving oil collection tanks as harbor basins are upgraded
- Covering oil collection sites to minimize spilled oil washing into the water
- Improved signage for oily waste disposal
- Improved options for disposing of saturated oily rags and filters (place to drain filters, separate rag/filter collection)
- Require grid users to sign a user agreement outlining policies and BMPs
- Provide improved outreach materials for customers to help contain boatwork debris
- Improve signage, outreach and ordinances on sewage management
- Incorporate a suite of BMPs into contracts
- Occasionally use the email listserv for pollution prevention/waste management reminders and tips



There are three sewage pumpout units available for boaters within the Harbor system (top). Troll wire is collected for disposal and recycling (bottom).