

**Drive-down ramp**

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — The City of Ketchikan has applied for a federal permit for its proposed drive-down float facility at Bar Harbor.

A public notice of the city's application was published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Tuesday.

The proposed facility would be accessible from the existing parking area behind Madison Lumber and Hardware.

A 20-foot by 48-foot vehicle approach dock would extend south of the parking lot and connect to a 17-foot by 140-foot transfer bridge that leads to a 48-foot by 120-foot drive-down float.

"The project would also refurbish, relocate and reinstall the existing net float," according to the public notice.

Public comments regarding the proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project must be received by the Corps by Nov. 15.

The public notice is available in the "Regulatory Public Notices" section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website at: www.poa.usace.army.mil.

Exam deadline past

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — The U.S. Coast Guard is reminding commercial fishermen that this past Tuesday was the deadline for the new mandatory commercial fishing vessel safety examinations for vessels that operate more than three miles from the territorial sea baseline.

"We are looking to work with the fishing industry in a fair, reasonable and flexible manner to bring all commercial vessels into compliance with these new requirements," Ken Lawrenson, the Coast Guard District 17 commercial fishing vessel safety coordinator, said in a prepared statement. "It is in the best interests of all commercial fishermen operating their vessels more than three miles beyond the territorial sea baseline of the United States to contact and start working with their local Coast Guard marine safety unit, if they do not presently have a valid dockside safety exam decal."

Fishermen wanting to schedule exams should contact Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Ketchikan, or Coast Guard Sector Juneau.

The new requirement is part of the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2010 and applies to commercial fishing fleets nationwide, according to the Coast Guard.

A Coast Guard letter explaining the new requirements is available on an agency website at: www.fish-safe.info.

NCL orders big ship

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — Norwegian Cruise Lines has ordered another massive new cruise ship.

NCL has contracted with Germany's Meyer Werft yard to build the 163,000-gross-ton, 4,200-passenger ship at a price of approximately \$912 million.

Meyer Werft is now building NCL's two new 146,600 gross ton, 4,000-passenger Breakaway class vessels, according to NCL. The Norwegian Breakaway is set for delivery in April, while the Norwegian Getaway should launch in January 2014.

The ship ordered this week will be the largest in the NCL fleet when it's delivered in October 2015.

"Norwegian Breakaway and Norwegian Getaway have garnered significant attention in the marketplace with their innovative design, rich stateroom mix and world-class amenities. Building on that momentum, along with Meyer Werft's expertise and efficiency in the design and construction process, we are extending the excitement and anticipation with a new, larger-edition Breakaway Plus class ship to further distinguish the Norwegian brand," NCL CEO Kevin Sheehan said in announcing the deal.

The agreement has the option of a second Breakaway Plus class ship for delivery in spring 2017.

"We are pleased that Norwegian Cruise Line has decided to expand and enlarge its exciting Breakaway class at Meyer Werft," said Bernard Meyer, managing partner of Meyer Werft.

Local official provides Coast Guard overview

Base Ketchikan Cmdr. Gesele describes agency by the numbers; roles in First City

By SCOTT BOWLEN
Daily News Staff Writer

Although it's the smallest branch of the nation's armed forces, the U.S. Coast Guard has big responsibilities nationwide — and a sizable presence in Ketchikan.

Cmdr. T. Wade Gesele, who commands Coast Guard Base Ketchikan, provided an overview of the Coast Guard to a Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce luncheon audience on Wednesday.

"The best definition of the Coast Guard, I think, is we are a military multi-mission maritime force," Gesele said.

The Coast Guard has about 42,000 active-duty members, a total that includes about 33,500 enlisted personnel and 8,500 officers. In addition, the Coast Guard has about 8,000 civilian employees, while the Coast Guard Auxiliary has about 30,000 volunteer members.

By law, the Coast Guard is responsible for 11 mission sets, according to Gesele.

These include ports, waterway and coastal security; drug interdiction; aids to navigation; search and rescue; living marine resources; ma-

rine safety; defense readiness; migrant interdiction; marine environmental protection; ice operations; and other law enforcement.

Noting that the Coast Guard motto of "Semper Paratus" means "Always Ready," Gesele said the "Coast Guard as a whole is just a great organization."

"Every day we save 12 lives, on average; we keep 842 pounds of cocaine off the streets; and we respond to and investigate 10 pollution incidents every day," Gesele said.

Coast Guard operations in Alaska are overseen by the Seventeenth Coast Guard District, whose operational commander — Rear Adm. Thomas Ostebo — is based in Juneau.

Within District 17 are two sector commands. Sector Juneau is responsible for Coast Guard operations in Southeast Alaska. Sector Anchorage covers the rest of the state.

Coast Guard assets in the state include about 1,800 Coast Guard personnel, five buoy tenders, and air stations in Sitka and Kodiak, according to Gesele.

Based on the latest information available, the Coast Guard in an average month saves about 14 lives in Alaska, coordinates 61 cases



Cmdr. T. Wade Gesele

and responds to 17 pollution incidents, according to Gesele.

And at present, the Coast Guard's only operational icebreaker — the cutter Healy — is working in the Arctic region, he said.

Gesele, a 20-year Coast Guardsman who described himself as a "numbers guy," focused part of his remarks on the Coast Guard presence in Ketchikan.

"In Ketchikan, the Coast Guard has about 200 active duty and civilian employees, with a quarter of those being civilians," he said.

That the civilian workforce makes up a quarter of the local workforce is "kind of unique," according to Gesele. Unlike the Coast Guard personnel who typically transfer out of Ketchikan after two to four years, many of the civilian employees are long-time locals. Others are former Coast Guard personnel who "fell in love with Alaska during one of their tours" and decided to come back.

"They're your neighbors," Gesele said. "They've been here a long time and they help all of us get acclimated and be able to learn about Alaska. ... They're the ones that are here, live, spend their money full time; don't just transfer in and out."

There are eight Coast Guard commands present in Ketchikan.

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Shipyard staff honors Winther

By SCOTT BOWLEN
Daily News Staff Writer

Alaska Ship & Drydock workers gathered Tuesday beneath a massive American flag hoisted by crane near the Ketchikan Shipyard's ship assembly hall for a moment of silence in honor of John Winther, the 67-year-old Petersburg fisherman and businessman who died Sunday from cancer.

"We're all going to take a few moments to remember John, and maybe remind us all of some of the accomplishments that made him a great Alaskan," said Doug Ward, ASD's director of shipyard development.

Visible in the ship assembly hall behind Ward was the Arctic Prowler, a new 136-foot factory longline fishing boat that ASD is building for Alaska Longline Co., the company for which Winther served as president and managing partner.

The ship and its construction at the Ketchikan Shipyard represent "two more firsts for John, two more firsts for Alaska, and two more firsts for Ketchikan," Ward said.

Winther had been involved in commercial fishing in Alaska since starting to longline for halibut in 1964, according to Pacific Fishing.

With partners, Winther in 1986 formed the Prowler Fisheries company that later became Alaska Longline Co.

Alaska Longline no operates five boats that harvest Pacific cod, sablefish and turbot in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

Winther also was a director of the then-Petersburg based Icicle Seafoods from 1980-92, according to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority. He served on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council from 1983 to 1989.

His business acumen went beyond Alaska's fisheries.

Winther founded Winstar Petroleum and Ultrastar Exploration, which have leases on Alaska's North Slope, according to AIDEA.

In addition, Winther had served on the AIDEA board from 2003 through 2011, when he resigned because of health reasons.

"John was a lifelong Alaskan and valuable member of the Board," AIDEA Executive Director Ted Leonard said Wednesday in a prepared statement. "His more than 45 years in commercial fishing enabled him to bring a unique business perspective to the table, and this was greatly appreciated."

Winther had first been appointed to the AIDEA board by then Gov. Frank Murkowski.

"Gov. Murkowski called me this morning to make sure we hadn't taken the day off and were still holding to John's schedule and budget for his new boat," Ward said Tuesday.

"The governor noted that John was a man of conviction and vision who believed that Alaskans are as great as their state and fully capable of delivering quality products at competitive prices," Ward continued, "whether those products are the fish, the oil, or the boats and rigs that caught the fish and drilled for the oil."

"John also backed up his conviction with action, and that's why today we're building Alaska's first modern, purpose-built factory longliner in the state's first modern purpose-built ship assembly hall."

AIDEA is the owner of the Ketchikan Shipyard, which is operated by ASD.

According to ASD information,



Photographer Chip Porter, left foreground, documents a special gathering of Alaska Ship and Drydock employees at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Ketchikan Shipyard to honor John Winther of Petersburg, who died Sunday. Winther was the managing partner of the Alaska Longline Co., which is having its new freezer-longliner fishing vessel Arctic Prowler built by ASD in Ketchikan. Doug Ward, ASD director of shipyard development, standing behind the podium, gave remarks honoring Winther. Portions of the Arctic Prowler can be seen behind in the ship assembly hall behind Ward.

Staff photo by Hall Anderson

Winther, as an AIDEA board member, was a "passionate proponent for completing the Ketchikan Shipyard Development Plan."

Randy Johnson, the former owner and now vice president of ASD, said Winther was extremely influential in promoting shipyard improvements.

"As our most valued fishing indus-

try customer, John not only brought Alaska Longline-Prowler vessel projects to ASD, he also strongly encouraged many other customers to do business in Alaska at ASD," Johnson said in ASD comments regarding Winther.

ASD is scheduled to complete the Arctic Prowler early next year.

"He took personal interest in this vessel," Ward said. "He was enormously proud of the ship; he was enormously proud of the shipyard; and more importantly, he was enormously proud of the people that are building both the ship and Alaska's future right here in Ketchikan."

Research set for red king crab

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — A batch of female red king crabs collected near Juneau area earlier this month will be spending the winter at the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Juneau Center.

The crabs are ovigerous — which means they're carrying embryos, according to the Alaska King Crab Research, Rehabilitation and Biology Program partnership.

The embryos are expected to hatch into larvae next spring. The larvae will be used in new study designed to optimize the diet of larval king crab, according to AKCRRAB.

Funded by Alaska Sea Grant, the study is being done by AKCRRAB biologists from the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Oregon State University.

The AKCRRAB program is geared toward hatching and rearing wild red and blue king crabs in a large-scale hatchery setting, according to Alaska Sea Grant.

The potential outcome of the red king crab larvae diet project will be the design of "aquaculture live-food enrichments that are customized to the nutritional needs of Alaska king crab larvae," according to Alaska Sea Grant.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS**Pot shrimp closure**

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — The commercial pot shrimp fishery in District 8 will close at 4 p.m. Sunday, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The department estimates that harvesters will have landed the district's 15,000-pound guideline harvest level by the closure time.

Cuke openings set

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — The commercial dive harvest fishery for sea cucumbers is set to resume Monday in specified areas of Southeast Alaska, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The Salisbury Sound and Peril Strait (Subdistricts 113-62, 63, 64, 65, and 66) area will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Monday.

The eastern portion of Tenakee Inlet (112-41, 42) will open from 8 a.m. to noon on Monday.

The Snow Pass (106-30) area will open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday.

The Kasaan Bay and Skowl Arm (102-60) area will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, and from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tuesday.

All remaining sea cucumber harvest areas with available guideline harvest levels will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Tuesday.

These areas are: Tree Point (101-10 and 11); West Behm Canal (101-90 and 101-95); Lower Clarence Strait (102-20); Cleveland Peninsula (102-80); Long Island and upper Cordova Bay (103-21 and 30); Hetta Inlet, Nutkwa Inlet, and Keete Inlet (103-23 and 25); San Christoval Channel, western San Alberto Bay and Trocadero Bay (103-60 and 103-70-002); Port Camden (109-43 and 105-32); Chatham Strait and Kelp Bay (112-11, 21 and 22); and the western portion of Tenakee Inlet (112-43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48).

Restrictions apply. For further information, contact Fish and Game.