



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020

Providing information, communications, and services to promote safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations.

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski Visits MXAK



Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) had the honor of hosting U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski while she was in Juneau earlier this month. As a leading U.S. representative of polar affairs, Senator Murkowski was interested in vessel tracking and long-range communication technology used by MXAK to aid safe maritime operations in the Arctic. Representatives from MXAK and the Alaska Maritime Prevention & Response Network shared plans of expanding coverage needed to meet the increase of marine transportation throughout Alaska, as well as the effect of financial

limitations and the logistical hurdles faced when operating in remote regions. While touring the operations center, Senator Murkowski had the opportunity to use a radio to say hello to a captain she knows who was actively fishing in the Bering Sea. You could say the captain was a bit surprised by the shout out from the Senator. MXAK greatly appreciates the support of Senator Murkowski and always welcomes government officials and the public to stop by for a tour or visit www.mxak.org to learn about the work being done at MXAK.



Out in the Field: Field Ops Update

Braving the elements to provide year-round communication and live-weather updates

Winter may not be the ideal season to conduct field work, but for the MXAK Field Ops team, the effort required to keep vessel tracking and weather stations live is a year-round job.



This time of year, the Field Ops. team is busy preparing for the bulk of field work that takes place in the quickly approaching spring and summer months. However, in addition to doing inventory, ordering parts, and fabricating equipment, the team has braved the elements and conducted several mid-winter field trips to repair receivers and upgrade weather stations. Despite the cold temperatures and high winds, the Field Ops. team ventured to Nikiski on the Kenai Peninsula and Alitak on Kodiak Island to perform system upgrades and install new weather stations. Fortunately, not all field trips are

wet and wild. Earlier this month, the Field Ops. team took advantage of a break in weather to visit Portland Island near Juneau to upgrade the weather station with new solar panels and batteries. Real-time weather updates are available for free at www.mxak.org/services/mda/weather/realtime/.



Did You Know...?

The Marine Exchange of Alaska is the monitoring center for the [Alaska Maritime Prevention & Response Network](#)?

We monitor and engage with large commercial vessels operating in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, and Arctic 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



New to MXAK: Kim Valverde Director of External Affairs

Kim enthusiastically joined MXAK in January 2020 as the Director of External Affairs. She looks forward to leaning, applying her passion for Alaska's maritime environments, and contributing



to the mission of MXAK. Born and raised in southern California, Kim moved to Alaska in 2012 after graduating from California State University Channel Islands with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science & Resource Management. Fueled by a lifelong love of boats, Kim's experience within the marine industry includes sales, marketing, marine surveying, and working as a deckhand. She enjoys being a part of Alaska's close-knit maritime community and connecting people within the industry. Kim will serve as a point of contact for public relations, outreach and advocacy, and will manage web development and social media accounts. You can contact Kim at kimvalverde@mxak.org or at 907-463-2607.

Compliance Corner with Ken



Ken Phillips is our Compliance Manager. He spent 22 years in the U.S. Coast Guard with a background in Marine Safety and Inspection. Contact Ken at kenphillips@mxak.org

Facility Security Plan (FSP) renewal season is in full swing! Ken will be in touch if you have an FSP that has a 2015 approval date. These renewals are required to be submitted 60 days prior to the plan's expiration date. If you have any questions on the Facility Security Plan feel free to reach out to Ken: (907) 463-3159.

Rick's PacTracs Tip of the Month



Rick is our Senior Maritime Information Specialist and PacTracs guru. Chances are that if you've called into MXAK to ask for help, you've chatted with Rick.

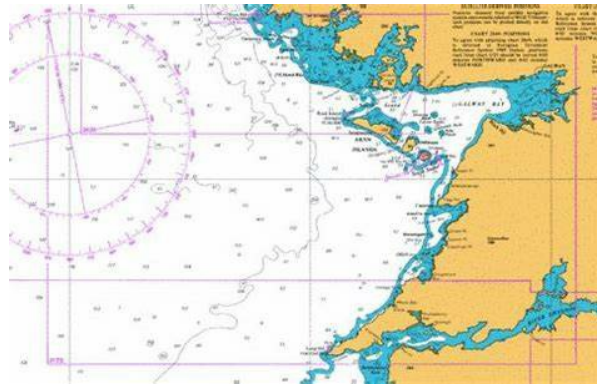
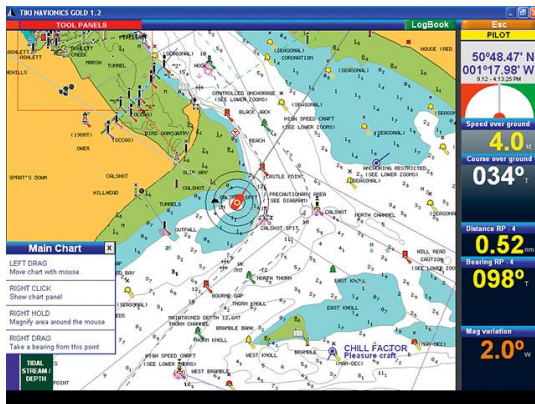
If you have any questions on PacTracs, please don't hesitate to give him a call: 907-463-4850



You might have seen some new icons in PacTracs that are numbered 1, 2, and 3 as shown above.

These are links that have been added to provide easy access to some important information:

1. Number 1- Notice to Mariners that is put out by the USCG for Alaska Waters
2. Number 2- link to access the Marine Exchange of Alaska Weather sites in a Map View
3. Number 3- link to a PDF that has some Quick Tips/Troubleshooting for PacTracs



Use of Electronic Charts in Lieu of Paper Charts

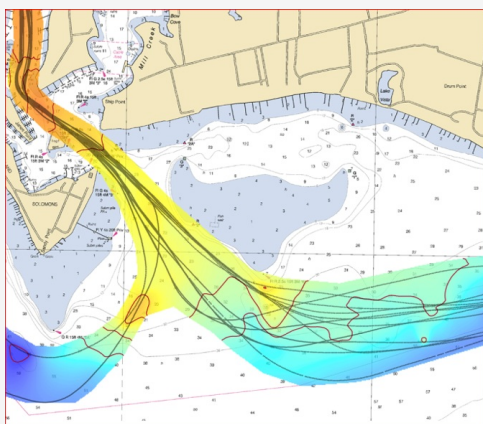
The Coast Guard Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) announced that U.S. vessels may now access navigational publications electronically through underway connectivity to meet domestic carriage and Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) certification requirements.

Navigation publications have always been a crucial part of voyage planning and safety. Many necessary documents such as United States Coast Pilot, tide tables, and local notice to mariners have always been kept on board a vessel during transit. The Coast Guard has recently recognized that a mariner does not always need access to entire publications at all times. The Coast Guard along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency are working together to update electronic format for mariners, making marine safety information available (both hardware and software). This allows the mariner ease of access when searching for a specific publication.

In order to encourage mariners to use electronic voyage planning options, the Coast Guard is allowing vessels to meet the required publication documents via internet access. The Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 01-16 Change 1 is revised to allow publications required by 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 83, 161, and 164 to be accessed via web services. This requires the mariner to have the applicable document as a "ready reference," and the document must be displayable within 2 minutes.

The Coast Guard is requesting comments from the public to help shape the final form of this new policy. Comments can be submitted through the Federal [eRulemaking Portal](#).

NOAA Nautical Charts



The United States has nearly 3,400,000 square nautical miles of water within coastal and Great Lakes jurisdiction. Coast Survey is responsible for charting most of the areas, which averages nearly 3,000 square miles of hydrographic surveying each year. The data that is collected is then used to update thousands of NOAA charts. Hydrographic surveys are expensive and

Southeast Alaska Business of the Year: Allen Marine



Congratulations to Allen Marine for winning the 2019 Southeast Alaska Business of the Year award! Allen Marine is a family owned business based out of Sitka. Allen Marine currently has a fleet of 25 vessels, all of which they have built. Allen Marine is the largest day-cruise company in Alaska; operating out of Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

time consuming, therefore only the highest priority sites are surveyed, which leaves many coastal areas without updates. To counter these problems Coast Survey will conduct a beta test of crowdsourced bathymetry in hopes of improving nautical charts. This will be done by using data voluntarily provided by mariners.

www.mxak.org

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