



Alaska Informational Scuttlebutt

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

Arctic Watch

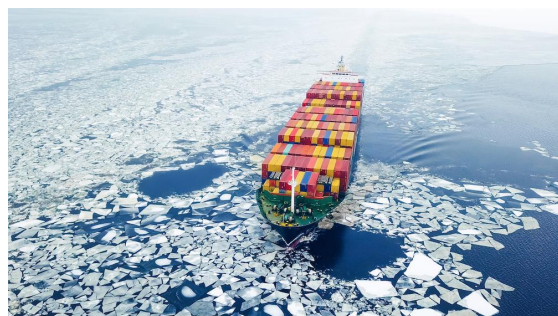
Ahoy! One effort we are really excited about is utilizing the Watch Center to facilitate safe and environmentally conscious vessel traffic in the Arctic Region.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska, in partnership with Arctic waterways stakeholders, is building a voluntary, interactive, dynamic marine management system for the Arctic to ensure safe passage for ships and minimize damage to the marine environment. This initiative leverages existing protocols for maritime operation as well as new and emerging technologies to enable real-time vessel tracking and communication.

In addition to WWF's wildlife alerts, other projects under this initiative include recommendations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for vessels operating near walrus haul outs and [Alaska Geofence](#) which provides a platform for Alaska Native communities and U.S. government agencies to establish virtual fences around sensitive coastal areas. In addition, the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) traffic routes and areas to be avoided (ATBAs) provide initial guidance for large commercial vessels transiting the region. Together, these are the start of a dynamic traffic management system that can integrate real-time observations and improve the safety of ships, wildlife, and people in the Bering Strait.

Current weather and ice reports will also be transmitted to vessels in the area. We have been working with the National Weather Service to ensure our observations can be used in their weather modeling to improve the accuracy of local forecasts.

In addition to providing information to aid protecting the fragile marine environment, the Arctic Watch will enhance maritime safety by using the best available technologies to track and communicate with vessels. Through partnering with indigenous communities NGOs, emergency responders as well as state and federal agencies charged with protecting the marine environment timely and relevant information will be passed to vessels and all stakeholders. Early detection and response to elevated risk events can prevent loss of life, property environmental harm.



Glacier Bay Cruise Ship Inspections



Ken Phillips our Compliance Manager led the MXAK crew to a successful watch of cruise vessel inspections. Throughout the summer, our team worked diligently with the National Park Service to safeguard the pristine waters of Glacier Bay.

Glacier National Park, just outside of Juneau, sees a lot of cruise traffic each season. Often, it's the highlight of a visitor's trip. In order to ensure Park waters remain pristine, Park Service needed an audit program to confirm vessels minimized environmental impact.

Park staff developed an audit program and the MXAK conducted the audits on a random schedule, without notice to the ships. This audit program managed by the Park and funded by the cruise companies operating in the Park (Holland America Group and Norwegian Cruise Lines) was initiated in July this year.

The Park limits cruise volume to two large vessels a day and they are required to comply with "zero discharge" permit conditions. No treated sewage, grey water, brine from desalinators, food waste, exhaust gas scrubber water, and other chemicals and materials can be released into the Park's waters. Vessels also must adhere to speed restrictions, distance offshore from glaciers and environmentally sensitive areas such as sea lion haul outs. There are numerous other requirements in addition to the above.

The MXAK commenced conducting environmental compliance audits of Cruise Ships that visit Glacier Bay N.P. In addition to our staff, we brought in two additional retired Coast Guard officers, with extensive marine inspection experience, to help conduct audits. The vessels' environmental officer and ships' crew aided the conduct of the audits that take an entire underway day in the Park to complete.

The MXAK commends both the cruise industry and the Park Service for their commitment to environmental protection culture. The MXAK audits revealed cruise ships close adherence to Park regulations and procedural improvements that reduce the potential for accidental or deliberate discharges. The MXAK is committed to the Park's mission of ensuring Glacier Bay is shared with thousands of travelers with minimal environmental impacts



Ken and the MXAK crew left no "stone" unturned as they worked through a comprehensive checklist to ensure vessels were complying with regulatory standards.



MXAK Founder Ed Page was one of our inspectors over the summer. He got to see the ins and outs of the cruise ships and as always did it with that warm smile!

MXAK & U.S. Coast Guard Industry Training



Lt. Collins with USCGA interns Alandydy and Winters getting ready to brave to chilly temps of the Prudhoe Bay Watershed. They were given an exclusive tour of the network via Alaska Clean Seas airboats!

These last couple of months, LT Jesse Collins had been working with the MXAK Crew in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Waterways Marine Industry Training Program. In the program, active-duty members are assigned to different companies, industries, and organizations within the maritime community. This is an effort to bridge the communication/experience gaps to ensure safe and efficient maritime operations.

During his time at the MXAK, LT Collins learned how private industry can relieve port congestion through simple but effective changes in traffic management (like [PacMMS](#)). He also learned how private industry can aid in safe and environmentally conscious navigation through a system of AIS Aids to Navigation stations like those we operate and maintain throughout Alaska.

LT Jesse Collins met with stakeholders from Juneau all the way to Prudhoe Bay, where he gained better insight of the infrastructure challenges of port development in the Arctic. Meeting with folks throughout the state helped identify industrial and regional needs.

Jesse was instrumental in spearheading a project to develop an Arctic Waterways Users' Guide linking best practices from the USCG and using the real time data that we've collected from our [150+ AIS sites](#) across the state. This will help charter the course for the maritime communities as we continue to explore our northern possibilities by consolidating and sharing the best and relevant recommendations.

LT Collins departed Juneau to head back east for more industry training opportunities and reassignment. We will miss his calming presence which helped explain even the most complicated of policies. LT Collins was the second USCG industry trainee that we've had the honor of hosting and hopefully not our last. We thank him for his service and wish him only the best in his future endeavors!

Enjoy some of the awesome photos he took during his time here (and some fun ones we took).



Lt. Collins outside of the iconic Deadhorse sign at the one "convenient" store in the area.



New to MXAK: Assistant Director & General Counsel Chris Coutu!



Freshly retired from the Coast Guard in August 2022, after serving over 21 years, with his last 6 in - Alaska's 17th District, Chris comes to the Marine Exchange with a wealth of maritime law experience. As a Coast Guard officer, he served as a marine casualty investigator, investigating oil spills and vessel casualties in New England, the Gulf Coast, and in the Pacific Northwest. As an attorney, he was Chief of the Coast Guard's Claims and Litigation Division during the Deepwater Horizon prosecution and ran the Coast Guard's Suspension and Revocation Center of Expertise prosecuting mariner license cases around the country. He was the Staff Judge Advocate in Alaska for the Coast Guard's 17th District, advising three District Commanders over the course of 6 years of service here in the state.

We're excited for Chris to be part of the Marine Exchange and to see the great things he'll do for the maritime community we serve. Comms: chriscoutu@mxak.org and 907-290-1326.

READY TO TAKE YOUR BOATING SAFETY TO THE NEXT LEVEL?

Become a MXAK Member and gain access to the most comprehensive terrestrial and satellite vessel tracking system in Alaska.

Checkout our new GOLD membership options where you can save money while keeping our same great service!

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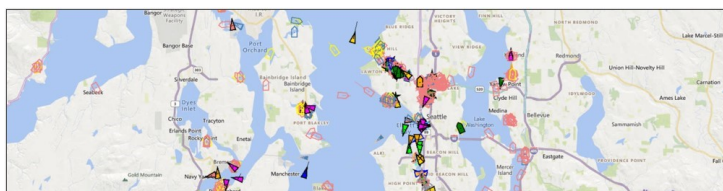
Rick's PacTracs Tip



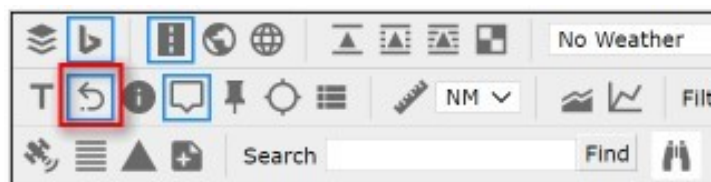
Rick is MXAK's Senior Maritime Information Specialist and PacTracs expert. If you have any PacTracs questions, please don't hesitate to give him a call at 907-463-2607 or e-mail him at rickspeck@mxak.org

Understanding Vessel Movements

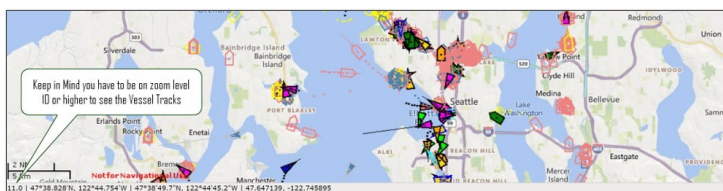
Question: Is there a way to determine a group of vessels (like below) which ones are moving?



Answer: Yes! Click on the 2nd button from the left on the 2nd row of the toolbar "show tracks" (highlighted in red)



Once the "show tracks" icon is enabled you will see tracks behind the vessels that are moving. As always if you have any questions don't hesitate to give us a call!





Ken Phillips is MXAK's 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

TWIC® Card renewals and cost

How do I renew my TWIC®?

TWIC® card holders may renew their TWIC® card online up to one year prior to the expiration date printed on their card and up to one year after their card expires. After one year, you will be considered a new enrollee, subject to the standard in-person enrollment process. To be eligible for online renewal, you must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or a lawful permanent resident.

If you have changed your name since enrollment, you must contact the TSA Help Center at 855-DHS-UES1 (855-347-8371) to update your name before renewing online. If you are not eligible for online renewal, you can follow the same steps as a new applicant to renew your TWIC® card in person at an enrollment center.



Transportation Worker Identification Credential

TWIC® Authentication Features

The TWIC card maintains several overt design features to promote secure use of the credential.

1. Serial Serial Photograph of the card holder.
2. Colorful Expiration Date: Color-coded background that will appear on serial basis.
3. Card Holder's Full Name: Last name, first name, and abbreviated middle name (first initial followed by period in capital letters).
4. Color Shifting Ink: TWIC text and Populizer design color shift between red, gold, and green depending on lighting conditions when viewed from different angles.
5. Security: Card Identification Number (CIN) and Anchor design embossed on the card's surface. (The CIN is a 14-digit number that can be validated in the TSA portal on the rear of the card. Serials are 10-digit numbers.)
6. Image Transition Effect: Changes changes to U.S. Flag design when viewed from different angles. (Serials)
7. Serial Number: CIN, U.S. and U.S. serials visible when card is viewed using LED light source. (Serials)
8. Serial Number: Serial design color changes when viewed from different angles. (Serials)
9. Image Identification Anchor design visible when card is viewed using LED light source. (Serials)
10. Serial Number: Serial design visible when card is viewed using LED light source. (Serials)

100% authentication features provided in this document does not represent liability or removal of legal security measures established by the U.S. Coast Guard, designations authority, serials, and/or number. Please contact your employer's security office for more information.

For more information on the TWIC card, please contact TSA at twic@tsoa.dhs.gov.

How much does a TWIC® card cost?

The fee for a new TWIC® enrollment is \$125.25, and the credential is valid for five years. If you hold a valid Hazardous Materials Endorsement (HME) or a Free and Secure Trade (FAST) card, you may pay a reduced fee of \$93.00. If you choose to pay the reduced fee, you must present your HME or FAST card at the time of enrollment. If you pay the reduced fee, your TWIC® card expiration date will be five years from the issuance date of the supporting FAST card or the expiration date of your current, unexpired HME. If you are renewing your TWIC® card, you will be charged a fee of \$125.25 to renew in-person, or if you are eligible for online renewal and choose to renew online the fee will be \$117.25.

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