



Alaska Informational Scuttlebutt

Spring, 2023

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

Alaska High-School Outstanding Youth (AHOY) Internship Program



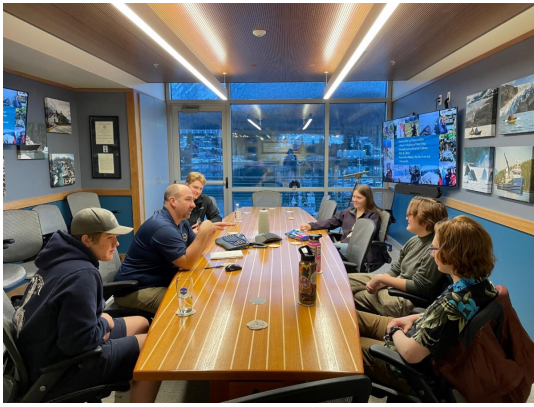
Our AHOY interns had the amazing opportunity to visit the Alaska State Capitol and meet with Senator Kiehl and his UA intern Caleb. We are grateful for the chance to connect with our legislators and learn more about the importance of governance in our industry. Thank you, Senator Kiehl, for your time and support of our program!

L-R: Clayton, Jake, Lucas, Sen. Jesse Kiehl (District B), Caleb, Ava, Cara, and Edric.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) is thrilled to announce the launch of the Alaska High-School Outstanding Youth (AHOY) Internship Program. This innovative program provides high school juniors and seniors with

The program will culminate with presentations from each of the AHOY interns, where they will showcase their learning and experiences and receive scholarships for their hard work and effort.

a unique opportunity to explore careers in the maritime industry while learning from community leaders.



MXAK's Executive Director, Steve White, leads the kickoff meeting for the AHOY Internship program, investing in the next generation of maritime industry leaders. The program focuses on mentorship and hands-on experiences to give students a taste of the diverse opportunities within the industry. Excited to explore, learn, and grow together!

The AHOY program is designed to immerse interns in a professional work environment by visiting various local organizations and businesses. Interns will interact with industry leaders, learn about local career opportunities, and gain hands-on experience.

Interns will have the chance to connect with various organizations related to the maritime industry; starting with a visit to the Ted Steven's NOAA Research Facility in Juneau, where they'll interact with NOAA scientists. They'll also learn about the role of MXAK's Maritime Safety Sites as well as the Eldred Rock Lighthouse and its impact on maritime safety. Additionally, they'll embark on a adventure to Ketchikan, where they'll visit the Alaska Marine Highway System, US Coast Guard Facility, University of Alaska Southeast Technical Center, and Vigor Shipyard.

The AHOY program offers a flexible and fun program that allows students to chart their own course. We're excited to offer various excursions to see new places within the maritime economy, as well as award up to \$1000 scholarships for our senior applicants.

We encourage everyone to get involved in helping us spread the word about this fantastic opportunity. The AHOY Internship Program is just one of the many ways MXAK gives back to the community by equipping our future leaders with the tools they need to be successful.

We're thrilled to launch this program and invite high school students to join us on this exciting journey. Stay curious, ask questions, and enjoy the journey! Contact Edric at EdricCarrillo@MXAK.org.



The AHOY Interns had a blast at NOAA's lab, where Todd introduced us to his underwater treadmill for fish! The swim tunnel lets scientists monitor a fish's breathing and movements, helping them understand how human activity affects marine life. We didn't get to see their workout but we heard it can be "shocking"! It was such a fun and informative visit - thanks, Stori & Todd!



Field Ops Team Delivers: Upgraded Mt. Ballyhoo Marine Safety Site in Dutch Harbor

We are thrilled to announce the recent upgrade of the Mt. Ballyhoo marine safety site in Dutch Harbor, a critical location for Alaska's Arctic Deep-Water Port and home to a

bustling fishing fleet. The significance of this upgraded installation cannot be overstated as it provides much-needed VHF radio capabilities to mariners, including the US Coast Guard, who previously had no reliable persistent communication in the area.

We take great pride in being able to provide such important information and services to the maritime community in Alaska, and we would like to extend a special thank you to our Field Ops team for their hard work in making this installation a reality.

The need for this safety site was brought to our attention by several stakeholders, and we appreciate input from community members in these critical areas. We are committed to doing our part in keeping our waters safe, and we encourage anyone who thinks we can help to reach out to us.

At the Marine Exchange of Alaska, we are dedicated to providing information, communications, and services that aid in safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally responsible maritime operations. This recent installation is just one example of the important work we do, and we look forward to continuing to serve the maritime community in Alaska.

MXAK Hosts Legislative Receptions



Our Executive Director, Steve White, and Assistant Director, Chris Coutu, can be seen engaging in a productive conversation with a group of Alaska Legislators and staff in our board room. It was an honor to host these distinguished guests and share with them the important work we do at the Marine Exchange of Alaska. We appreciate their support and commitment to ensuring the safety and success of Alaska's maritime industry.

The MXAK hosted a series of legislative receptions in partnership with Senator Jesse Kiehl, Representative Sara Hannan, and Representative Andi Story. These events provided a unique opportunity for the MXAK to connect with lawmakers, share its mission and goals, and engage in meaningful discussions on issues related to the "Blue Economy."

The MXAK extended the invitation to the entire Alaska Legislature, as well as their families and staff, and was pleased to engage in these important conversations. The reception helped strengthen relationships between the MXAK and the state of Alaska. These collaborations pave the way for future discussions regarding Alaska's maritime safety and growth.

The events were well-attended. They featured delicious refreshments, good conversation, and a chance to highlight the critical role that the maritime industry plays in Alaska's economy and way of life. Senator Bjorkman even brought his son, who had a great time looking at the MXAK's maritime memorabilia. We were happy to entertain him!

Anyone who wants to learn more about what we do is always welcome to connect with us or see our facility and operations in-person. In an effort to take a look at the important work we do to keep the maritime community safe. With our commitment to promoting the safe, efficient, and sustainable use of Alaska's waterways, the MXAK will continue to work closely with lawmakers and other stakeholders to achieve its mission.

We would like to thank Sen. Kiehl, Reps. Hannan and Story for co-hosting these successful events with us, and we look forward to future opportunities to collaborate and build a stronger Alaska.



Our crew showcasing the heart of our operations in the Maritime Operations Center (MOC). Here's where we keep watch 24/7, using cutting-edge technology to monitor and report on vessel traffic in Alaska's waters. Our MOC plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and security of our state's maritime industry, and we were delighted to have the opportunity to share it with Alaska's legislators and staff.



In this photo, Senator Kiehl is admiring our models of the USCG Vessel Storis, a true icon of Alaska's maritime history. He was thrilled to share some of that history with Senator Bjorkman's son - the vessel's wartime service and its later years as an icebreaker and search and rescue ship. It's always a pleasure to share our passion for Alaska's maritime heritage with visitors, especially with our younger community members!

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Rick's PacTracs Tip

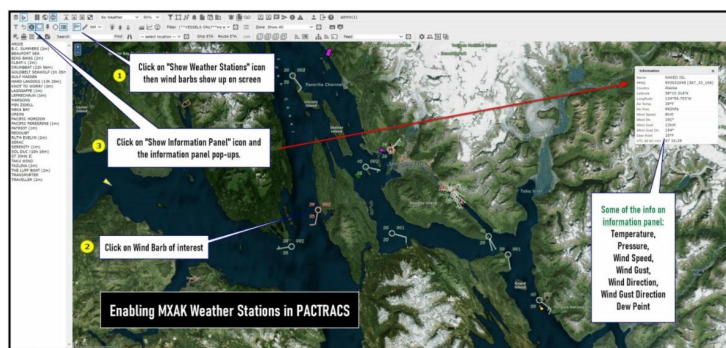


Rick is MXAK's Senior Maritime Information Specialist and PacTracs expert. If you have any PacTracs questions, please don't hesitate to give him a call at 907-463-2607 or e-mail him at ricksypeck@mxak.org

Tracking Weather Information

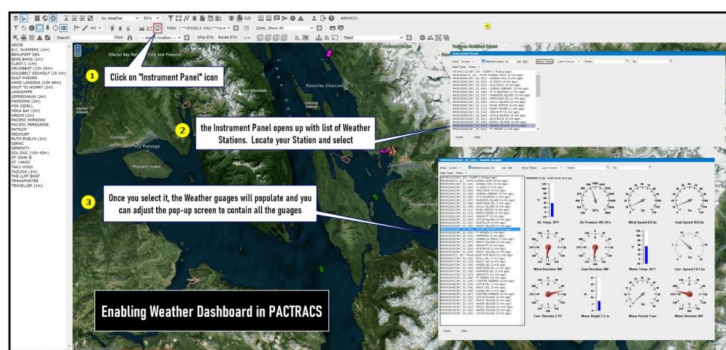
Question: I travel from Auke Bay to Hoonah on occasion and would like to see the weather info, does PACTRACS have that capability?

Answer: Yes, the Marine Exchange has over 60 Weather Stations throughout the state. To enable this feature, see screenshot below.



Follow-up Question: This is good info,...could you make a dashboard that contains the Weather information?

Answer: That feature is currently available in PACTRACS, see screenshot below



As always, if you have any questions with PACTRACS don't hesitate to give us a call.

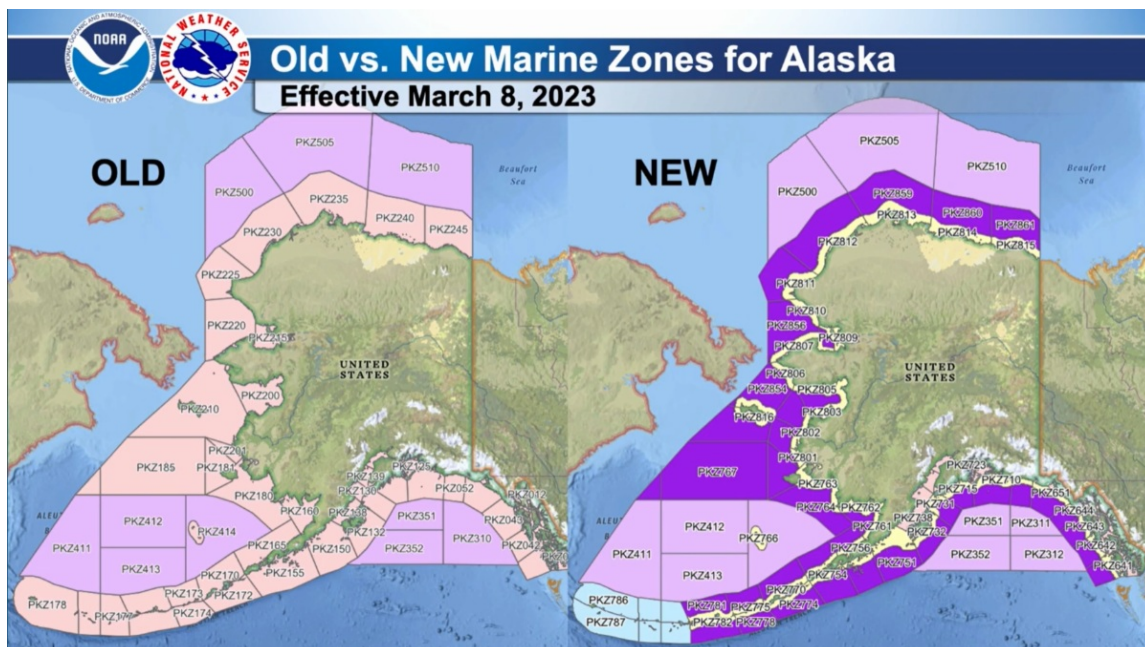
USCG Marine Safety Alert: Proper Configuration of Digital Selective Calling (DSC)-Equipped Radios

This Safety Alert is to remind marine radio users of the importance and value of properly configuring their Digital Selective Calling (DSC)-equipped Very High Frequency (VHF) radios to enable proper function during an emergency situation. When properly installed, DSC allows the mariner to simply hit the red DSC button in an emergency, resulting in the vessel's geographic coordinates and registered Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSI) number to be transmitted to nearby DSC enabled vessels and shore-based VHF towers.



During a marine casualty involving the loss of life aboard a commercial fishing vessel, it was found that the DSC-equipped VHF radio was not properly configured with the vessel's GPS system. While the Master was able to broadcast the vessel's position before sinking, having the DSC alert properly enabled could have provided the master more opportunity to focus on emergency operations and egress from the sinking vessel, while still continuously broadcasting an emergency signal over VHF

National Weather Service Zone Changes



The National Weather Service Forecast Offices in Alaska have realigned Alaska's marine forecast zones. **These new zones have been implemented on March 8th, 2023.** The changes will result in more geographically-representative forecast, advisory, watch, and warning products. This will be achieved with the creation of a 'nearshore' forecast zone that will cover areas from the coastline out to 15NM, a 'coastal' forecast zone which will then exist from 15NM up to 100NM, and the creation of new zones that will pare down very large geographic areas, including areas in the eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, along the Aleutians, and within the Bering Sea. Due to the scope of these changes, most marine forecast zone names and numbers in Alaska will change.

These changes are part of a long-term National Weather Service improvement plan to provide the public with forecasts and alerts more relevant to their area of concern. For more information about the planned marine zone changes and access to all material created to help educate the public and maritime community, please refer to the National Weather Service website at weather.gov/alaska/marine. Questions and concerns can be directed to Lindsay Tardif-Huber at 907-271-5132 or by email to lindsay.tardif-huber@noaa.gov.

New to MXAK: Edric Carrillo - External Affairs Director



Greetings MXAK Members and Supporters!

I am thrilled to introduce myself as the External Affairs Director at the Marine Exchange of Alaska. My name is Edric Carrillo, and I am proud to be a lifelong "Juneauite". As a passionate advocate for our state and community, I am excited to bring my experience and enthusiasm to this position.

With a background in the tourism industry and work in the Alaska Legislature, I have developed a strong foundation for promoting the safety and efficiency of our maritime industry. By fostering collaboration and open communication, I am confident that we can achieve our goals and build strong partnerships with our members, stakeholders, and community.

In addition to my professional work, I am a dedicated volunteer and have worked with several local agencies and organizations, including the Filipino Community to support youth and families in our community.

When I'm not working, you can find me exploring new places and enjoying the incredible activities Alaska has to offer. I believe that my love for our state and its unique culture will allow me to connect with our members and stakeholders in a meaningful way.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your External Affairs Director, and I am looking forward to working with you all. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or ideas to share!

Sincerely,

Edric Carrillo

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