



Alaska Information Scuttlebutt

Summer 2025

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

Building the Maritime Safety Net: Field Ops Expand VHF Coverage Across Alaska

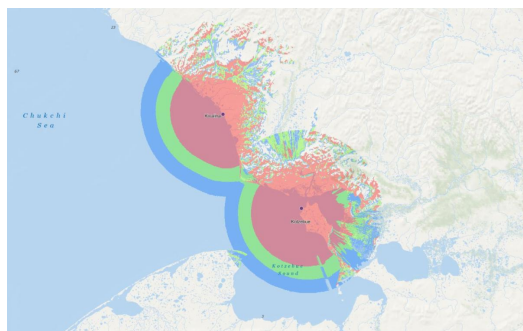


It's been a banner summer for our **Field Operations** crew, with major strides made toward filling longstanding gaps in Alaska's maritime safety net. From **Juneau, to Kodiak, and the Arctic** our crews have been hard at work expanding coverage, upgrading sites, and installing new equipment to enhance communication, safety, and situational awareness for mariners across the state.

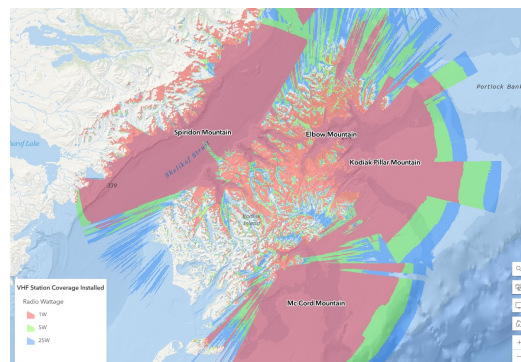
With [over 150 Marine Safety Sites statewide](#), MXAK continues to build out its infrastructure with the support of local, state, and federal partners who make our nonprofit mission possible. Each new installation strengthens our statewide data network—[integrating AIS sensors, weather monitoring, and VHF radios to support everyday navigation, emergency response, and informed decision-making.](#)

These upgrades not only improve safety for those on the water but also enhance the quality and efficiency of data our team shares with the Coast Guard and the broader maritime community. This summer's work reflects the very best of collaboration, innovation, and commitment to service—and we're not done yet.

Stay tuned as we continue building a safer, smarter maritime in Alaska.



New VHF sites in Kivalina, Kotzebue, and near the Red Dog Mine have drastically improved distress communication and vessel tracking coverage in a region where connectivity is sparse—but critical. These sites, equipped with **VHF, DSC, and AIS AtoN capabilities**, now allow for more reliable two-way radio communication, enabling mariners, subsistence hunters, and responders to stay connected even in some of Alaska's most remote waters.



The crew scaled **Spiridon Mountain on Kodiak Island** to upgrade one of our highest sites—2,700 feet above sea level—with full VHF Distress communication coverage, extending across more than **4,900 square nautical miles**, including all of Shelikof Strait. This area saw over **800 vessel transits** last year alone, and this enhancement now ensures that mariners are within range of our Maritime Operations Center and the Coast Guard in times of distress.

Maritime Operations Center: Keeping Alaska's Maritime Lifeline Strong, 24/7

As maritime activity surges across Alaska's vast coastline, **MXAK's 24/7 Maritime Operations Center (MOC)** quietly and consistently plays one of the most critical roles in maritime safety—buying time. In Alaska, where geography, weather, and isolation can turn small mishaps into major emergencies, every second counts. That's why our watchstanders work around the clock to provide early detection, clear communication, and crucial information to mariners and response agencies alike.

From hearing faint distress calls that others can't, to relaying reports of vessel fires, entangled whales, or overturned boats, our MOC is often the first point of contact—and



the first to take action. Just recently, when a powerful [8.8 earthquake struck near the Kamchatka Peninsula](#), our team swiftly began **tsunami monitoring and coordination, relaying warnings every 15 minutes to mariners** underscoring how our role extends beyond tracking vessels to preparing for the unexpected. In another case, the MOC helped the U.S. Coast Guard track a fishing vessel in

distress near the Aleutians, and in Southeast Alaska, assisted communications by crowdsourcing nearby vessels to aid in potential rescue efforts.

Our mission is simple but powerful: **take the "search" out of search and rescue**. By enhancing awareness and reducing response time, we help protect life, property, and Alaska's Blue Economy. Whether it's responding to a mayday, issuing weather alerts, or offering a simple radio check, we're here to support mariners with timely, accurate information—no matter the hour.

Beyond Alaska, our reach extends into the Pacific through our [Pacific Maritime Management Services \(PacMMS\)](#) initiative. Developed in collaboration with maritime partners in **Southern California and the San Francisco Bay Area**, [PacMMS was born from the 2021 supply chain crisis to better manage container ship arrivals](#). By issuing berth queue tickets at departure (instead of upon arrival), **this voluntary, industry-led effort cut emissions, reduced port congestion, and improved safety**.



What started with **fewer than 100 vessels** has now grown to **over 1,000 participating container ships!** Many among the largest in the world—delivering millions in goods more efficiently and safely. In just four years, [PacMMS has become a model for smart sea traffic management and collaborative maritime innovation](#).

From Alaska's rugged coastlines to international shipping lanes, MXAK's watch never wavers. Our MOC remains the steady hand behind the scenes—safeguarding people, protecting the environment, and ensuring Alaska's maritime continues to move forward.

Whether you're heading out for the day or across the Pacific, we're standing by. Learn more or get in touch with our MOC for radio checks, AIS support, or maritime safety info anytime.

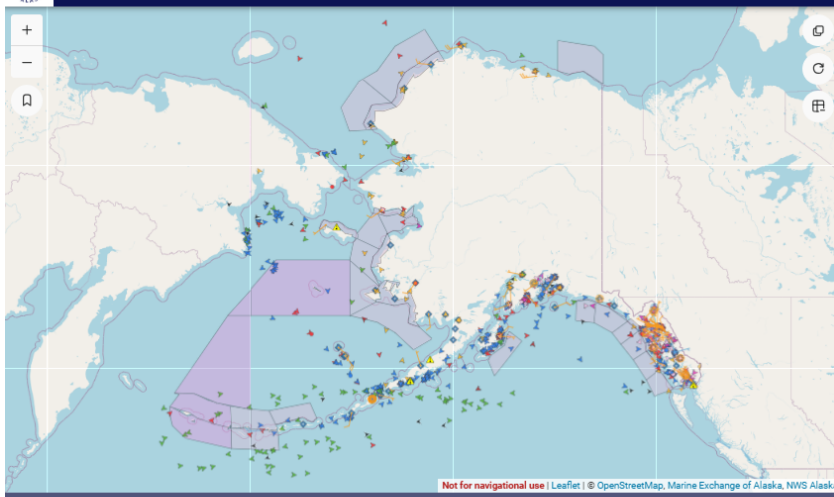
BlueView Takes the Helm

We're excited to share that [BlueView](#) is officially replacing the **Environmental App** as MXAK's primary weather and maritime data tool. After months of running side by side, BlueView now serves as the default platform, with the Environmental App scheduled for retirement in **February 2026**.

BlueView was built with user feedback in mind, making it more intuitive and versatile than ever.

Recent upgrades include:

- **Custom Filters & Layers** – View research vessels, live AIS targets, and key maritime data.
- **Integrated Warnings & Alerts** – You no longer need to switch modes to view the data.



Name ↑	Ambient Winds		Peak Winds		Barometric Pressure	Air Temperature	Dew Point Temperature	Relative Humidity	Issued
	Speed	Direction	Speed	Direction					
Akutan	2.5 knots	103.5°	3.4 knots	104.0°	1024.4 mbar	52.9°F	51.4°F	95.0%	Aug 21, 2025, 2:40:00 PM AKDT
ALASKA TITAN	8.0 knots	323.0°	9.0 knots	Not collected	1022.0 mbar	63.7°F	57.2°F	Not collected	Aug 21, 2025, 2:39:18 PM AKDT
Anchorage Port	6.6 knots	281.2°	8.8 knots	278.0°	1024.7 mbar	59.7°F	52.9°F	78.5%	Aug 21, 2025, 2:40:00 PM AKDT

Arctic Watch Live Integration – See vessel activity and conditions across Alaska's waters.

This transition reflects our ongoing commitment to providing Alaska's maritime community with reliable, user-friendly tools that enhance safety, awareness, and operational decision-making. For questions or feedback, please reach out—we're always improving BlueView with our

community in mind.

Honoring History, Embracing the Future: U.S. Coast Guard Milestones in Alaska

We're proud to celebrate recent milestones that reflect the Coast Guard's continued leadership and investment in Alaska's maritime future.

Last month, we joined the community to [honor Rear Adm. Megan Dean's exceptional service and to welcome Rear Adm. Bob Little as the new commander of the newly renamed Arctic District \(formerly District 17\)](#). This change in leadership—and name—recognizes the increasing strategic importance of Alaska's Arctic waters and aligns closely with MXAK's mission to support maritime safety, environmental protection, and Arctic readiness.



This transition comes alongside historic developments, including the homeporting and recent commissioning of the new **USCGC Storis (WAGB-21)**. These advancements are bolstered by a \$25 billion funding increase for the Coast Guard, which will expand capabilities through new vessels, aircraft, and infrastructure upgrades—including a \$300 million facility planned for Juneau. Together, these investments will enhance emergency response, environmental stewardship, and maritime security across Alaska.

Adding to this momentum, the City and Borough of Juneau has been formally designated a [U.S. Coast Guard City](#)—recognizing the longstanding connection between the community and the Coast Guard's mission and people.

MXAK is honored to partner with the Coast Guard as we work together to keep Alaska's waters safe, resilient, and connected. Welcome aboard, Rear Adm. Little and USCGC Storis—Alaska is ready for what's ahead.



The original *Storis* (WMEC-38), fondly remembered as the “[Gallop](#)ing Ghost of the Alaskan Coast,” served for over six decades and forged deep ties across Alaska, including years homeported in Juneau.



Now, a new era begins as the repurposed, ice-capable *Aiviq* has been renamed *Storis* and repainted to honor that legacy—becoming the [first new USCG polar-class icebreaker in over 25 years](#).

Our Commitment to the Next Generation



Juneau’s maritime landscape firsthand.

Developing the next generation of maritime leaders is not just a mission—it’s a passion.

This year, marks our fourth AHOY Internship and our fifth summer hosting U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadets! We continue our proud tradition of passing down maritime knowledge and bridging experiences.

Our AHOY interns—six enthusiastic high school students—spent this season exploring

Visiting local businesses and organizations such as Alaska Marine Lines, CBJ Docks and Harbors, Petro Marine, and even touring the USCG Cutter *Munro*, these students gained valuable insights into how critical maritime services are delivered, especially in a community as uniquely reliant on maritime support as Juneau. Whether discussing governance at the docks or understanding barge operations, the interns discovered pathways and opportunities that await them in maritime careers.

We were equally excited to welcome **two USCGA cadets this summer: Lydia and Mia**. Through the [Academy’s Center for Arctic Study & Policy](#), they embarked on a transformative journey, experiencing Alaska’s maritime connections from multiple vantage points.

Their summer kicked off in Juneau, swiftly followed by a vibrant exploration of Alaska’s diverse maritime activities. From experiencing Alaska Native traditions and the spring whale festival Nalukataq in Utqiagvik—complete with tasting muktuk—to observing oil field operations in Prudhoe Bay, their journey was as educational as it was adventurous.



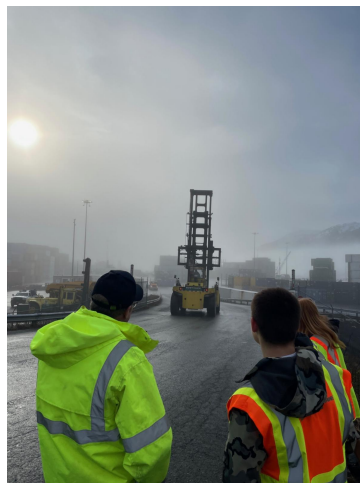
Aboard a Matson vessel, Lydia and Mia navigated from Anchorage to Kodiak, and even joined a tugboat voyage through Northern Lynn Canal. Their adventures continued with hands-on field installations, kayaking trips led by our Founder Ed Page, and unforgettable fishing expeditions with our COO John Hollingsworth.

Both cadets embraced opportunities to engage with industry leaders, Alaska Native communities, and fellow cadets, leaving with rich experiences that bridge their academic paths with practical maritime insights.

At MXAK, we believe that Alaska's maritime future lies in investing in youth. Whether through AHOY, CASP cadets, or community partnerships, we remain committed to shaping capable, passionate leaders who will navigate the waters ahead with confidence and purpose.



Mia during Nalaqutak the Spring Whaling Festival in Utqiagvik. She had the honor of serving the community distributing and trying some muktuk!



AHOY Interns at the Alaska Marine Lines dock in Juneau. They got to see first hand how critical their work is unloading barges and freight containers supplying Juneau with all its goods.



Lydia landing a top a mountain near Kodiak with the USCG Jayhawk Crew. Fully suited up and ready to help rescue some mariners!

Welcome Aboard Jordan!



The Marine Exchange of Alaska is proud to welcome **Jordan Boghosian** as our new **Chief Financial Officer**. Jordan joins MXAK following more than 20 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Coast Guard, where he most recently served as Chief of Resources for all operations in Alaska. His career included nine years at sea, with leadership roles as Executive Officer of CGC *Anacapa* in Petersburg and Commanding Officer of CGC *Liberty* in Auke Bay.

Jordan brings a wealth of financial and operational expertise, including his experience as Executive Officer of the Coast Guard Finance Center, where he managed budgets spanning multiple

Department of Homeland Security agencies. He also holds an MBA from Cornell University's Johnson School of Business.

At MXAK, Jordan will help advance our mission of safeguarding Alaska's coasts by strengthening the financial foundation that supports our communications, infrastructure, and maritime safety services. When not serving the maritime community, Jordan enjoys exploring Alaska with friends and family.

Visitors & Showcasing MXAK

At MXAK, we love “show and tell.” Each visit is a chance to highlight the meaningful work our crew does every day—work that not only amazes our visitors but continues to inspire us as well. From filling critical communication gaps to relaying distress calls and supporting U.S. Coast Guard missions, our non-profit has built a reputation for delivering results that save lives, protect our coasts, and keep maritime operations running safely and efficiently.



This summer, we've welcomed a number of distinguished visitors—from **congressional staff and fellows in Senator Murkowski's and Senator Sullivan's offices to U.S. Coast Guard leaders and delegations from Washington, D.C.** Most recently, we were honored to host **Rep. Nick Begich's** team alongside **Rep. Mike Ezell (MS)** and **Rep. Jimmy Patronis (FL)**, both members of the **House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee** and the Coast Guard Subcommittee. Their visit coincided with the historic commissioning of the **USCGC Storis** in Juneau, and we had robust discussions about how MXAK's efforts in maritime domain awareness directly support national safety and security.

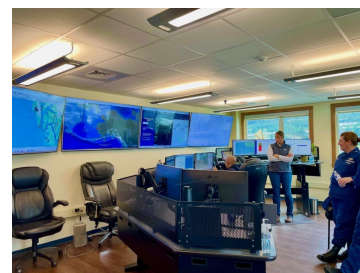
These opportunities to educate, engage, and strengthen partnerships are critical. By building connections with policymakers, Coast Guard leaders, and community partners, we help ensure Alaska's maritime safety net continues to grow stronger.



Congressional staff delegation including new Coast Guard Fellows from Sen. Murkowski's and Sen. Sullivan's offices in the MOC.



MXAK Founder Ed Page leading a “show and tell” for USCG Senate Liaison CAPT Williams and Public Affairs Director Plozai.



USCG Sector Southeast leadership visiting MXAK: Deputy CDR, CDR Nadolny and Response Department Head, CDR Troutman with MXAK's Byron and Katelyn.

Arctic Watch Updates - Keeping Connected

Arctic Watch was founded on one simple but powerful idea: **community**. From the beginning, our goal has been to build trust and tools that improve maritime safety and situational awareness across the Arctic. We're proud to share a few important updates and ongoing efforts based on your input, discussions, and real-world needs.

Meeting Reports Now Available

We've published summaries from our 2024 and 2025 community meetings, reflecting ongoing conversations about what Arctic Watch is, what it can be, and how we're listening and adapting. You can explore both reports here: [2024 Juneau](#) and [2025 Nome](#) reports.

Improved Coverage in the Arctic

This summer, we added new VHF installations in Kivalina and Kotzebue, boosting maritime radio coverage and strengthening partnerships with the USCG and National Weather Service. These systems are crucial—especially during high-risk events like the recent Kamchatka earthquake and tsunami warnings, when radios helped us rapidly alert mariners and coastal communities.

Public Discussions & Community Engagement

We participated in Strait Science, members shared the project's evolution and future direction.

We're also excited to welcome **Kaare Erickson** to our team as Arctic Watch's Community Engagement Lead, helping us stay rooted in community priorities moving forward.

Tools for Transparency

Want to know "what vessel" or see the maritime activity? Visit ArcticWatch.org or check out our Arctic Watch Live to explore:

- AIS vessel tracking
- VHF & Jotron broadcasts
- Weather & barometric data
- Safety alerts and more from Marine Safety Sites



How You Can Help

Arctic Watch is voluntary—so we're asking you to [enroll your vessel or community](#) to receive alerts and help ensure the right information reaches the right people, at the right time. You can enroll and explore more here.

Thank you for being a part of this effort to promote safe, secure, and informed Arctic.

A Summer in Full Compliance Swing



While many Alaskans measure summer by long days and salmon runs, at MXAK our [Compliance team](#) measures it by the steady hum of inspections, audits, and regulatory support across the state and beyond.

This small but mighty crew of three has been operating at full capacity, traveling to communities from Dutch Harbor to Ketchikan, and even down to Washington and Oregon, ensuring facilities, vessels, and operators meet U.S. Coast Guard standards for safety, security, and environmental protection.

Now in its fourth year, our Glacier Bay National Park (GBNP) cruise ship compliance program

has kept the team especially busy. Boarding large vessels while underway in the pristine waters of Glacier Bay, our compliance officers conduct random environmental audits to verify adherence to GBNP's Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Program. These inspections focus on wastewater discharge systems, waste management, air

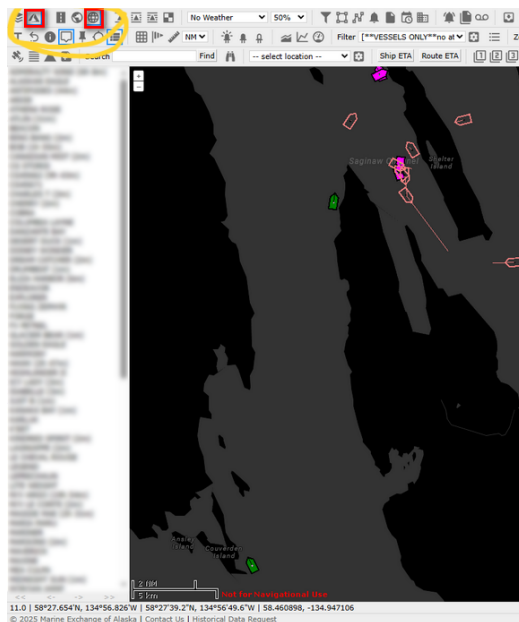
emissions, and marine mammal protection—helping keep Alaska's most treasured waters clean and safe.

Beyond cruise ship audits, the team has also been hard at work on facility security plan renewals, cybersecurity updates, response plan revisions and delivering MTSA Security and DOT Hazmat training to meet the maritime needs. Their dedication ensures that whether it's a remote port or a high-traffic facility, compliance requirements are met.

As we pass the halfway mark of summer, the demand for their expertise shows no signs of slowing. The earlier we hear from you about expiring plans, training needs, or audit requests, the easier it is to get them on the schedule.

We're proud of their tireless work and grateful for the trust placed in MXAK by our maritime partners. If your facility, vessel, or operation needs compliance support, training, or inspection services, reach out to our Compliance crew today!

PACTRACS Tips: Dark Mode and Requesting Historical Data



PACTRACS recently switched to a new mapping service and this version now has dark mode available. To enable this feature, click on the two icons in the top left corner highlighted in red.



PACTRACS holds up to six months of data. If you need data outside of that time you can click on "Historical Data Request" at the bottom to bring up the different historical reports we can do in our system.

Rick is MXAK's Membership Coordinator. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give him a call at 907-463-2607 or e-mail him at ricksypeck@mxak.org

Video Tells the MXAK Story

Watch and learn how MXAK is making Alaska's maritime domain safer.



MXAK in the Media

We're proud to share recent features highlighting MXAK's pivotal role in enhancing maritime domain awareness and safety:

[Bering Strait study](#) finds strong adherence to International Maritime Organization safety lanes.

[MXAK data reveals shipping slowdown patterns at major West Coast ports.](#)

[Expanding Maritime Safety](#): AOOS and MXAK Boost Weather Data Across Alaska's Coasts.

[Breaking down barriers](#): Arctic Watch connects communities, vessels, and agencies with real-time data and stronger communication to protect the Arctic's future.

[Buying Time](#) - The Juneau Empire spotlighted MXAK's efforts detailing how our team utilizes advanced technology and partnerships to ensure safe maritime transit.

[MXAK StoryMaps](#) - Explore our comprehensive operations through the interactive ESRI StoryMaps series, starting with "MXAK 101," which highlights our capabilities such as Automatic Identification System (AIS), distress communications, and more.

[MXAK.ORG](https://www.mxak.org)

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