



**City of Gustavus**

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June 4, 2020

Dear Marine Facilities User,

The Marine Facilities Advisory Committee (MFAC) is sending this letter to inform commercial businesses and recreational users of significant changes to the Gustavus Multimodal Dock Facility. The changes include a new transfer ramp system for the Alaska Marine Highway ferry service to Gustavus and a new foot ramp and float system.

The structural changes to the float system will require changes to how the Gustavus Dock is operated and managed by the City of Gustavus. The Marine Facilities Advisory Committee's task is to provide insight and advice to the City Council in an effort to make the new float system operate safely and efficiently for recreational users, transient visitors, and for the various commercial entities that operate on and around the Gustavus Dock.

The Gustavus City Council and the MFAC are currently examining several proposals that will change the way the floats are used, the amount of time individual users are allowed to moor their vessels on the float system, and where different types of users will be allowed to conduct their activities.

Proposed changes being considered are:

- A 15-minute load and unload zone.
- A 12 to 24-hour zone.
- A transient user zone (time limit to be decided on a per case basis).
- A Fish Waste Disposal Station.

The City of Gustavus has tasked the Marine Facilities Advisory Committee to develop feasible solutions regarding fish waste disposal and the intentional and consequential feeding of sea lions in the vicinity of the Gustavus Dock and floats. The following MFAC recommendations have been adopted into Title 8 City Ordinance:

Title 8: Section 8.04.010 (Conduct in harbor facilities: General Rules.)

d. Cleaning of fish on the float is prohibited. Cleaning of fish aboard a vessel tied to the float is permitted so long as fish waste is retained on the vessel or packaged for safe removal to a shore disposal site.

f. Discarding of fish carcasses or by-product waste must be done in accordance with Federal, State, and City of Gustavus laws. Dumping of such waste around City floats, State dock or the Salmon River boat harbor is

prohibited. Fish or animal waste may not be discarded at the dock, and not closer than mid-channel of Icy Passage.

The City of Gustavus Marine Facilities Coordinator (Harbor Master) will be onsite regularly to ensure new ordinances are explained and observed by all Gustavus Dock users.

The MFAC would also like to remind users of the City's policy as pertains to personal conduct at all Gustavus Marine Facilities. Title 8.08.010 (d) states:

*Personal conduct.* The vessel owner or vessel operator shall be responsible for the conduct of those using or visiting the vessel. Behavior of the owner, operator or occupants of a vessel that disturbs or creates a nuisance for others in the harbor facilities is prohibited. Examples of conduct that constitutes a public nuisance and are therefore prohibited include but are not limited to:

- (1) Making, causing or allowing unreasonable noise so as to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or harm. Unreasonable noise means any excessive or unusually loud sound that disturbs the peace, comfort, or repose of a reasonable person of normal sensitivity;
- (2) Causing, provoking or engaging in any fight, or to commit an act in a violent or reckless manner whereby the safety, life, or health of another is placed in immediate jeopardy;
- (3) Operating a vessel or being found under the influence of alcoholic beverages or a controlled substance(s) in such a condition as to be unable to exercise care for their own safety or the safety of others.

At this time the Marine Facilities Coordinator is currently working with the DRC to set up a Fish Waste Disposal station in the Salmon River Boat Harbor for recreational users to use as they are off loading their boats at the boat launch. The MFAC is hoping that after the successful implementation of this facility there will be a similar facility set up at the Gustavus Multimodal Dock Facility to service Gustavus Dock users.

The MFAC would also like to set up an orientation process for various businesses and operators using the Gustavus Marine Facilities. A representative from each business would be encouraged to attend the orientation process and relay pertinent information to their employees/operators using the Gustavus Harbor facilities. We are currently hoping to have something set up for early June, but with the current health crisis sweeping our nation, this may be delayed.

Sincerely,

  
Calvin Casipit, Mayor