

**PORT & HARBORS ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
DATE: March 10, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Port & Harbors Advisory Board regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., at City Council Chambers, in Ketchikan, Alaska.

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Lee Bethel	(Chairman)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Lunde	(Vice-Chairman)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jai Mahtani	Council Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Steve Wilsie	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. James Rhodes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Russell Cockrum	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Youngblood	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tom Carruth	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms. Linda Faber	

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Excused**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Lee Bethel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Lunde	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jai Mahtani	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Steve Wilsie	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. James Rhodes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Russell Cockrum	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Youngblood	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tom Carruth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Linda Faber	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Harbor Staff Present:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Wayne Phillips
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. James Wilson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Craig Bisson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms. May Caguiat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Gavin Buendia

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:**

None

**MINUTES:** MOTION was made by Board member Jay Rhodes to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of the Port and Harbors Advisory Board from February 10, 2026. MOTION SECONDED by Board member Steve Wilsie. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD:**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Raw Fish Tax Update**

The Borough Assembly approved \$60,000 in funding for FY 2027 (available July 2026) for:

- 75 life ring boxes
- 75 fire extinguisher cabinets
- 50 safety ladders

Staff are preparing procurement details in advance of funding availability.

Discussion held regarding submitting an additional request (approximately \$100,000) for future harbor projects.

Board emphasized the need to identify specific project proposals.

**Safety Ladder Concerns**

- Concerns raised regarding ladder width and usability.
- Some members noted difficulty climbing ladders, particularly for older individuals.
- Staff acknowledged some ladders are damaged due to corrosion and will be repaired or replaced.
- Further evaluation of ladder design and safety was suggested.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Update on Alaska Municipal League by Council Member Mahtani**

Council Member Mahtani provided an updates on the Alaska Municipal League.

Mr. Mahtani reported discussions with Mr. Bynum and Senator Steadman, regarding fish tax allocation.

It was expressed that the tax revenue should belong to the municipality, as the majority of fishing operations—including processing and delivery—occur locally.

Mr. Bynum indicated they would explore potential options and discuss the matter with other legislators.

Senator Steadman expressed concern that no changes are likely, noting that similar issues exist with the state's head tax, where a portion is retained by the state rather than fully distributed to municipalities.

It was noted that fish tax revenues are currently deposited into the state's general fund, similar to the head tax.

Staff from both the City and Borough are reviewing the allocation to determine whether any errors have occurred. No update has been received at this time.

Discussion concluded with no further questions.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

##### **Mountain Point Ramp**

Engineering design and cost estimates are in progress.  
Federal grant funding has been requested.

##### **Floating Breakwaters (North Harbor)**

Project scheduled for June–July 2026.  
No confirmed need for vessel relocation at this time.

##### **Cathodic Protection Project**

Design and specifications to be completed in 2026.  
Project anticipated to go out to bid in 2027, with construction beginning Spring 2027.

##### **Ride Pile Replacement**

38 piles removed.  
Installation of new piles to begin immediately.  
Project expected to be completed by April 1, 2026.

##### **Yokohama Fender System**

Fenders are currently in serviceable condition.  
Chains and shackles are being replaced as part of ongoing maintenance.

Staffing and Operations

Recruitment underway for seasonal staff, including Harbor personnel, Port security and Maintenance workers.

Harbor staff continue routine operations and winter maintenance.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Continued discussion on Raw Fish Tax allocation.  
Identification of additional harbor improvement projects for funding requests.  
Consideration of finger float replacement.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

Board member Youngblood asked for an update regarding ongoing issue with concrete on harbor ramps.

Board member Wilsie thanked everyone.

Board member Rhodes thanked everyone.


Council member Mahtani thanked everyone.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no business the Port & Harbors Advisory Board adjourned at 7:19p.m.



Chair/Vice Chair Signature



Date