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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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CBJ Docks and Harbors Earns Alaska Clean Harbor Certification

Award presentation to CBJ Docks and Harbors on February 22

JUNEAU, AK – After more than a year of dedicated effort, Juneau Docks and Harbors is now a certified Alaska Clean Harbor. Juneau is the fifth harbor in the state to earn the distinction, joining Homer, Seward, Haines, and Sitka.

Built on the idea that clean waters support the healthy, productive fisheries that boost our coastal communities, Alaska Clean Harbors (ACH) is a voluntary, non-regulatory program that works directly with harbormasters to help them commit to, and implement, a series of 88 best management practices (BMPs) that prevent pollution, reduce waste, reduce costs, and promote clean boating. Harbors that implement more than 80% of the BMPs can apply for certification as an Alaska Clean Harbor. Applications are reviewed, and certifications awarded, by the ACH Advisory Committee – a team that includes representatives from Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Marine Exchange of Alaska, NOAA's Restoration Center, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators.

Port Director Carl Uchtyl said: "CBJ Docks & Harbors has made a concerted effort to address areas of the harbors which have been, quite frankly, neglected over the years. From the implementation of gill net recycling program to the removal of abandoned vehicles and vessels to an emphasis on water quality management, Deputy Harbormaster Matthew Creswell made these and scores of other incremental changes to improve the boating experience for our patrons and our facilities."

Advisory Committee member Brett Farrell, Assistant Director of the Marine Exchange of Alaska, said of their efforts, "Juneau has been especially proactive in recent years improving their harbor infrastructure, services to local and visiting mariners, and their regulatory compliance program. Docks and



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Harbors recently dedicated a great deal of time and effort into achieving the designation as Alaska's latest 'Clean Harbor' by implementing numerous best management practices for their small boat harbors. This effort shows their continued commitment to provide the Juneau community with quality and environmentally responsible harbor operations."

Jennifer Karnik, coordinator for Alaska Clean Harbors, says there is a lot of enthusiasm for the program around the state. "We work with harbors of all sizes, and it's really amazing to see the all the hard work these harbor managers put in. We're really just here to support them and help them find the tools they need to proactively protect the marine environment." She added, "I'm particularly delighted by Juneau's efforts. This is my home; my friends and family all boat, fish, and play in these waters. It's gratifying to know the beauty we see above the surface is being matched by a healthier ecosystem below."

Certification as an Alaska Clean Harbor is an acknowledgement of the work harbor managers do to implement waste reduction and pollution prevention best management practices but committed harbors don't rest on their laurels. Harbors are visited every three years for recertification.

ACH program coordinator, Jennifer Karnik, will present Juneau Docks and Harbors with their award at the February 22, 2018 CBJ Docks and Harbors Board Meeting. More information about Alaska Clean Harbors can be found at their website: www.alaskacleanharbors.org

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