Status Update: 7-18-2022

We're Hiring!

Industry-wide labor shortages continue to impact AMHS staffing levels. The management team is working hard to recruit crew members as AMHS resumes operating a larger fleet. We are working closely with the Dept. of Labor Job Centers and routinely attending state-wide job fairs; we have established working groups with all three maritime unions; and we are actively working with a professional recruitment agency. We have been offering a $5,000 hiring bonus for new employees.

Due to increased bookings for summer sailings, AMHS recommends travelers confirm reservations in advance of travel. Unlike previous years with limited travelers due to the pandemic, AMHS ferries are running at near full capacity on many routes. Avoid getting left behind by booking online at www.ferryalaska.com or call in advance for confirmed travel. 800-642-0066.

Update on Prince Rupert

Bi-monthly communication with U.S. Customs and Border Protection along with Canadian Customs has been an ongoing process over the last year. AMHS was obligated to meet new U.S. and Canadian requirements in order to recommence service to Prince Rupert, which took place in June with the Alaska Seaways. AMHS has two years to complete all internal upgrades to the vessel. The remaining internal renovations to the vessel are expected to be completed over the winter. AMHS is also working closely with the B.C. Ferries regarding shared use of the B.C. Ferries dock, which is relatively new. This arrangement would allow AMHS to decant and transition to its current docking structure, which cannot be rebuilt using U.S. steel and federal dollars.

MV Hubbard Crew Quarters Installation

The MV Hubbard is in continued construction for the addition of crew quarters at the Vigor Alaska Shipyard in Ketchikan. The basic construction creates eight crew quarters, adds a galley, scullery, and crew mess, as well as a landing area between the galley and passenger dining room. Work continues on electrical and mechanical systems and preparation for installation of new HVAC systems and interior finishes. The estimated project completion is Fall 2022.

Update on MV Tustumena

MV Tustumena Returns to Service

The MV Tustumena’s Federal CIP project recently wrapped up at JAG Shipyard and the vessel returned to service in Southwest Alaska on July 10th. This Federal Project consisted of refurbishment of the vehicle lift systems, kingpost replacements, exterior vessel paint coating systems, piping renewals, new vehicle deck and exterior LED lights, dining room and public restroom flooring renewals. The vessels’ stabilizer fins were also repaired which will provide passengers and crew with a more stable ride.

MV Lutuya Coatings Project

Ongoing painting and prep work are being performed for several overhaul work items. The initial coating of antifoulant was applied on July 8th. Rudders were removed, air tested and moved to the paint booth. The contractor has removed the forward blocking in preparation to replace obsolete depth sounding equipment with new through-hull fittings and fairings. All painting has been completed with the exception of minor touch ups. Minor annual overhaul work items that remain include removal of oily waste and water products, and thorough cleaning and inspection of the sewage system. AMHS anticipates the vessel will be relaunched on July 26th with all painting and underbody work complete.

Summer 2022 Availability

The draft 2022/23 winter schedule will be available for review in early August.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities oversees 239 airports, 10 ferries serving 35 communities, more than 5,600 miles of highway and 776 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to "Keep Alaska moving and safe."