



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM  
Office of the Marine Director

7037 North Tongass Highway  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901-9101  
Main: 907.228.7250  
Fax: 907.228.6873

June 29, 2023

Dear Community Leaders and Members of the Public Interested in AMHS:

It is time to begin the public review process for the next Alaska Marine Highway System scheduling cycle. The proposed schedule patterns to be reviewed cover the winter schedule from October 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024.

The schedule patterns proposed are based on the funding levels for FY24. The operating plan has been designed to meet community service needs while staying within available funding levels and maintaining regulatory and safety standards for the vessels.

Please take the time to review and comment on this proposed operating schedule and vessel deployment for winter 2023/2024. The link to access the proposed schedule patterns is:  
[https://dot.alaska.gov/amhs/doc/winter\\_considerations\\_2023.pdf](https://dot.alaska.gov/amhs/doc/winter_considerations_2023.pdf)

AMHS is also interested in knowing about any need for special events scheduling and requests and that organizers or communities provide the event name, dates, location, and arrival/departure times needed for each special event.

Please provide your written comments by July 12. Information may be faxed to 907-228-6873, emailed to [dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov), and also provided by using the following links for your service area:

Prince William Sound Service Area Playbook

<https://dot.alaska.gov/chartingthecourse/sap/pws.shtml>

North Lynn Canal Service Area Playbook

<https://dot.alaska.gov/chartingthecourse/sap/nlc.shtml>

Northern Inside Passage Service Area Playbook

<https://dot.alaska.gov/chartingthecourse/sap/nip.shtml>

Southern Inside Passage Service Area Playbook

<https://dot.alaska.gov/chartingthecourse/sap/sip.shtml>

Aleutian Chain Service Area Playbook

<https://dot.alaska.gov/chartingthecourse/sap/ac.shtml>

*“Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure.”*

Kodiak Island Service Area Playbook

<https://dot.alaska.gov/chartingthecourse/sap/ki.shtml>

Metlakatla Service Area Playbook

<https://dot.alaska.gov/chartingthecourse/sap/met.shtml>

Bellingham Service Area Playbook

<https://dot.alaska.gov/chartingthecourse/sap/bel.shtml>

Prince Rupert Service Area Playbook

<https://dot.alaska.gov/chartingthecourse/sap/ypr.shtml>

Public meetings to hear additional comments and consider adjustments are scheduled as follows:

**July 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM** for Southeast schedules, and **1:30 p.m.** for Southwest and Southcentral schedules.

The meetings will be held at the Alaska Marine Highway Ketchikan Central Office, 7037 North Tongass Highway for participants wishing to attend in person.

To attend by phone or by video conference:

**For Southeast Alaska:**

Date/Time: July 13, 2023, 10:00 AM AKDT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89870053927?pwd=bDlpK0w0V01yYlB2b01QVlpSOWltQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 7005 3927

Passcode: 216578

Connect by phone: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 898 7005 3927

Passcode: 216578

**For Southwest and Southcentral Alaska:**

Date/Time: Jul 13, 2023 01:30 PM AKDT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88195903687?pwd=RFI4R3VTZlI4cEd3cDBxM0dNVXJnZz09>

Meeting ID: 881 9590 3687

Passcode: 918000

Connect by phone: (253) 215-8782

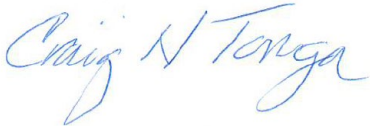
Meeting ID: 881 9590 3687

Passcode: 918000

It is the policy of the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT & PF) that no person shall be excluded from participation in or be denied benefits of any and all programs or activities we provide based on race, religion, color, gender, age, marital status, ability, or national origin, regardless of the funding source including Federal Transit Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration and State of Alaska Funds.

The State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT & PF) complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to comment should contact AMHS Acting General Manager, Captain Tony Karvelas at (907) 228-7252 or email at [anthony.karvelas@alaska.gov](mailto:anthony.karvelas@alaska.gov) no later than July 5, 2023 to make any necessary arrangements.

Sincerely,



Craig Tornga  
Marine Director, Alaska Marine Highway System

ENCLOSURES:

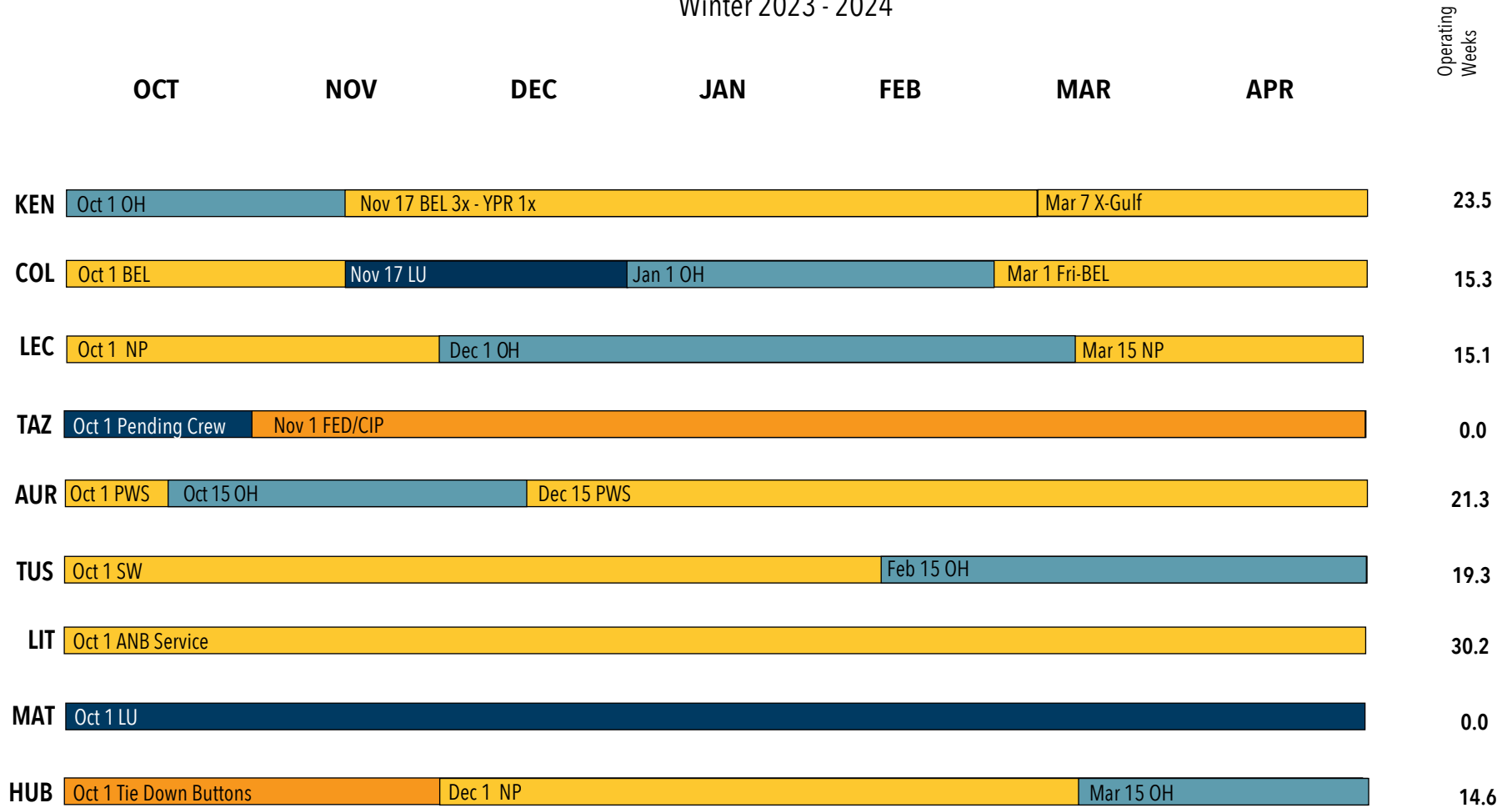
Draft FY 2024 Winter Operating Plan  
Calendars of Events  
Weekly Vessel Pattern Graphs  
FY 2024 Vessel Deployment Plan

DISTRIBUTION:

All Southeast Alaska Mayors  
All Southcentral Alaska Mayors  
All Southwest Alaska Mayors  
Alaska Travel Industry Association  
ARDORS  
Commercial Shipping Companies  
CVBs  
DOT/PF Southeast Regional Director  
Marine Transportation Advisory Board  
Managers, AMHS Terminals  
Masters, AMHS Vessels  
Unions  
IBU  
MM&P  
MEBA  
Tlingit & Haida Central Council  
S.E. Alaska Tribal Government Advisory Committee

# Operating Plan

## Winter 2023 - 2024



- On Line**      ANB: Annette Bay / Metlakatla Service      BEL: Bellingham to Skagway
- Overhaul (OH)**      BEL - X - Gulf: Bellingham Cross Gulf Southwest      NP: Northern Panhandle Dayboat
- Layup (LU)**      BEL - YPR: Bellingham Prince Rupert alternating      PWS: Prince William Sound
- Maintenance**      SW: Southwest

Note: Dates represent the first day of the period. Overhaul and refurbishment periods include vessel travel time.

Winter 2023-2024	
<b>Mainline Vessels</b>	<b>38.8</b>
<b>Feeder Vessels</b>	<b>59.9</b>
<b>Southwest Vessels</b>	<b>40.6</b>
<b>Total Operating Weeks</b>	<b>139.3</b>

**Alaska Highway System  
Winter 2023-24 Vessel Deployment Plan  
June 10, 2023**

**Vessel Deployment – Winter 2023-2024**

- Kennicott will sail Bellingham route three weeks per month, Prince Rupert route one week per month mid-November to early March. She will then sail Cross Gulf Route to SW early March through April.
- Columbia will sail the Bellingham route October to mid -November entering overhaul through February. She will resume the Bellingham route in March.
- Matanuska be in layup.
- Lituya will sail between Annette Bay and Ketchikan
- LeConte will sail the NP October, November entering overhaul in December. She will then sail the Northern Panhandle route mid-March through April.
- Tustumena will sail the Southwest route October to early January, entering overhaul until the end of February, resuming SW service in March.
- Aurora will be in overhaul mid-October to mid-December and will then sail PWS through April.
- Hubbard will sail NP December to mid-March, entering overhaul through April.

**Service Gaps**

- PWS Oct 15 to Dec 14

## **Guide to Reading and Using AMHS Scheduling Graphs** (Or Spider Graphs as they are affectionately known)

The AMHS scheduling graphs convey a massive amount of information on a single page, and they can be confusing to understand and interpret. The following explanations and suggestions may help.

1. The title of the graph defines the geographic area depicted by the chart and the time period to which it applies. When “Wk 1 & 3” or “Wk 2 & 4” appear, it implies that the schedule alternates every other week of the month (i.e. that the schedule is not the same every week). Essentially, a week 1 schedule would be followed by week 2, then back to week 3 (which is the same as week 1) and so on to round out the 4 weeks of a month.
2. The days of the week and times of the day are spread across the top axis of the chart. Midnight to midnight is shown for each day with only noon shown on the graph for reference and to declutter it.
3. The various ports are shown on the left side axis of the chart using their three letter AMHS designator. A key to decipher port and ship codes is on page 2 of this guide. Ports with only one dock or ship berth are shown on a single line. Ports with multiple docks have a line for each dock (e.g. JNU 1, JNU 2, JNU 3). They are generally arranged in geographic order, such as Skagway at the top (north) and Bellingham at the bottom (south).
4. Each ship is shown in a different color, and has the ship’s three letter identifier listed beside it throughout the chart for reference. A solid bar of a particular ship’s color in a specific port’s row on the chart indicates the time for that ship to be in that port. By reference to the top axis, you can determine the approximate times of those in port periods.
5. Thin lines of a ship’s color between ports indicate transit time for that particular ship between the two ports at either end of the line.
6. Thin lines that “run off the right edge of the chart” are continued, either on the left edge of the same chart (if running on a weekly scheduling cycle) or on the left edge of the alternating Wk 1&3, Wk 2&4 chart (if running on a two week scheduling cycle).
7. Ships that transition between geographic areas (e.g. Kennicott going across the Gulf of Alaska) have a notation box at the end of their thin transit line indicating such “To X-Gulf” or “Fr X-Gulf”

### **Suggestions for use:**

1. To see what a particular ship does, just follow that ship’s colored line as it zigzags across the chart to determine what ports it visits and on what days and at what approximate times.
2. To see what service a particular community receives, just follow that community’s horizontal row across the chart to see what ships stop in that community and on which days of the week and times of the day that happens. You can also determine, by looking at that ship’s thin transit lines, where a ship serving your community is coming from and where it is going to next.

## AMHS Community and Ship Three Letter Codes

### Communities

ANB=Annette Bay  
AKU = Akutan  
ANG = Angoon  
BEL = Bellingham, WA  
CBY = Cold Bay  
CDV = Cordova  
CHB = Chenega Bay  
CHG = Chignik  
FPS = False Pass  
GUS = Gustavus  
HNS = Haines  
HNH = Hoonah  
HOM = Homer  
JNU = Juneau (Auke Bay)  
KAE = Kake  
KCV = King Cove  
KOD = Kodiak  
KTN = Ketchikan  
OLD = Old Harbor  
ORI = Port Lions  
OUZ = Ouzinkie  
PEL = Pelican  
PSG = Petersburg  
SDP = Sand Point  
SDV = Seldovia  
SGY = Skagway  
SIT = Sitka  
TAT = Tatitlek  
TKE = Tenakee  
UNA = Unalaska/Dutch Harbor  
VDZ = Valdez  
WRG = Wrangell  
WTR = Whittier  
YAK = Yakutat  
YPR = Prince Rupert, BC

### Ships

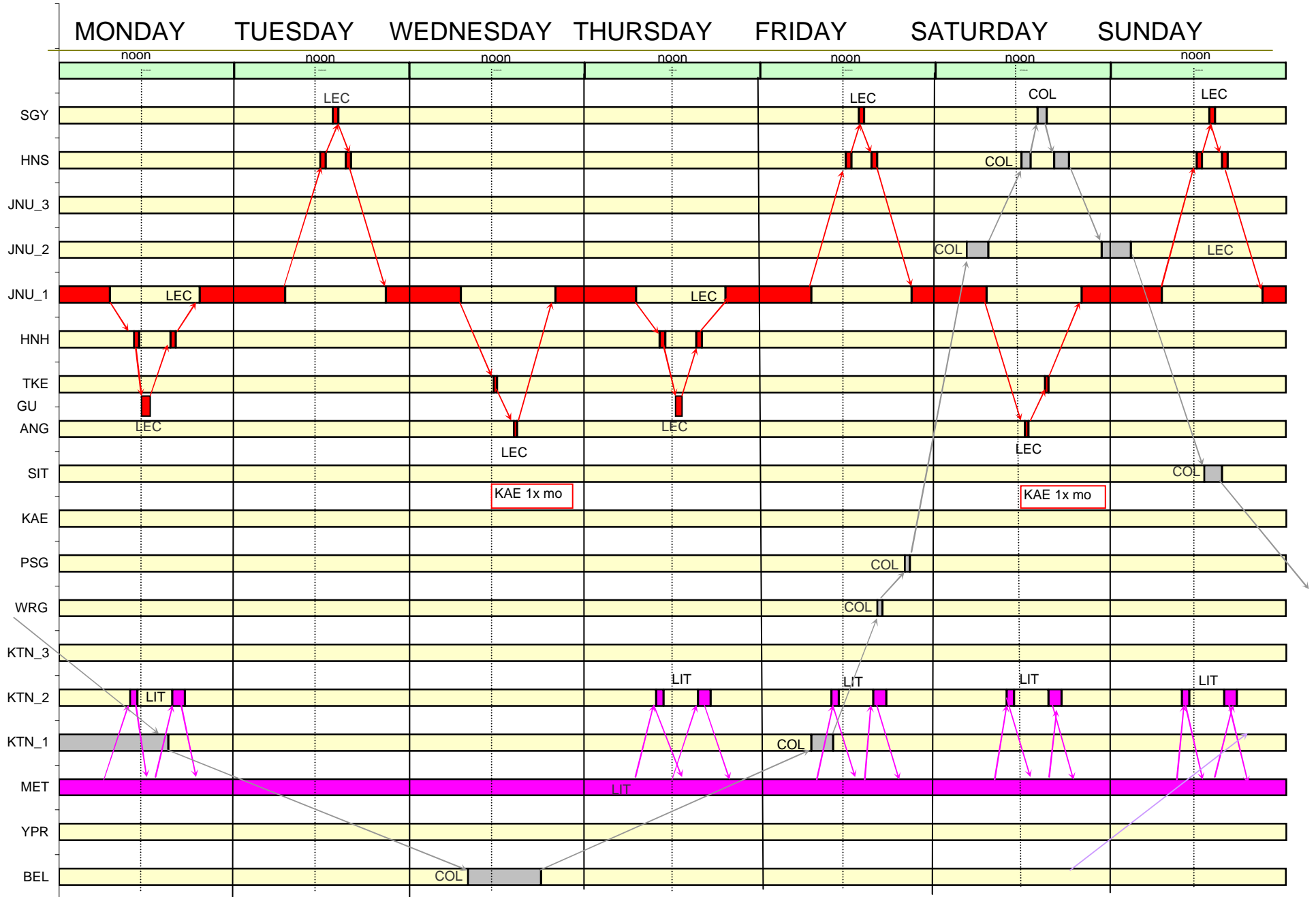
AUR = Aurora  
CHE = Chenega (Fast Ferry)  
COL = Columbia  
FWX = Fairweather (Fast Ferry)  
KEN = Kennicott  
LEC = LeConte  
LIT = Lituya  
MAL = Malaspina  
MAT = Matanuska  
TAK = Taku  
TUS = Tustumena

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SE Winter 2023-24 Oct-mid Nov Wk 1&3

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Revised 06-05-2023



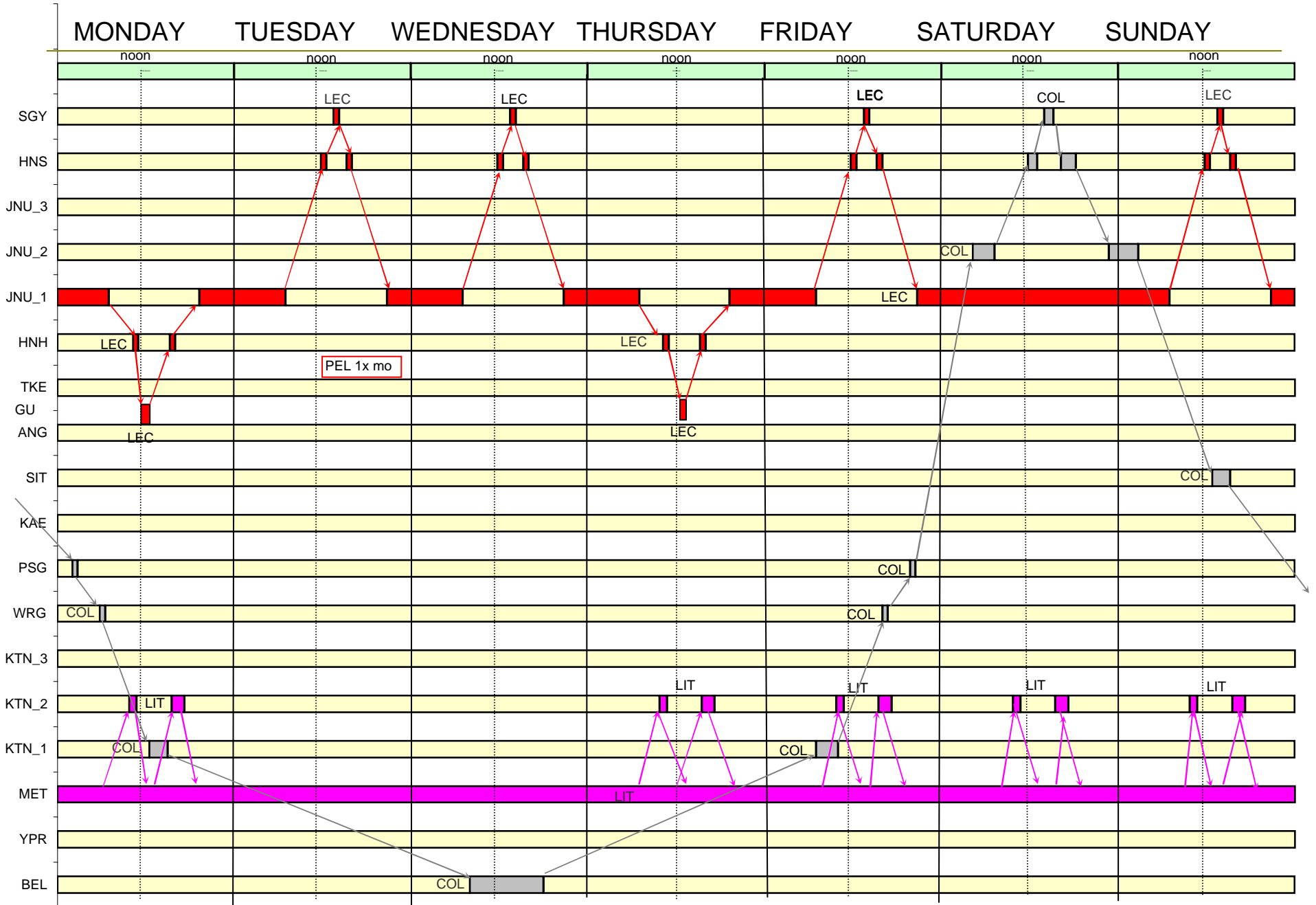


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SE Winter 2023-24 Oct-mid Nov Wk 2 & 4

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Revised 06-05-2023



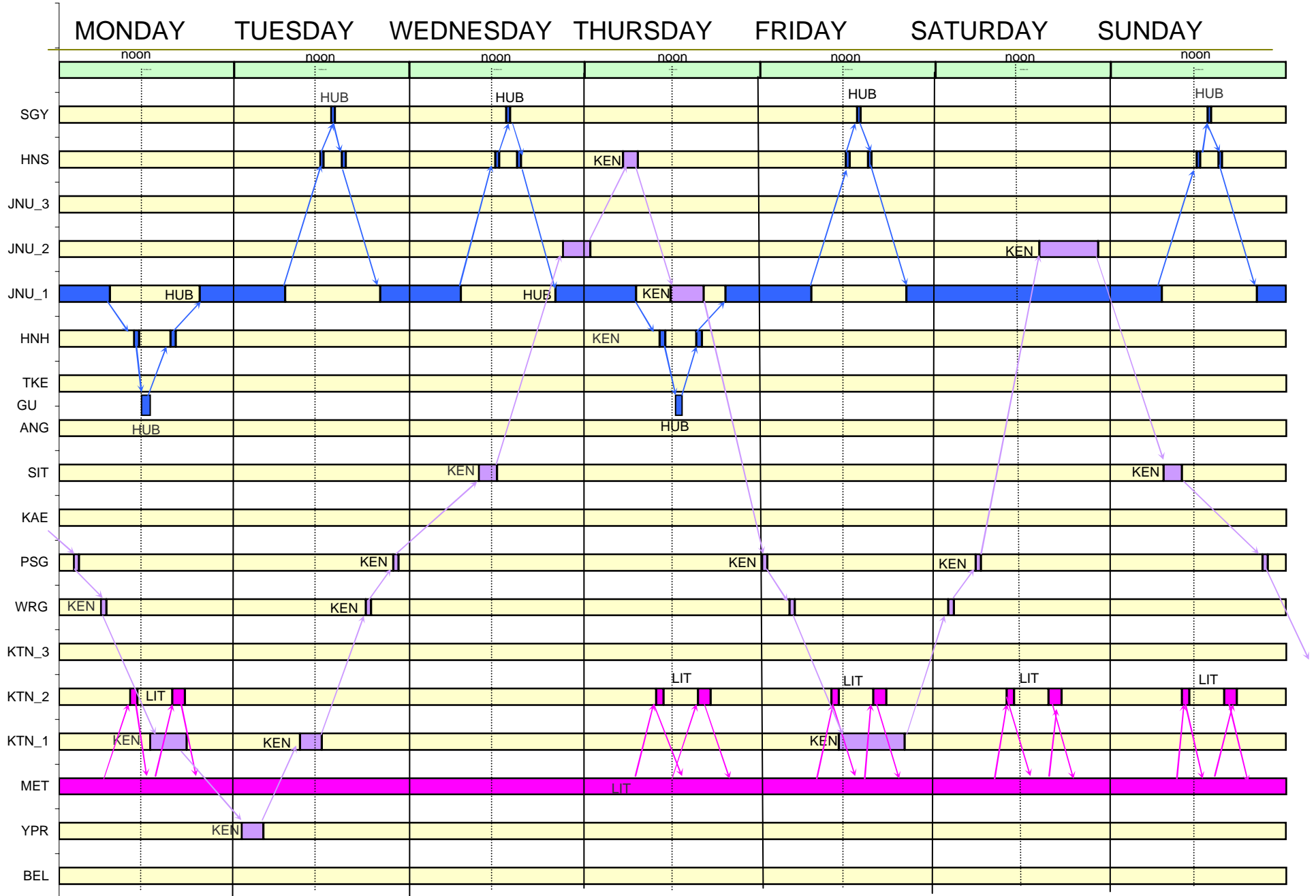


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Winter 2023-24 SE mid Nov-Feb Week 2 & 4(YPRonly 2)

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Revised 06-13-2023

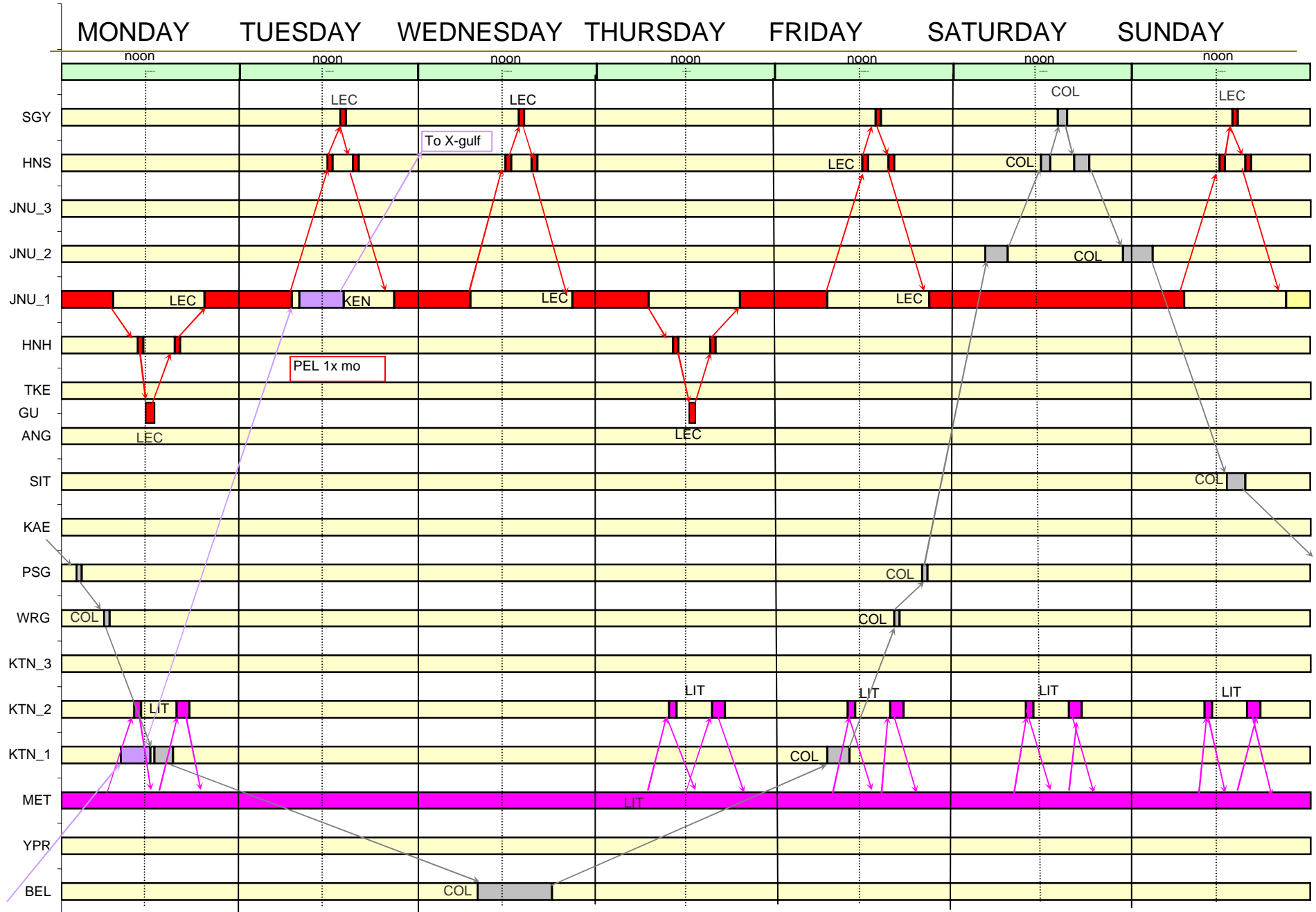


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SE Winter 2023-24 Mar-Apr Wk 1 & 3

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Revised 06-13-2023

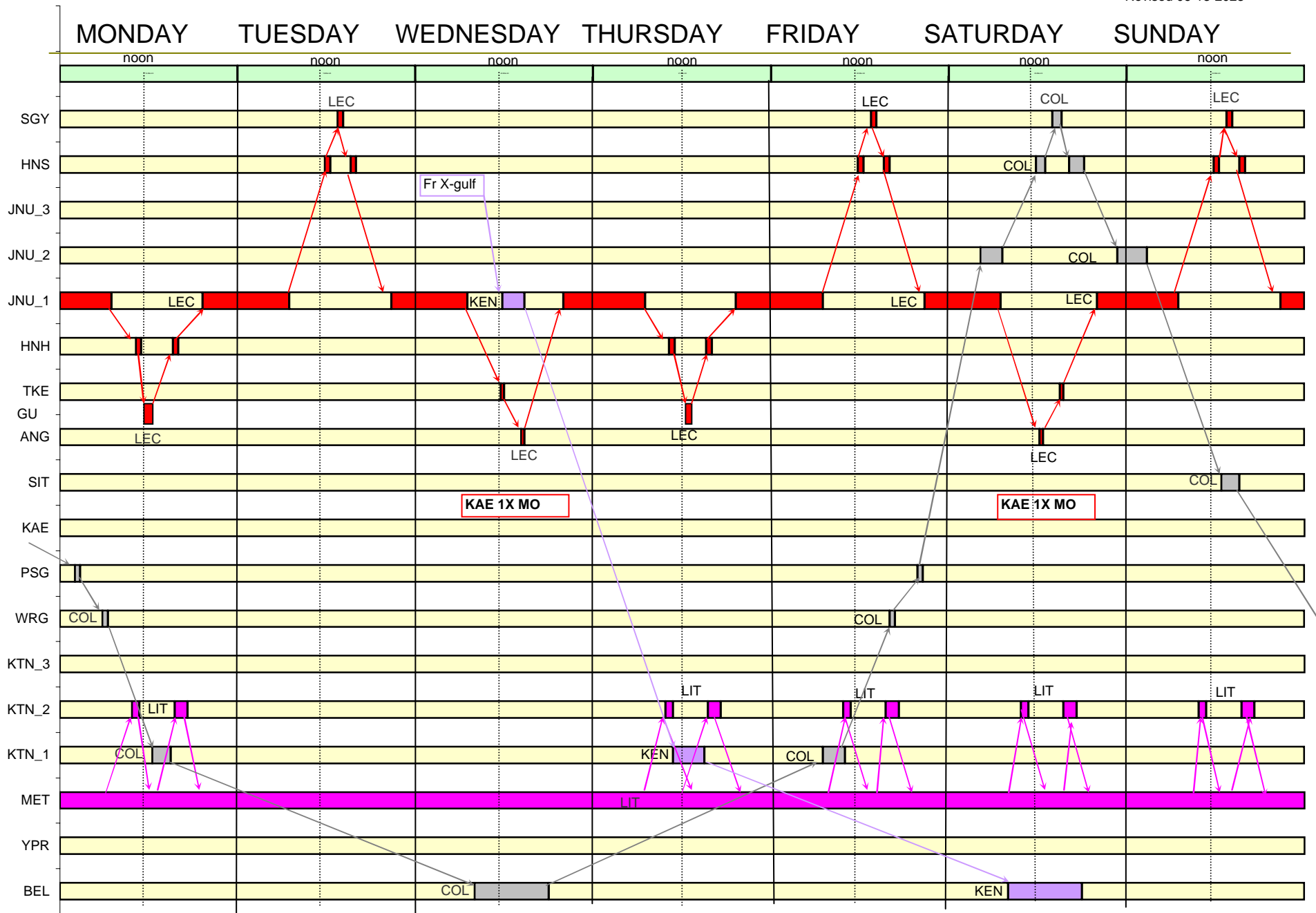


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# SE Winter 2023-24 Mar-Apr Week 2 & 4

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Revised 06-13-2023



## 2023-2024 F/W/S SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY EVENTS

rev 6-10-23

### OCTOBER

ANB/ANS Grand Camp Convention  
Octoberfest Celebration  
Alaska Day Celebration **SIT**  
Annual Bridge Club Tournament  
Region V Honor Festival  
Region V Swim/Dive

### NOVEMBER

All Native BB  
Bald Eagle Festival **HNS**  
Whale Fest **SIT**  
Volleyball 2A  
Volleyball 3A/  
Volleyball 4A

### DECEMBER

Victorian Yuletide Celebration **SGY**  
Wrestling 1A 2A/3A/4A  
Clarke Cochrane Christmas Classic **KTN**

### JANUARY

Legislature Reconvenes **JNU**  
Alcan 200 Snowmachine Race **HNS**  
Edgecumbe Invitational **SIT**

### FEBRUARY

Dick Hotch Basketball Tourney **HNS**  
Sitka Jazz Fest **SIT**  
1A Basketball Tourney  
All Native BB **YPR**

### MARCH

2A/3A/4A Basketball Tourney **JNU**  
Buckwheat Ski Classic **SGY**  
Gold Medal Basketball Tourney **JNU**  
Spring Break Smithers **YPR**

### APRIL

Alaska State Folk Festival **JNU**  
High School Music Festival **KTN**  
Stikine River Birding Festival **WRG**  
Art Festival  
Legislature session ends **JNU**

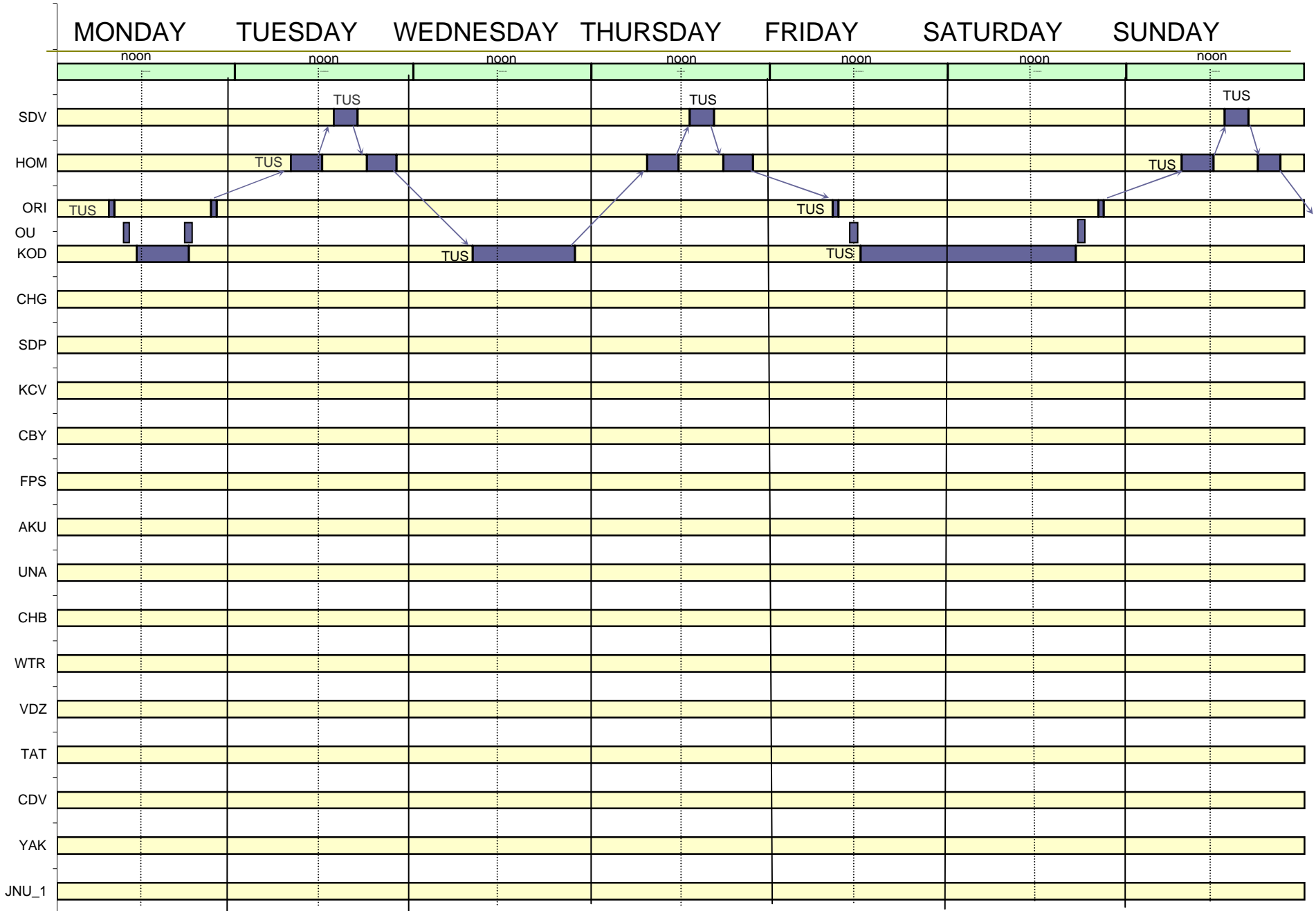
Please review the above Community Calendar of Events and comment on any events that are missed for your community. Schedule patterns may be changed if warranted to be able to provide service to/from the events.

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Winter 2023-24 SW Oct-mid Feb

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Revised 06-13-2023







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Winter 2023-24 SW Mar-Apr Wk 2 & 4

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Revised 06-13-2023

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	noon	noon	noon	noon	noon	noon	noon
SDV							
HOM							
ORI							
KOD							
CHG							
SDP							
KCV							
GU							
CBY							
FPS							
AKU							
UNA							
CHB							
WTR	KEN						
VDZ							
TAT							
CDV							
YAK		KEN					
JNU_1			KEN				

## 2023-2024 F/W/S SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY EVENTS

rev 6-10-23

### OCTOBER

Valdez Museum Road House Dinner	VDZ
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust Auction	HOM

### NOVEMBER

Sobriety Celebration	CDV
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### DECEMBER

Nutcracker Faire	HOM
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### JANUARY

Legislature Reconvenes	JNU
Iceworm Festival	CDV

### FEBRUARY

### MARCH

### APRIL

Please review the above Community Calendar of Events and comment on any events that are missed for your community. Schedule patterns may be changed if warranted to be able to provide service to/from the events.

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PWS Winter 2023-24 Oct, Dec-Apr Wk 1&2

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Revised 06-13-2023

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	noon	noon	noon	noon	noon	noon	noon
SDV							
HOM							
ORI							
KOD							
CHG							
SDP							
KCV							
CBY							
FPS							
AKU							
UNA							
CHB			AUR				
WTR	AUR	AUR		AUR	AUR		
VDZ							
TAT							
CDV	AUR	AUR	AUR	AUR	AUR	AUR	AUR
YAK							
JNU_1							

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Winter 2023-24 PWS Oct, Dec-Apr Week 3&4

DRAFT

Revised 06-13-2023

