

Marine Exchange of Alaska - Alaska Vessel Tracking System Upgrades and Expansion

FY2015 Request: \$600,000
Reference No: 48513

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Transportation
Location: Statewide
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2014 - 06/30/2019

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety
Recipient: Marine Exchange of Alaska
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Contact: JoEllen Hanrahan
Contact Phone: (907)465-2506

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will operate, maintain, upgrade and expand the vessel tracking system provided by the non-profit Marine Exchange of Alaska that substantially contributes to safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations. The vessel tracking system affects all of Alaska's coastal communities and is a valuable tool for state agencies and the United States Coast Guard.

Funding:	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	Total
Gen Fund	\$600,000						\$600,000
Total:	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P93 L10 SB 18 \$500,000
 Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P93 L10 SB 160 \$600,000
 Sec7 Ch5 SLA2011 P142 L22 SB 46 \$600,000
 Sec16 Ch43 SLA2010 P149 L20 SB 230 \$600,000
 Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P97 L31 SB 221 \$1,250,000
 Sec1 Ch30 SLA2007 P4 L22 SB 53 \$200,000
 Sec1 Ch82 SLA2006 P18 L20 SB 231 \$200,000
 Sec19 Ch61 SLA2001 P80 L10 SB 29 \$646,000

Project Description/Justification:

The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MEA) recently achieved one of its goals to build 100 Automatic Identification System (AIS) sites in Alaska. While there are gaps in vessel tracking coverage in some regions of Alaska, the most active maritime areas have comprehensive coverage. Efforts are now directed towards closing the gaps that remain and upgrading AIS equipment to the latest generation of radios that are more sensitive and have greater range.

This project will continue the build out of Alaska's "Maritime Safety Net" system and will assist with operating, maintaining, upgrading, and expanding the vessel tracking network. The tracking network aids in the safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations. This MEA project will allow expansion of the vessel tracking system's coverage and capabilities throughout Alaska.

**Marine Exchange of Alaska - Alaska Vessel Tracking
System Upgrades and Expansion**

**FY2015 Request: \$600,000
Reference No: 48513**

The MEA is currently expanding the capabilities of the vessel tracking sites by adding weather sensors and radios that can receive and pass on digital selective calls from vessels in distress. Incorporating these added sensors will further enhance the safety of mariners operating in Alaska.

In addition to state agencies (Departments of Transportation and Public Facilities, Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Fish and Game, Public Safety, and Environmental Conservation), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), coastal communities and mariners are using the system to aid safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations in the Arctic. The system has also been used to monitor Shell's exploration operations and validate compliance with environmental protection measures prescribed in permits. The information provided by the system is also used by the USCG and state to develop risk reduction measures for vessels transiting the Bering Strait and to monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations.

This funding will continue the progress towards closing gaps in coverage that exist in the Gulf of Alaska, Western Alaska and the Arctic. Overall capital and operating costs for the network approach \$3 million; the operating costs are funded by the USCG and the maritime industry. This state grant will ensure that the state can continue to participate in this successful government/maritime industry partnership.