

Marine Exchange of Alaska - Alaska Vessel Tracking System

FY2020 Request: \$400,000
Reference No: 48513

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Transportation
Location: Statewide
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2024

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

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The purpose of this project is to 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:	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Total
1206 CPV Tax	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$2,400,000
Total:	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$2,400,000

<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 Ch19 SLA2018 P3 L29 SB142 \$400,000
- Sec1 Ch1 SLA2017 P3 L25 SB23 \$400,000
- Sec1 Ch2 SLA2016 P2 L30 SB138 \$400,000
- Sec1 Ch18 SLA2015 P43 L8 SB119 \$500,000
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P93 L10 SB18 \$500,000
- Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P93 L10 SB160 \$600,000

Project Description/Justification:

The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MEA) has built and currently maintains approximately 130 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.

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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 use the system to aid safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally sound maritime operations in Alaska. The system has previously 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. Capital funds enable purchase, installation, and maintenance of AIS sites throughout Alaska, and help to strengthen the vessel tracking network throughout the state.

These funds will be used to:

- Install and upgrade environmental stations that, through use of the AIS and other communications systems, provide mariners with accurate, real-time weather conditions.
- Develop software to provide Alaska ports, harbors, and Arctic communities with real-time information on vessels operating in their region.
- Procure, install, and upgrade AIS transmitters to inform vessel operators of environmental conditions, safety hazards, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Recapitalize older, first generation AIS receivers, antennas, and power supplies with updated equipment to increase the reliability and effective range for tracking vessels.