

Kodiak Tour Operators – Denali Commission Follow-Up Calls

Call 1:

Call Date: March 14, 2011

Tour Company: Allen Marine Tours

Contact Person: Jim Collins

Corps Participant: Emily Toenes

-Allen Marine does not have any tour vessels that operate in Kodiak; they currently operate exclusively in southeast Alaska (Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan). On the industrial side of their business, they have a couple of landing craft they use in Kodiak. These types of vessels would not be used for tours, but for transporting construction materials.

-In the short term, Allen Marine Tours does not have plans to operate any tour ships in the Kodiak Island region.

-The tourism industry is constantly changing in Alaska, so they could operate in Kodiak in the future. However, Kodiak does not have the same tourist draw as southeast Alaska in terms of frequency of cruise ship landings.

-For more detailed information on the company's long range plans, email the company vice president: jcagle@allenmarine.com

-Mr. Collins did know of any tour companies similar to Allen Marine operating in the Kodiak Island region.

Call 2:

Call Date: March 14, 2011

Tour Company: Galley Gourmet Tours

Contact Person: Marion Owen

Corps Participant: Emily Toenes

-Galley Gourmet Tours' website shows that they conduct multi-day cruises around Kodiak Island and are based out of Kodiak.

-Marion Owen reported that their cruises very rarely stop in Port Lions because they generally do not travel that far from Kodiak.

-Galley Gourmet does not conduct multi-day cruises very often due to owner Marty Owen's work schedule (Marty Owen is the harbormaster in Kodiak).

Call 3:

Call Date: March 14, 2011

Tour Company: Kodiak Wilderness Cruises

Contact Person: Larry Brouhard

Corps Participant: Emily Toenes

-Larry Brouhard stated that he has taken his boat to Port Lions several times for personal use, but that he does not take tours/sightseeing cruises to Port Lions.

-When he lands in Port Lions (on personal trips), he only lands at the small boat harbor.

-Kodiak Wilderness Cruises offers day trips, which stay close to the city of Kodiak, and longer trips, which generally travel to the west side of the island toward Shelikof Strait and do not stop in any ports along the way.

Call 4:

Call Date: March 14, 2011

Tour Company: Wilderness Beach Lodge

Contact Person: Deb Kennedy

Corps Participant: Emily Toenes

-According to their website, Wilderness Beach Lodge is located in Port Lions and offers boat trips between Kodiak and Port Lions.

-Deb Kennedy stated that they transport their customers by bus from Kodiak to Anton Larsen Bay and then by boat to Port Lions.

-All of their boats land at the small boat harbor, not the city dock. There is no way to offload passengers at the city dock. Their boats range from 31- to 41-feet in length.

Call 5:

Call Date: March 15, 2011

Tour Company: Kodiak Sports and Tour

Contact Person: Scott Phelps

Corps Participant: Emily Toenes

-Scott Phelps operates a lodge and tour company in Port Lions.

-Customers are transported from Kodiak to Port Lions on 27- to 30-foot boats. Scott's boats always land in the small boat harbor. He cannot land at the city dock because there is no ramp to unload passengers. The small boat harbor is much more customer friendly.

Additional information: The Denali Commission requested that the Corps contact the "expedition cruise ship lines" in Alaska (Allen Marine and others) to determine if they are interested in docking at Port Lions if a suitable structure were in place. Research was first conducted online to find contact information for cruise companies. This research showed that Allen Marine currently operates exclusively in southeast Alaska. Allen Marine Tours verified over the phone that they operate in southeast Alaska and stated that they did not know of any

similar cruise companies that operate on Kodiak Island, but suggested checking with the Kodiak Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Kodiak Convention and Visitors Bureau website has an online business directory which was used for further research. The only “cruise” companies listed in the online directory are Princess Cruises and Holland America. Online research shows a German company, Hapag-Lloyd Cruises occasionally stops in Kodiak. It is assumed that the types of ships used by these companies are too large to dock in Port Lions and are not the types of operations that the Denali Commission had in mind for this task.

The majority of marine operations listed in the directory are day-long charter fishing operations based in Kodiak using vessels between 30- and 35-feet. Companies of this nature were not contacted via telephone as it was assumed that vessels of this size and in the charter fishing industry based out of Kodiak would not typically take passengers to Port Lions and that the vessels are too small to utilize the Port Lions City Dock. The online business directory listed a few marine operators which offer multi-day cruises or specifically mention transportation to or lodging in Port Lions as part of their services. Calls to these companies revealed that these businesses employ boats which are too small to utilize the City Dock and land exclusively at the Port Lions small boat harbor.