



## Large Vessel Sling Lift, Phase 1

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**Project Description & Benefit:** During the investigation conducted in 2014 by the Large Vessel Haulout Task Force, the Task Force quickly recognized a need to provide haulout services to all vessels that moor in the harbor. As a first step in filling this need, the Port & Harbor developed an airbag haul-out system on available tidelands within the harbor. This system has proved successful.

However, it works only for part of the fleet: large, flat-bottomed, shallow draft vessels. Much of the fleet in the harbor is not able to use this system because of the vessel's deep draft hull configuration. Lifts in local commercial yards are limited to 75 tons, which leaves out most limit seiners and larger boats such as crabbers and deeper draft work vessels.

A sling lift has been proposed as a possible haulout solution for vessels over 75 tons that are not currently being served in Homer. The lift, coupled with an on-site repair yard would provide these vessel owners the option to perform their annually required maintenance and repairs locally without having to travel, similar to how large shallow draft vessels currently utilize the airbag system. Haul outs ease the burden of travel for the vessel owners during the winter season and, as an added bonus, generate business to help sustain local marine trades.

The sling lift facility is proposed for the old chip pad to provide an on-site repair yard.

**Plans & Progress:** Project development will have two phases. The first phase will be a comprehensive study about how to best build and operate this new service at the Port of Homer. It will address if the proposed location is compatible, and include engineering and design options and a cost-benefit analysis. The study will also research options for operating this new service, providing an analysis of various ownership and operating models such as privately owned and operated with a lease to the Enterprise, a public private partnership, or alternatively, municipally owned and operated by the City using Enterprise employees. It will also work on regulatory requirements such as a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Phase 2 will be acquisition of the sling lift and construction of the support infrastructure after considering the results of the phase one study.

**Total Project Cost:** \$65,000 (Phase 1)

**Schedule:** 2020

**Priority Level:** 1



An example of a sling lift and adjacent repair yard area.

This document serves to provide an outline of a presentation to the City of Homer Economic Development Advisory Commission

- 1) Condensed story of the Homer Hockey Association
- 2) Overview of the Kevin Bell Arena
- 3) Economic impact of the Kevin Bell Arena on the City of Homer
- 4) Request

Dear City of Homer Economic Development Advisory Commission,

The Homer Hockey Association(HHA) began in the mid-seventies to provide local youth and adults the opportunity to play hockey locally. In 1991, the HHA was recognized as a 501(c)3 corporation. We began the process of creating a playable ice surface in Homer. An outdoor rink was developed, but the weather patterns made it an unreliable asset. The HHA found it playing all of their “home” games in Kenai, at great time and monetary costs. With the help of the Rasmuson Foundation, the Murdock Charitable Trust, Wells Fargo Bank, Kachemak City, Homer Spit Properties (HSP), and the Arctic Winter games; the Homer Ice Rink, now the Kevin Bell Arena, was created. In 2014, the HHA amended its’ mission to read “The Homer Hockey Association is a non-profit organization that cultivates on-ice recreational opportunities, of all kinds, for all ages on the lower Kenai Peninsula”. In 2016, the HHA secured a 30 year loan at a fixed rate from HSP, giving them the financial footing that had been elusive up to that point.

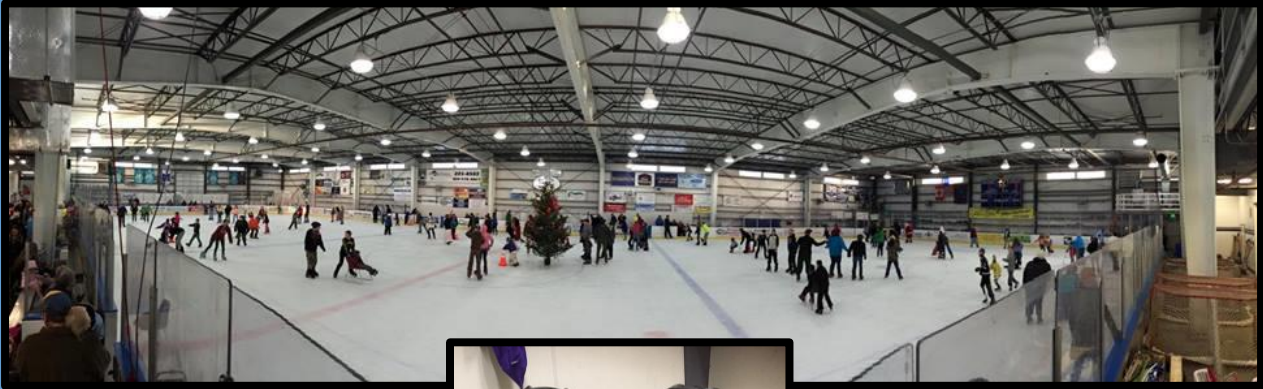
The Kevin Bell Arena (KBA) is a 30,000 square foot building on the Homer Spit that houses a 200 foot x 85 foot ice surface. From September to April, it is maintained, staffed, and managed by the HHA. It provides not only the ice surface but locker rooms, showers, bathrooms, concession stand, electric and mechanical rooms, office, and skate sharpening service. The size and quality of the KBA allows it to serve as the home ice for all age levels of the youth hockey program, the Mariner Co-Op high school hockey team, and adult women’s, men’s, and co-ed hockey programs. But the KBA is not all about hockey, it has been developing broomball, figure skating, curling, and recreational skating and public skating programs. The diversity of our user base is notable. With an emphasis on sportsmanship and fair play, residents from all over the lower Kenai Peninsula can come together in healthy recreational pursuits.

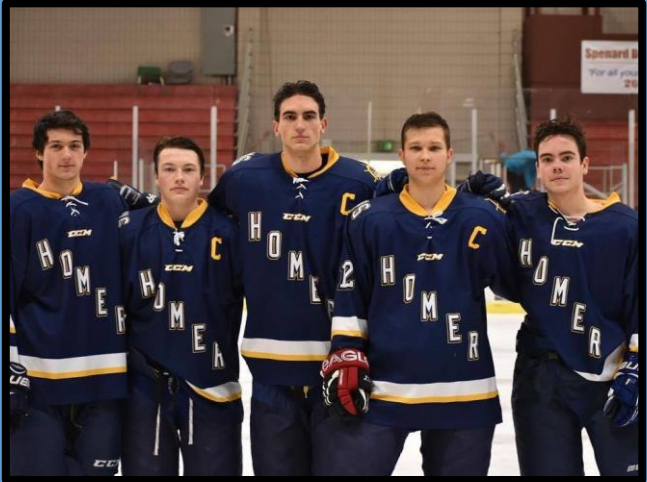
While the KBA provides a safe, well maintained facility to satisfy the on-ice recreational needs of our local population; it does more than that. By keeping our teams and other user groups here, instead of hosting their home games in Kenai or Soldotna, it keeps their energy and money local. For every game that a hockey team travels to play in another city, ASHA, the Alaska State Hockey Association, mandates that the non-travelling team must return the favor and travel to play a game away. As we have six youths teams, this brings a lot of teams to Homer. As Homer is far away for most teams, they will stay at least overnight if not two nights. In addition to these individual team events, the KBA hosts an annual high school hockey tournament, five adult

hockey tournaments, a broomball tournament, a figure skating show, and the State of Alaska has granted us the privilege of hosting one Youth State tournament each year for the past several years. This brings considerably more people to Homer. Food, lodging, and fuel are all essentials that these folks will purchase; but the nature of hockey tournaments keeps people in town as they have time in between games to check out the town, but not enough to say, go fishing or snow machining. They are sort of a captive audience for our merchants. The KBA operates during the winter when there is an absence of visitors coming to the area. By drawing people to Homer from outside the area and in the "off" season, the KBA utilizes the existing service and hospitality infrastructure to bring new revenue to Homer. We have estimated our economic impact at \$777,935.00 for the year of 2017, we will go into this amount in more detail when before your commission. People coming to participate in events hosted at the KBA have a positive, significant economic impact on the city of Homer in the slower winter months.

In 2016, the HHA/KBA were given a line item in the Homer City budget. The amount was for 14,000 dollars to be used for principal reduction on our note with HSP. This item was removed in subsequent years as the city grappled with budgetary challenges. We believe that we are an established, mature organization that has been operating a safe, welcoming facility that generates revenue consistently and reliably for the city of Homer for 15 years. We are requesting that the Economic Development Advisory Commission consider recommending to the City of Homer the reinstatement of a line item for the HHA/KBA in the amount of \$20,000.

The HHA would like to invite the EDAC to visit the Kevin Bell Arena, to tour the facility and witness how a little investment goes a long way in maintaining the recreational infrastructure that greatly benefits city residents and the city budget.





# KEVIN BELL ARENA



HOCKEY FOR ALL AGES, FIGURE SKATING, CURLING,  
AND BROOMBALL.

PROVIDES PUBLIC SKATING, SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS, AND  
FREE COMMUNITY SKATES TO THE GREATER SOUTHERN  
KENAI PENINSULA.

HOME ICE TO THE MARINER CO-OP HIGH SCHOOL  
HOCKEY TEAM.

WEEKLY, UP TO 800 PEOPLE COME THROUGH THE  
DOORS TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC PROGRAMS.

HOSTS 7 TOURNAMENTS TO OUT OF TOWN TEAMS  
DURING THE WINTER.

GENERATES \$780,000 ANNUALLY IN  
HOSPITALITY/SERVICE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF  
HOMER.

OWNED AND OPERATED BY HOMER HOCKEY  
ASSOCIATION.

RECEIVES NO REGULAR CITY, BOROUGH OR STATE  
FUNDING.

EMPLOYS 1 FULL TIME AND 3 PART TIME EMPLOYEES.

RELIES ON 14,000 ANNUAL HOURS OF VOLUNTEER  
EFFORT TO RUN RINK PROGRAMS AND EVENTS.

# Homer



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## 2016 Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facts

**Homer is ranked the #67 fishing port in the U.S. by weight and the #55 port by value, with landings of 6.7 million pounds of seafood worth \$18.1 million.<sup>6</sup>**

### JOBS - FISHING

#### Permit holders, crew and vessels:

Commercial fishing permit holders: **597<sup>1</sup>**  
Total permits owned: **1,057<sup>1</sup>**  
Permit holders who fished: **475<sup>1</sup>**  
Commercial crewmember license holders: **719<sup>2</sup>**  
Permit holders who fished plus crew: **1,118<sup>1,2</sup>**  
Percentage of local population who fished: **21.2%<sup>1,2,4</sup>**  
Vessels home ported: **601<sup>3</sup>** Vessels owned: **563<sup>3</sup>**

**Each of these individual small and family businesses represents investment, employment, and income in the Homer community.**

#### INCOME:

Estimated **ex-vessel income** by Homer-based fishermen: **\$66.6 million.<sup>1</sup>**

Earnings generated from commercial fishing circulated in the local economy through taxes; purchases, rentals, hotels, electricity, entertainment, fuel, vehicles, food, repair and maintenance parts, transportation, travel, medical, and other services. **Virtually every business in Homer benefits from commercial fishing dollars.**

### JOBS – PROCESSING

Seafood processing jobs in Kenai Peninsula Borough: **2,051<sup>5</sup>**

Alaska resident processing jobs in borough: **824 (40%)<sup>5</sup>**

Total processing wages: **\$17.2 million<sup>5</sup>**

Alaska resident processing wages: **\$8.27 million (48%)<sup>5</sup>**

Number of processing facilities: **8<sup>4</sup>**

#### Footnotes - Sources:

1. Commercial fishing permit activity and estimated harvest and earnings by permit holder are from the Alaska Commercial Fishery Entry Commission (CFEC) at [https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/fishery\\_statistics/earnings.htm](https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/fishery_statistics/earnings.htm).
2. Crew numbers are from Alaska Department of Fish and Game commercial crew license list, and are the number of full year adult resident license holders who list their address in a given community. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=license.licensefile>
3. Vessel numbers are from CFEC database data found online at <https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/plook/#downloads> and are a count of commercial fishing licensed vessels that list home port or ownership in a given community.
4. Number of processing facilities, and population data used to calculate the percentage of residents who fished, are from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) Community Database: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcca/DCRAExternal>.
5. Processor employment and wage data is from the Alaska Department of Labor at <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/seafood/seafoodstatewide.cfm>.
6. NOAA, NMFS Office of Science and Technology, see reports "Total Commercial Fishery Landings at Major U.S. Ports" ranked by value and by weight at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/commercial-landings/index>.
7. Revenue figures are from the Alaska Department of Revenue Shared Taxes report: <http://www.tax.alaska.gov/programs/sourcebook/index.aspx>.

### ...AND MORE JOBS

In addition to direct harvester and processor workers, fisheries related jobs include fuel, accountants, consultants, air and water travel, hardware and marine repair and supply businesses, advocacy and marketing organizations, air cargo crew, freight agents, and scientists.

**Government related jobs include** Alaska Department of Fish and Game • Fish and Wildlife Protection/Alaska Department of Public Safety • Docks and Harbors • Alaska State Troopers • United States Coast Guard • University of Alaska School of Fisheries • Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory program, and more.

### REVENUE to the State and Community through Fishery Taxes ...

FY 2017 shared taxes – **Homer received \$43,242 in fisheries business and landing taxes** through the municipal tax-sharing program from Homer fisheries landings and businesses.<sup>7</sup> The State of Alaska received a like amount.

### LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Homer is in House District 31, Senate District P.

**Salmon is the most abundant and valuable species to Homer fishermen, with total landings of 39.7 million pounds worth more than \$35 million. The Homer fleet is well diversified with other fishing activity in crab (\$8.4m), halibut (\$9.3m), black cod (\$5.7m) and groundfish (\$6.7m) in 2016 statewide fishing earnings<sup>1</sup>**