Ice Plant Upgrade

Project Description & Benefit: The ice plant at the Fish Dock is a critical component of the overall Port and Harbor enterprise, providing more than 3,500 tons of flake ice each year to preserve the quality of more than 20 million pounds of salmon, halibut, sablefish, and pacific cod landed at the Port of Homer.

Although the Ice Plant has been maintained very well since being built in 1983, staff believes that there may be efficiencies gained by upgrading certain key components of the plant with current technologies. This may include replacing the refrigeration compressors, integrating natural gas into the process, and/or upgrading the control systems to increase the plant's efficiency and reduce operating costs.

Staff recommends a two phase approach to the project, with Phase 1 seeking bids from qualified firms for the purpose of performing a site visit to Homer's Ice Plant to create a list of recommendations/options for upgrading the facility. Goals for this evaluation would be to address energy savings solutions to help lower operational costs, plant maintenance, and longevity. We would specifically ask if and how natural gas could be used to lower costs and we would also want to address the need of creating a year round cold storage refrigeration system as an upgrade to the original plan.

Total Project Cost:

Phase 1: $25,000

Phase 2: TBD based on consultant recommendations and upgrade plan adopted.

Schedule:
2018: Phase 1 completion and upgrade plan finalized;
2019: Design and engineering for upgrade;
2020: Upgrade ice plant.

Priority: 1

Four of the Ice Plant's aging compressors are shown here.