



For Immediate Release:

## First Lift a True Test of Kodiak's New Mobile Boat Hoist

Kodiak, Alaska, November 10, 2009. The Kodiak Boatyard opened for business October 3 and its new Marine Travelift mobile boat hoist was the center of attention. Harbormaster Marty Owen directed operations during the first lift of the 99-foot F/V SAGA, a 440-ton crab boat owned and operated by Todd Hiner.

"I was totally impressed by the skill and professionalism of the team in Kodiak," said Hiner. "My boat is shorter than most 400-ton vessels and she was very heavy at the stern. They handled it beautifully. They also turned the hoist around to make mast clearances easier for me. That was Harbormaster Owen's idea. It was a great job all around, especially for the yard's first lift."

The SAGA was fully fueled, since the extra weight would make it a better test of the new Marine Travelift. Once tension was taken on the straps, a weight imbalance (too much on the stern) made the lift-team reconsider strap placement and weight distribution.

"The Marine Travelift measures weight on the forward and aft sets of straps through a series of load cells," said Owen. "We found it well-instrumented and its controls let us fine-tune the operation in spite of its enormous size. It's quite impressive." Once the weight imbalance was discovered, Owen stopped the lift and asked that the boat's forward hold be flooded with 150,000 pounds of sea water. After that, the SAGA was lifted, power washed, and moved to its dry moorage site with no problems. Several other vessels were lifted later on the same week.

"The boatyard's washdown system was very effective and cut our workload down enormously," said Hiner. At first, we were concerned about the pressure at 3,500 psi. But the flow rate is so high at 7.5 gallons per minute, it really gets the job done and we have to spend less time under the boat working. It also means that my time in the yard and my costs are reduced. That, and the fuel saved by having this right here in Kodiak gives the Kodiak Boatyard a big economic advantage to boat owners in this area."

"We have lifted ten boats as of the 10th of November and we have a half dozen more scheduled for 2009," added Owen. "We have lots of room for more boats. The heated washdown pad and wash-water filter and recirculation system are working flawlessly so

operations can continue all winter."

The City gets lots of positive feedback about the new boatyard. "We are hearing from several owners that our central location in the Gulf of Alaska and the efficiency of the new equipment is a big plus for them," said Aimee Kniaziowski, City Manager. "That is very gratifying considering that the boatyard was something the City of Kodiak worked toward for more than fifteen years. Now we're seeing more marine service providers come to town to take part. It's wonderful to see it all come to life, and to realize what an excellent idea it was from the start."



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