



For Immediate Release:

## New Kodiak Boatyard Boasts Massive Travelift

Kodiak, Alaska, June 22, 2009. Operators of the soon-to-open Kodiak Boat Yard are already test driving their new boat-lifting behemoth. Harbormaster Marty Owen and his staff recently underwent training of this modern marvel built by Marine Travelift Corporation (MTI). "I was pretty excited when I touched the controls and the 675,000 pound machine moved." Owen remarked. "I've been looking forward to this day for over a decade."

Kodiak Island is a vibrant commercial fishing hub in the central Gulf of Alaska. About 700 fishing boats call it homeport. Many of the vessels featured on Discovery Channel's popular TV series "Deadliest Catch" like the F/V CORNILIA MARIE, LUCKY LADY, INCENTIVE, LADY ALASKA and the SAGA hail from Kodiak. Their owners are already planning to use the new boatyard.

According to Nick Szabo, Chairman of the Kodiak Port and Harbor Advisory Board, "It takes a village to build a boat yard. Kodiak's City Council is very supportive and recognizes its economic value to the community. Creating jobs and supporting the industry that Kodiak does best-catch and process fish-was the rationale for building the yard."

Owen has been an advocate for a large boat lift since he became Harbormaster in 1995. "Until now, Kodiak's biggest fishing boats, like draggers and crabbers, traveled hundreds of miles for service and repairs. Now they can be lifted here, in their homeport, for basic maintenance or major upgrades."

"Kodiak's boatyard will be a "do-it-yourself" operation," said Owen. "Users can hire contractors or their own choosing and/or use their crewmen. The City provides the haul out and blocking and electrical service and other utilities-and a great town to spend time in while their boats are in the yard."

MTI's Model 600C Travelift is one of the largest mobile boat hoists in the world. It can lift 660-ton vessels up to 180' in length, 43' wide. It is the largest Marine Travelift in Alaska. The nearest similar lift is in San Diego. The self-propelled boat hoist was built at MTI's facility in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. It arrived disassembled in May stowed in 24 large containers after traveling by truck, train and barge.



By comparison, an empty Marine Travelift 600C weighs 275,000 pounds more than an empty 747-400 jumbo jet. When lifting its maximum capacity, the lift's total weight reaches 2 million pounds, compared to 910,000 pounds for the heaviest fully loaded 747. "We had to build a one-foot reinforced concrete wash-down pad to the specs for landing a 747," explained Owen. "And, we are fully compliant with all environmental requirements."

Kenton Braun, PND Engineers, was the principal designer of the yard and put the specs together for the Marine Travelift. "I am very pleased with the work Kenton did to make Kodiak's boat yard a reality." Owen said. Pacific Pile of Seattle is the prime contractor for the lift piers and uplands improvements. Brechan Enterprises of Kodiak is the major subcontractor. Howard Weston, the City's engineer, says the project is on schedule and on budget.

The unit stands 54 feet high, 52 feet wide, has a 64-foot wheelbase. Owen can operate the unit from a cantilevered control cab or by a wireless remote. The

hoisting is done on 24 nylon slings.



The shipyard is expected to open in September. "We are completing the lifting pier in early August and yard improvements are scheduled to be complete a few weeks later.

The State of Alaska appropriated \$2M toward Kodiak's boat yard and the Economic Development Administration (Federal) contributed \$2.3M. The remainder of the \$16M project was financed with local funds and revenue bonds.

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