



PRESS RELEASE

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AIDEA, JAG Marine Group, University, Local, and Tribal Leaders Meet and Map Out New Start for Ketchikan Shipyard

Ketchikan, Alaska — AIDEA's Executive Director, Randy Ruaro, senior staff from AIDEA, JAG Marine Group's President, Doug Huff, senior staff from JAG Marine Group (JAG), Commissioner Ryan Anderson of State Department of Transportation, Commissioner Julie Sande, State Department Commerce, Senator Bert Stedman, Representative Jeremy Bynum, and university, local, and Tribal leaders met in Ketchikan to discuss a new start for the Ketchikan Shipyard. Topics included ways to maximize use and job creation at the shipyard, new business opportunities, housing and workforce development.

The Ketchikan Shipyard has long been a key employer in the region. Under JAG Marine Group's leadership, it is poised to further increase its contributions to Alaska's economy. JAG brings decades of experience as it operates facilities across the U.S. and specializes in government and commercial marine projects. The company's skilled Alaskan tradesmen and project managers are known for delivering high-quality work in challenging environments – a perfect fit for Alaska's rugged maritime demands.

"The Ketchikan Shipyard has been a source of pride and stability for Southeast Alaska for years, and this partnership marks a new chapter," **said Governor Mike Dunleavy**. "JAG Marine Group brings experience, vision, and a commitment to hiring Alaskans. AIDEA and local leaders have done outstanding work to ensure this asset continues to grow and support the community. This is exactly the kind of economic development we want to see across the state, creating jobs, expanding capacity, and building strong communities."

"Alaska's maritime industrial base is both a critical economic asset and a national security imperative," **Senator Sullivan said**. "The partnership between AIDEA and JAG Marine Group to operate the Ketchikan Shipyard brings together state leadership, local vision, and Alaska's skilled maritime workforce to expand capacity, grow good-paying jobs, and ensure more of our critical maritime work is built and maintained here in the United States. Alaska is the gateway between the Pacific and the Arctic, and our fisheries, energy, and tourism industries depend on reliable, American-built and American-maintained infrastructure. The work now underway—modernizing operations, strengthening the trades pipeline, and rebuilding shipbuilding capacity from the ground up—represents exactly the kind of forward-looking investment our state and nation need."

“The Ketchikan Shipyard has been a cornerstone of economic opportunity in Southeast for decades, and this new partnership with JAG Marine Group is an encouraging step forward for the region and for Alaska’s maritime future,” **said Senator Murkowski**. “I appreciate the support from state and local leaders and our Tribal partners as they came together, committed to a shared vision that will support good-paying jobs in Alaska and ensure that our marine infrastructure is built and maintained here at home.”

Congressman Nick Begich stated “Alaska’s maritime and marine fabrication industry is a pillar of our state’s economy. The partnership between AIDEA and JAG Marine Group marks a significant step toward expanding Ketchikan’s shipyard capabilities and securing long-term economic stability for Southeast Alaska. With new investments and a dedicated local workforce, the shipyard is positioned as one of the most important marine service hubs in the region. I’m grateful to everyone involved for their commitment to Alaska’s future.”

“It has been great working with AIDEA throughout the process of identifying a new shipyard operator for Ketchikan, and I appreciate the commitment from AIDEA’s leadership to keep this facility operating as a reliable, long-term economic driver for our region. Their focus on stability, local jobs, and responsible stewardship is exactly what this asset requires. JAG, the new operator, has stepped in to meet these needs and is already proving to be a strong community partner. I’m confident the shipyard will reach its full potential for the benefit of our community and for Alaska as a whole,” **said Representative Jeremy Bynum**.

Senator Bert Stedman said “The Ketchikan Shipyard is a regional economic bright spot and vital employer in the community. I appreciate AIDEA’s leadership and work on this much needed management transition; it’s the region’s most promising development in years.”

Doug Huff, JAG Marine Group’s President, shared their (JAG’s) excitement regarding the opportunity to operate the Shipyard while delivering the growth in business, jobs, and becoming an integral part of the Ketchikan community. Booked business is already strong for 2026 and 2027. “Our focus will be on executing the upcoming workload seamlessly while working with AIDEA and the stakeholders to further expand the capacity and capabilities of the Shipyard.”

Work has just begun on the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Rainier vessel, which recently was transferred to the Ketchikan Shipyard slab for maintenance ([see video here](#)). This project is just one of many to come with the shipyard’s skilled workforce already engaged in supporting critical maritime operations for Alaska and the nation.

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Commissioner Julie Sande stated, “We are very lucky to have had Mr. Ruaro as the Executive Director of AIDEA at the time of this transition. He has successfully worked on waterfront development issues in Ketchikan for two decades, including AMHS Headquarters relocation, NOAA vessel

dock, and other port improvements. That experience, coupled with his commitment to Ketchikan and passion for economic development in the State, has really been the key in identifying a new partner and working towards an agreement. I am very pleased to see the most recent projections from JAG. I'm hopeful that the increase in utilization of such an important asset for the State will lead to many more opportunities."

"As a citizen and the Mayor of the City of Ketchikan I would like to thank AIDEA and JAG for reaching out to the community. The vision of prosperity and renew opportunities for year-round jobs in Ketchikan and Southeast Alaska is welcoming news," **said Bob Sivertsen, Mayor of the City of Ketchikan.** "AIDEA's staff should be commended for their hard work and vision for the future of the Shipyard and how it can serve the marine industry across Alaska. This is an example of government supporting economic growth and providing opportunities for Alaskans.

"The Ketchikan Shipyard stands as a testament to what can be achieved when state, local, and Tribal leaders work together with industry partners toward a shared vision. AIDEA is proud to support this new chapter with JAG Marine Group, knowing that our collective efforts will drive job creation, strengthen Alaska's maritime sector, and deliver lasting benefits for Southeast communities. We look forward to seeing the shipyard thrive as a hub of innovation and opportunity for years to come" **said Acting AIDEA Board Chairman, Bill Kendig.**

"As the owner of the shipyard, AIDEA's interest has always been to see the yard fully utilized. The board of director's recognizes it as a resource of the community and of the entire state and supports Governor Dunleavy's push to maximize the economic development opportunities," **said Randy Ruaro, AIDEA's Executive Director.**

"I appreciate everyone who was able to participate in these meetings and have full confidence in Mr. Huff and his team at JAG. Their projected business and revenue growth of 200-300% over two years could increase employment by 100 full-time positions or more, which is exactly what we hoped to see. As anywhere in Alaska, laborer, trade, and craftsman jobs are critical to balance out the economies of our communities and stop the outflow of residents from Alaska and we are very excited to be partnering with them."

About AIDEA

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the State of Alaska. AIDEA's mission is to promote, develop, and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska. AIDEA's continued partnership with the shipyard reflects its mission to promote sustainable development and long-term opportunity for Alaskans.

About JAG Ketchikan

JAG Ketchikan is a division of JAG Alaska Inc., specializing in marine vessel construction, repair, and support services. With a skilled workforce and a commitment to excellence, JAG Ketchikan is helping shape the future of Alaska's maritime industry.

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AIDEA, JAG Marine Group, University, Local, and Tribal Leaders Tour Ketchikan Shipyard



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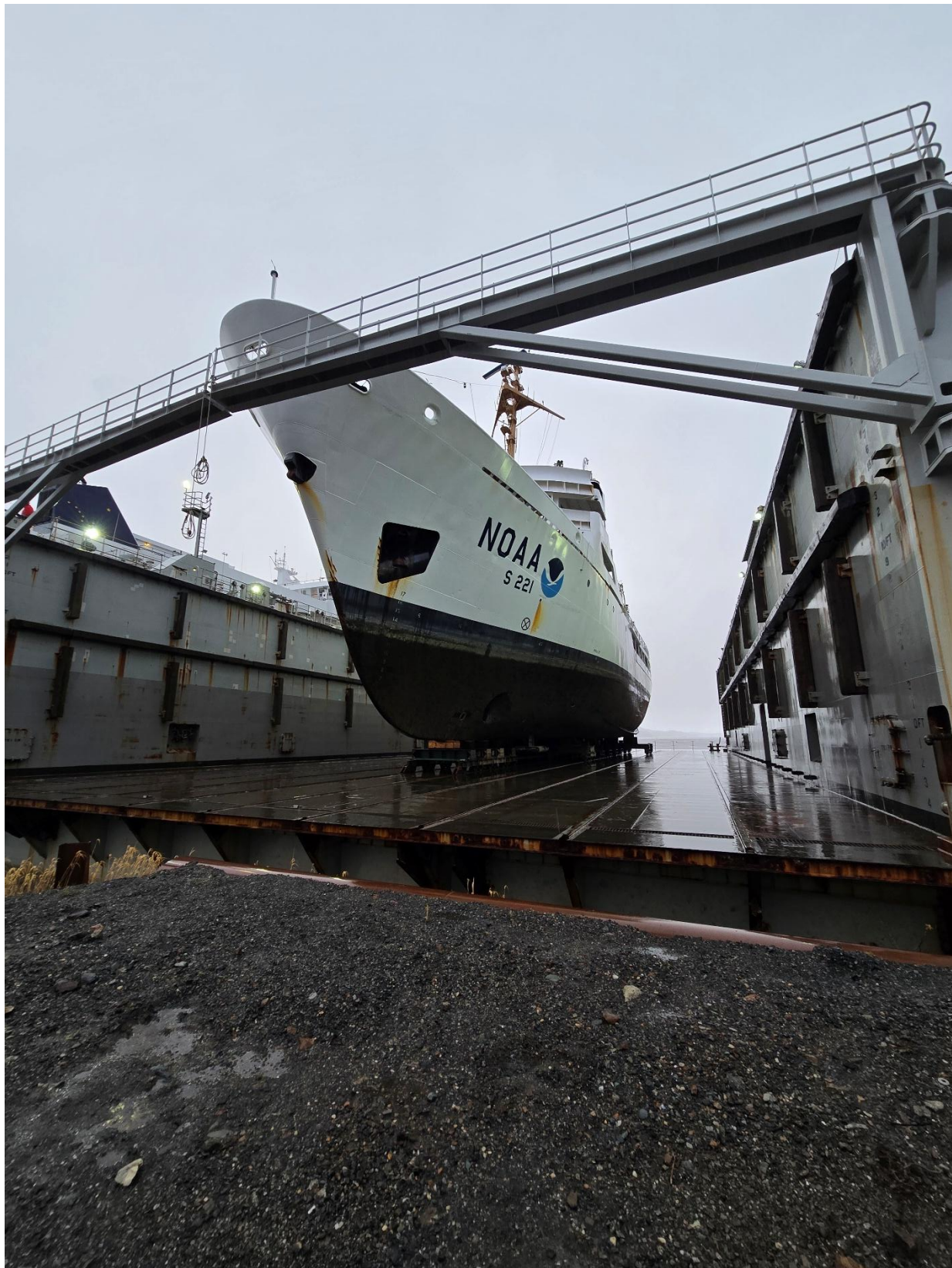
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NOAA Rainier Vessel at the Ketchikan Shipyard for Maintenance



Preparing to Drydock and Transfer NOAA Rainier Vessel to the Ketchikan Shipyard Slab for Maintenance - Nov 24, 2025



NOAA Rainier Vessel on the Ketchikan Shipyard Post-Transfer to Slab for Maintenance - Nov 24, 2025



NOAA Rainier Vessel Post-Transfer to the Ketchikan Shipyard Slab for Maintenance - Nov 24, 2025



[Video of the NOAA Rainier Transfer to the Ketchikan Shipyard Slab for Maintenance – Nov 24, 2025](#)