



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Marc Luiken, Commissioner

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April 10, 2017

The Honorable Andy Josephson
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building, Rm 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Geran Tarr
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building, Rm 126
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Josephson and Representative Tarr:

In response to committee members' questions about House Bill 177 during the 7 April, 2017 meeting of the House Resources Committee, the following information is provided:

- ***What is the status of the Department's vegetation management efforts at Lake Hood and Spenard? Has the Department been able to clear out the invasive species that were damaging float planes?***

The Department uses an aquatic weed whacker each season to physically remove native and invasive species of weeds from the Lakes Hood and Spenard. In 2015, the invasive weed *Elodea* was discovered in the lakes. This is not uncommon for a lake that experiences significant transient float plane activity. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) worked with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to obtain a permit that allowed for a 3-year treatment of the lakes using *Flouridone*. That treatment commenced in 2015 and will run through this summer (2017). The treatment has been very effective thus far with no *Elodea* observed last summer. The DNR is maintaining a low level background time release formulation to forestall the invasive weeds, and the water concentration levels are periodically tested and adjusted accordingly.

- ***How many boats and trailers come into Alaska via the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS)?***

Whether trailered behind or transported in or on top of a vehicle, the AMHS does not specifically track any type of watercraft entering Alaska via AMHS vessels. The AMHS has no specific measures for these items, but does have general traffic numbers which reveal the following:

FY2015 DATA		
PORT	# of Port Calls	# of Vehicles Embarked
Prince Rupert, BC	77	2753
Bellingham, WA	68	5689

The AMHS traffic breakdown is 92% cars & pickups; 3.7% Recreational Vehicles; 3.7% tractor trailers; and .3% trailers. Additionally, 1,755 non-motorized forms of transportation were transported as “walk on” traffic in FY2015. This figure included bicycles, kayaks, and canoes that were not transported aboard via a vehicle. More details on traffic are available on the AMHS website at http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/doc/reports/atvr_15.pdf, as well as in the enclosed document.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff, Mike Lesmann, at 465-4772.

Sincerely,



Marc Luiken
Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Mike Lesmann, Legislative Liaison, DOT&PF
Darwin Peterson, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

Tariff Traffic

Alaska Marine Highway System, Annual Traffic Volume Report • 2015

Car deck space is predominantly sold by vehicle length. However, some consideration must be given to width, to the overall weight of the vehicle traffic on the car deck, and to the affect of vehicle placement on the vessel's overall stability. Consequently, vehicle tariffs are classified as Standard (up to 8-1/2' wide), Wide (up to 9' wide), Extra Wide (over 9' wide), and Vans. Due to their height and weight, vans must be categorized separately. Vans are defined as vehicles, normally commercial, from 12'-13' in height with enclosed cargo space. Vans can be any length and either self-propelled or towed. A flatbed truck or trailer, with a load higher than 10 feet from the ground, is also considered a van.

In 2012, new tariffs were created for the communities of Ouzinkie and Old Harbor, the newest communities to receive ferry service. With the addition of new tariffs in 2011 for the roadless communities of Tenakee and Akutan, tariffs for roll-on / roll-off trailers, hand carts and ATV's are now accounted for separately in the second table on page 26 under Car Deck Tariff Usage.

Recreational vehicles are defined as truck / campers, camper vans, motorhomes, and vehicles with trailers. Although RVs are identified with a separate class, they are also classified by width. In the first table, the RV traffic is broken out by width. Recreational vehicles of all widths made up 3.73% of the total motorized cardeck traffic. In addition, 1,755 non-motorized forms of transport were ticketed. Non-motorized traffic includes bicycles, kayaks and canoes that are not being transported in a car, truck or trailer. Another tariff number is for pets, that is of interest but has no actual impact on traffic. This category includes all animals that are confined to the car deck.

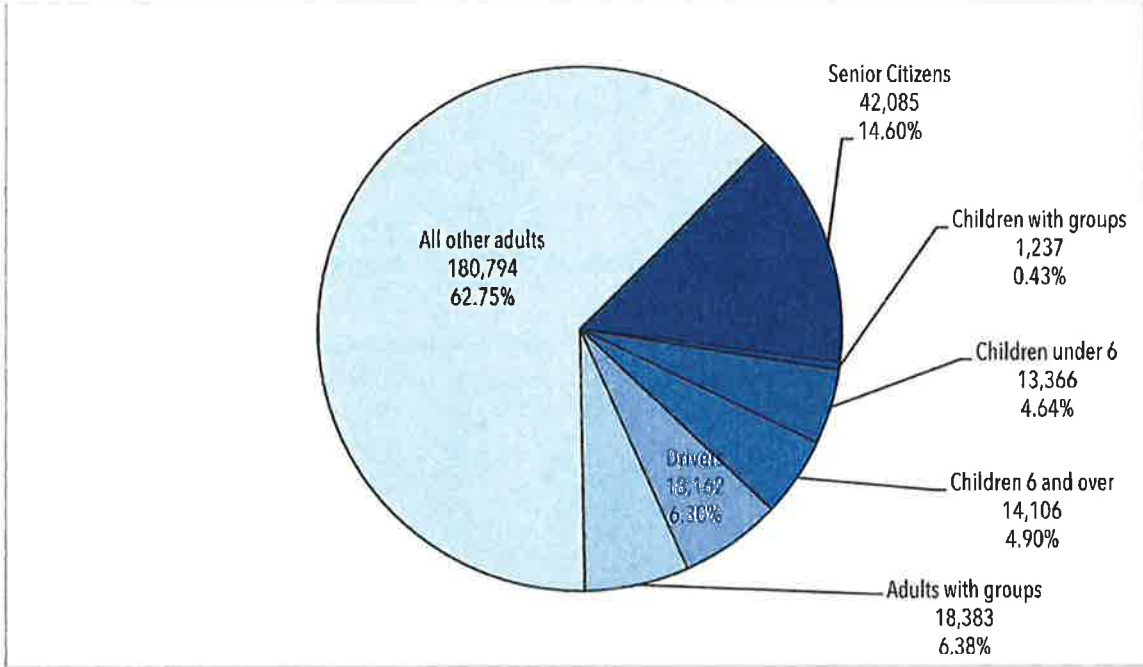
The pie charts on pages 27 - 29 present the length of various types of vehicles measured in feet. The labels for each slice in each pie chart represent the upper limit of the category size. For example, in the Car Length Chart on page 28, the pie slice labeled 15' is to be read as "cars larger than 10 feet up to and including 15 feet." The next slice is to be read as "cars larger than 15 feet up to and including 19 feet."

Car Deck Tariff Usage

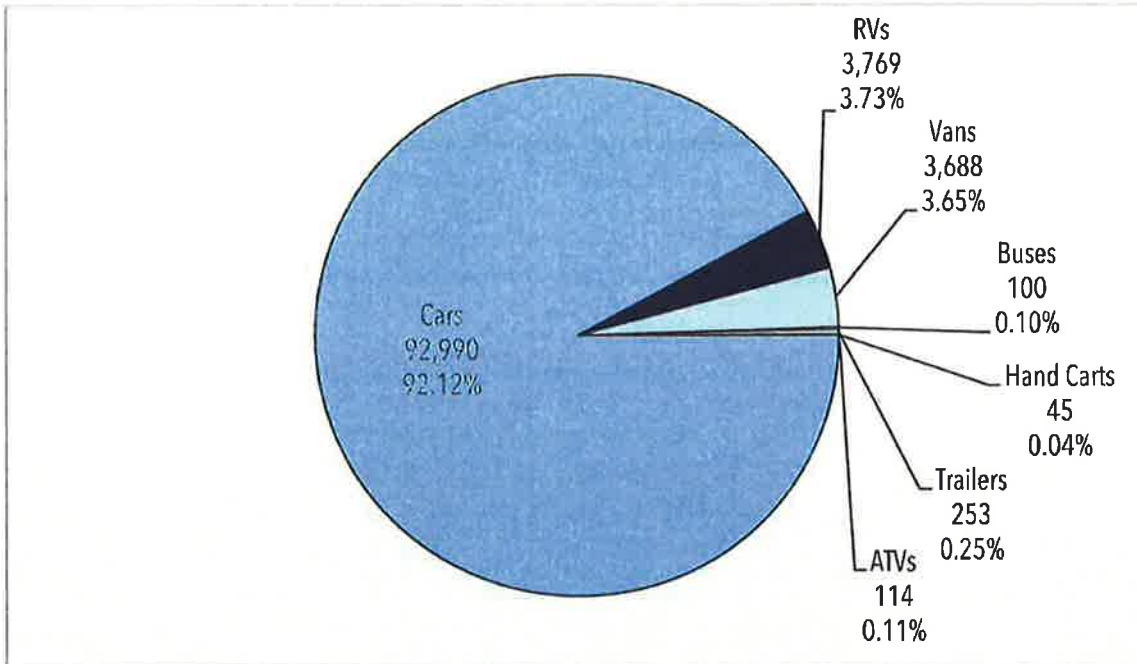
VESSEL	STANDARD VEHICLES (TO 8-1/2')	WIDE & X-W VEHICLES (> 8-1/2')	STANDARD RVS (TO 8-1/2')	WIDE & X-W RVS (> 8-1/2')	BUSES	VANS	TOTAL
AURORA	10,660	20	550	3	20	415	11,668
CHENEGA	3,592	15	145	2	-	25	3,779
COLUMBIA	7,464	35	502	10	6	292	8,309
FAIRWEATHER	6,710	27	288	3	8	71	7,107
KENNICOTT	5,738	51	169	5	2	549	6,514
LECONTE	9,376	15	329	7	6	439	10,172
LITUYA	10,413	8	7	-	-	5	10,433
MALASPINA	13,104	33	557	9	14	384	14,101
MATANUSKA	10,251	42	735	31	35	531	11,625
TAKU	7,727	33	293	7	8	288	8,356
TUSTUMENA	7,632	44	115	2	1	689	8,483
TOTAL	92,667	323	3,690	79	100	3,688	100,547

VESSEL	NON-MOTORIZED TRAFFIC	PETS (INCLUDES LIVESTOCK)	ATV'S	TRAILERS	VEHICLES WITHOUT A DRIVER
AURORA	171	1,613	22	114	1,361
CHENEGA	139	659	-	-	501
COLUMBIA	194	1,909	-	-	1,064
FAIRWEATHER	109	935	-	-	484
KENNICOTT	148	1,411	-	-	1,661
LECONTE	292	1,836	81	139	1,526
LITUYA	10	252	-	-	243
MALASPINA	207	3,439	-	-	1,469
MATANUSKA	229	2,299	-	-	1,746
TAKU	165	1,438	-	-	1,308
TUSTUMENA	91	1,507	11	-	1,780
TOTAL	1,755	17,298	114	253	13,143

Passenger Tariff Chart

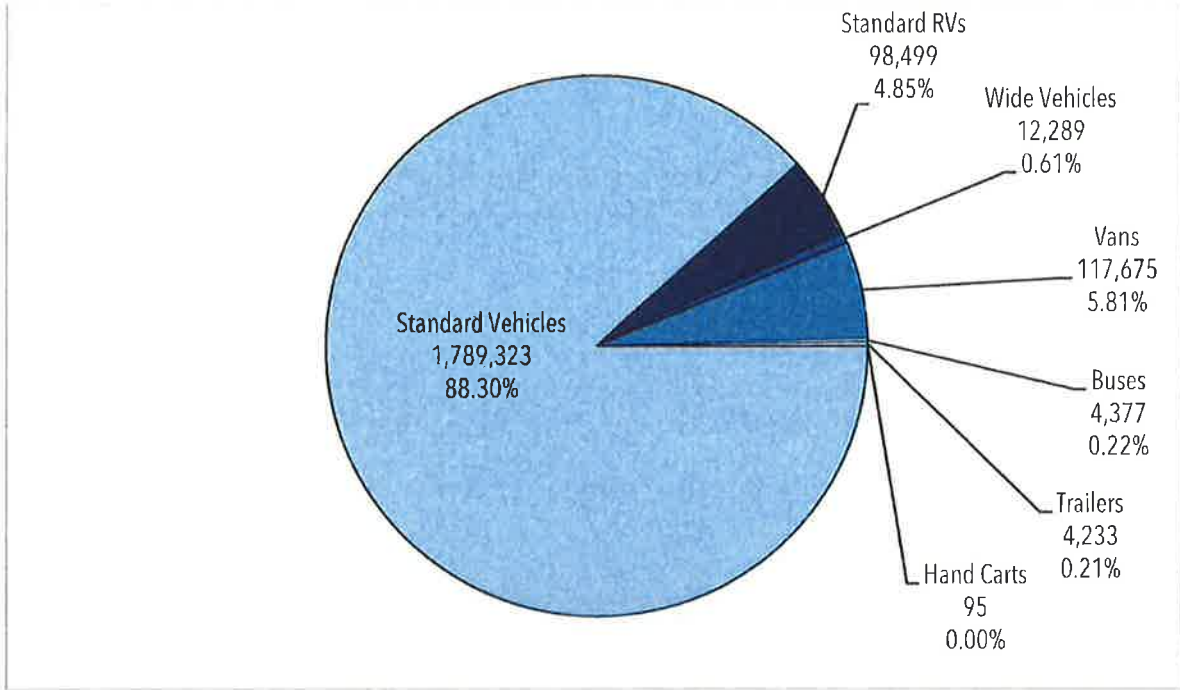


Vehicle Tariff Chart

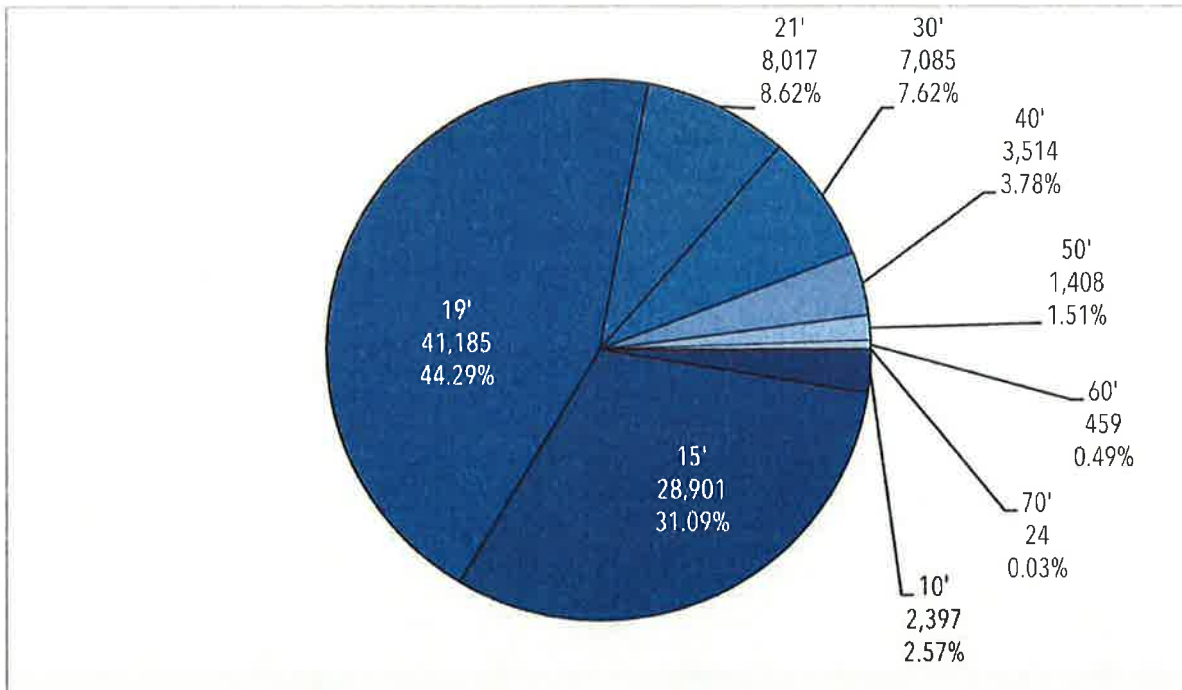


Car Deck Space Usage Chart

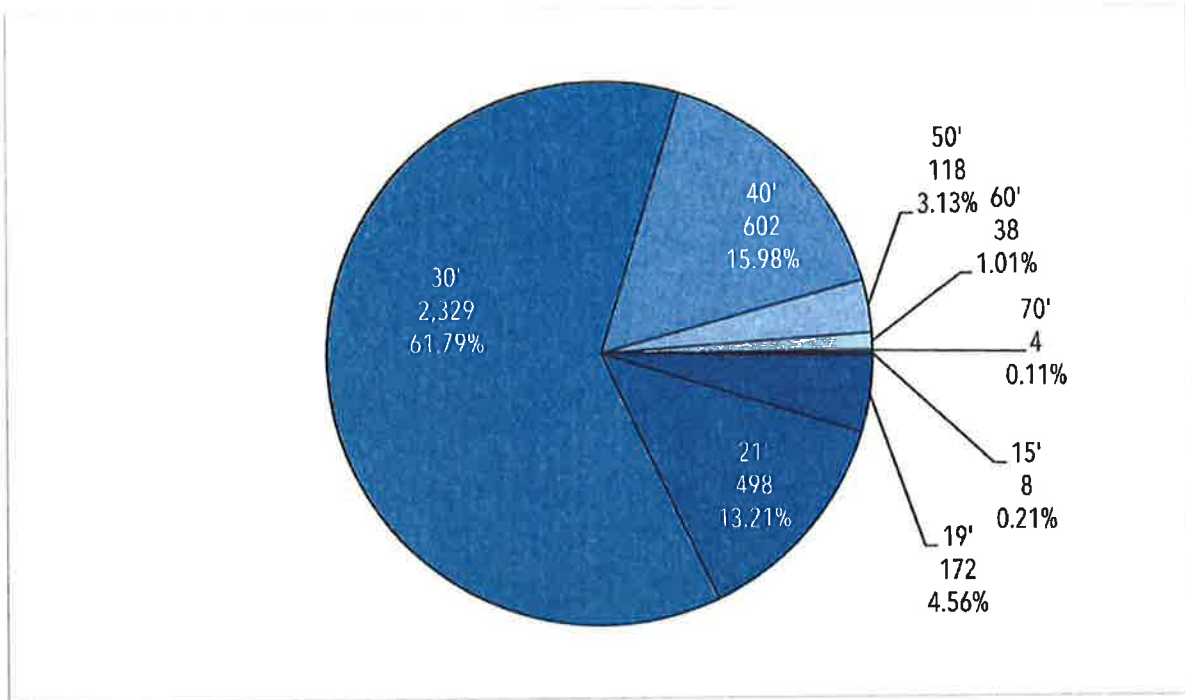
(In feet)



Car Length Chart



RV Length Chart



Van Length Chart

