



**PORT OF BELLINGHAM**  
*Washington State*

November 27, 2013

Dear Boathouse Owner:

We are sending this letter as a kind reminder of the new boathouse requirements that were adopted into the Harbors' Rules & Regulations on April 16, 2013. Please recall that the updated rules and regulations contain elements that apply to all boathouses, both individually owned as well as multiparty associations.

The most notable changes contained in the policy affecting the Individual Boathouses are:

- Liability coverage for the boathouse structure in the amount of \$1 million
- Compliance with Bellingham Municipal Code 4501 (new City of Bellingham fire ordinance)  
-heat vent or sprinkler installation

If you haven't done so already, please provide a copy of your boathouse coverage to the Harbor Office no later than December 6, 2013. In order to minimize the exposure to risk for all parties involved, the policy will be reviewed by the Port to ensure that it provides sufficient coverage for marine-related incidents.

Additionally, the City of Bellingham fire code now requires additional fire protection in the Individual Boathouses. (Bellingham Municipal Fire Code section 17.20.110, sub-section 4504.7) Individual Boathouses have the option of installing either heat vents or a sprinkler system and have been given a two-year period in which to do so. The Multiparty Boathouses are also required to install a sprinkler system in each of the boathouse structures and are currently working through the process of compliance which will include the installation of a new fire line along the main lateral of the Gate 3 dock. This will provide an opportunity for any of the Individual boat houses to connect to the new fire line to supply their sprinklers should one want to exercise this option. If any of the Individual Boathouse Owners would like more information on sprinkler installation, please contact Harbor Master, Chris Tibbe at the Harbor Office.

Regards,

Chris Tibbe  
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