KENAI FJORDS
TOURS

BY PURSUiT

To Whom it may Concern,

Kenai Fjords Tours has been operating wildlife and glacier tours out of Seward since 1976. Our current fleet consists of nine, 150 passenger tour boats. We run tours late March through September, and on busiest days in the high season it is not uncommon to have 1000 passengers ride with us. Our total yearly passenger count last year was 100,000 people, from all over the world. We are one of two large tour boat operators in the area; there are numerous smaller tour and charter fishing operations in the area as well, not to mention the port being, with its quick road access to Anchorage and the Valley, being extremely popular with recreational boaters from all over Alaska. A rough estimate provided by the Seward Chamber of Commerce puts the total number of passengers embarking on Seward passenger vessels at more than 250,000 a season.

Kenai Fjords Tours' operating area is typical of operations in the area and runs from Seward, to the end of Cape Resurrection and into Day Harbor to the East; to Granite Island and the Northwestern Fjords to the west and all coast lines in between. Due to the nature of our work we spend much of our time near the shore, and over the years have accumulated the local knowledge and experience to do so safely. That said, I believe having updated, large scale charts of this area would be of great value to our captains and would contribute to public safety. We run all the coastlines in this area, but Cape Resurrection, the Chiswell Islands, and Akialik, Northwestern and Holgate Glacier would be of prime interest. Although not as heavily traveled, I have found the datum for the West side of Aialik bay to be at best vague, and at worse inaccurate on the current charts.

Our current charts are at 1:81,847 scale. I believe 1:40,000 scale charts would be of great utility for Seward tour operators and recreational boaters.

Thank you for providing this forum,

Sincerely,

Eric Simpson

 Captain Eric Simpson

Marine Operations Manager

Kenai Fjords Tours

Seward Alaska