

In the event that someone falls over board, life rings are located on the starboard and port sides of the vessel exterior and may be thrown after the person in the water. The life rings are attached to lines so that those onboard can help pull the individual in the water to safety. Make sure to have a secure hold or securely attach the line to the boat *before* throwing the ring.

It will be very difficult to pull someone who is in the water aboard Sound Judgment directly as the deck is so high off the water. Once the person in the water has hold of a life ring, it will be best to use the line to reel them in to the docks, or to the swim step aft, and pull them out of the water from there.

Please note, Alaska waters are very cold and someone who is in the water may not be able to aid in their own rescue the way they might in warmer waters. If anyone falls in the water, in addition to providing immediate assistance, please call for emergency assistance. 911 will connect you to the Sitka Police Department and they will dispatch emergency responders.

As with all Alaska watercraft, there is a risk of drowning and hypothermia if someone falls into the water. We have provided flotation devices and non-slip surfaces in order to minimize these risks. We ask that you also exercise caution during your stay.

What is a high-water alarm?

Sound Judgment's high-water alarm is located in the galley and makes a loud bell-ringing noise if too much water gets into the hull of the boat – from rain or a leaky seam, for example. It notifies people on board that the automatic pumps are not keeping up and that there is a need to pump out the bilge.

It is very unlikely that the high-water alarm will sound during your stay. Sound Judgment has an automatic pumping system and is water-tight.

If the alarm does go off during your stay, there is no imminent danger (the trigger is placed well below the level required by the Coast Guard). Please exit the vessel and call Alexander immediately.

Can I drive the boat?

Nope. Sound Judgment is a 17 ton vessel, powered by a diesel inboard engine. Alexander maintains a 100 ton Captain's license, and is the only individual authorized to captain Sound Judgment.

What are "fenders"?

Sound Judgment has two bright orange buoy balls on her starboard side to act as fenders between her and the dock. This prevents the boat and the dock from damaging each other when they bump together, particularly in high winds. We will keep sufficient fenders on the side of the boat at all times. If you notice that a buoy ball has popped (which is unlikely except in very high winds) please contact Alexander and he will replace them immediately.

What does an alarm mean?

The boat has a number of safety alarms for your protection. The high water alarm was discussed above.

There are smoke detectors, which function just like those in a house. In addition, two fire extinguishers are located throughout the boat, in the galley, and in the aft stateroom. Please note their locations – a diagram is attached with an X marking each one.

Though unlikely to occur, fire aboard the vessel is, as you may guess, totally devastating and presents risks to yourself, as well as to the docks and other vessels. Do not be hesitant to use a fire extinguisher if you think it may be needed. You simply remove the pin in the handle, aim, and squeeze. Please advise Alexander immediately of any fire extinguisher discharge. He will get the chemicals cleaned up and the extinguisher replaced with a fresh one promptly.

Even more unlikely, because the engine will not be running, is that the carbon monoxide detector would sound. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is lethal to humans. If this alarm does sound, leave the vessel immediately and contact Alexander and the Harbor Office.

A diagram with the locations of all detectors is attached.

Where are the emergency exits?

The usual way to get on and off the boat is through the starboard side entrance to the galley, or the back door from the aft deck to the aft stateroom. These are the only two exits from the vessel.

Comfort

Where are the laundry facilities?

Sound Judgment does not have laundry facilities onboard. There is a laundromat just a short distance from Thomsen Harbor, on Halibut Point Road. The Sitka Laundry Center is just one quarter mile from the harbor, across from McDonald's.

How do I cook?

The galley contains a gas stove run off propane, which will be kept filled for your convenience. The propane stove works just like a natural gas stove in a home, but runs off a propane tank located on the exterior of the boat instead of a natural gas line. Please notify Alexander immediately if the gas stove will not turn on.

The galley contains a small refrigerator, pots and pans, flatware, a toaster, a coffee maker, and a teapot for your use.

Where is the bathroom?

The head is located just off the galley toward the aft stateroom, complete with sink, shower, and toilet.

Hot water is provided by an electric hot water heater. The water heater is smaller than a standard water heater meant for home use. As such, you may run out of hot water. We recommend keeping showers short, to avoid running out of hot water. The water heater will run continuously, as in a home setting, and the water will heat back up. If you are unable to access hot water after a reasonable amount of time, please contact Alexander to correct the issue.

There are also bathroom and shower facilities located at the top of the dock, in the parking lot. These are public use facilities, and available to any residential harbor user.

Is there WiFi available onboard?

No. Sound Judgment does not have internet onboard. There is reliable cellular service in Tomsen Harbor, and cellular data or a mobile hotspot is necessary if you want to use the internet.

What happens with sewage?

Sound Judgment has a 20 gallon black water tank that is pumped out as necessary. Please see the poster located in the head for more information on local regulations regarding waste at sea.

Sound Judgment's sewage system and the harbor's pumping facilities can accommodate wastewater and single-ply toilet paper. Please do not dispose of anything else – especially not feminine hygiene items – in the boat's toilet. A small, covered trash bin for these items is located in the bathroom.

What happens with trash?

Sound Judgment is registered as a live-aboard vessel with the harbor, which allows residents to drop a reasonable amount of trash at the large, round trash cans in the harbor parking lot. For stays up to four days, we will take care of emptying trash during turn over. For longer stays, if you need to empty trash, please take it directly from the boat to the harbor trashcans. Please do not leave trash bags on deck; the ravens will get into them, creating hazards for people and the animals who frequent the harbor.

How is the boat heated?

Sound Judgment is heated with electric heaters. Controls for these heater are located on the heaters, which are located in the forward and aft cabins.

Why is it so bright out?

Summers in Sitka don't have much night, which makes for long, lovely days. The sleeping facilities have small windows with curtains to aid in keeping light out when desired. Many guests enjoy slowly waking to the morning sun glinting off the ocean, but for those guests who find a bright morning to deprive them of much-needed sleep, eye masks are recommended.

Why is it so noisy?

Thomsen harbor is a working harbor. One of the great benefits of staying on Sound Judgment is that you will be at ground zero for Sitka's fishing industry. The folks you pass on the docks will be a mix of tourists and fishermen.

The fishermen have an intense summer schedule – catching salmon during the long days, then unloading their fish to the processing boats, cleaning their gear, and catching just a few hours of sleep before heading out again. These activities take place at all hours.

Our hope is that our guests enjoy this up-close look at the hard work that goes into procuring "Wild Caught Alaska Salmon." But for those guests who find that the noise interferes with their sleep, earplugs have been provided with the amenities on your dresser.

We also ask that guests be respectful of the hard working men and women on the docks. This means keeping radio and other noise to a reasonable level.

Why is it so wet?

Sitka is located in the Tongass National Forest – the largest temperate rainforest in the world. Humidity levels are high and the temperature, even in the summer is fairly low, which can lead to Sound Judgment feeling moist.

Without a dehumidifier running, the humidity within the boat is often around 70%. This is both uncomfortable for guests and bad for the boat. For your comfort and to discourage mold growth, we ask that you run the dehumidifier consistently. If the noise is bothersome (for sleeping, watching a movie, etc.) you may turn off the dehumidifier for short periods, but please turn it back on as soon as possible.

When the dehumidifier fills up (usually once a day) it will beep and the fan noise will stop. Please remove the water compartment from the front of the machine and empty it. Since it is clean, fresh water it is fine to pour it out overboard or in the sink. Then please replace the water compartment and turn the machine back on.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

For any serious or life-threatening emergency please call 911

Alexander Allison	-	907.738.2458
907.738.1611		
Harbor Office	-	907.747.3439
Sitka Police Department	-	907.747.3245
Sitka Fire Department	-	907.747.3433
US Coast Guard, Sitka	-	907.966.5434