

# Marine Highway M-5 (AK)



**Sponsor:** State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

**Supporters:** State of Alaska (Alaska Marine Highway System)

**Landside Routes Served:** ALCAN Highway and Richardson Highway

**Route Description:**

The M-5 Alaska Marine Highway Route consists of the Pacific Ocean coastal waters, including the Inside Passage, connecting commercial navigation channels, ports, and harbors from Puget Sound to Unalaska in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. It spans British Columbia and lower Alaska and connects to the M-A1 Crossing near Anchorage, AK and the M-5 Route at the Canadian border north of Bellingham, WA.

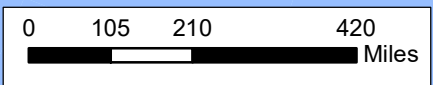
**Attributes:**

This route provides an alternative to the circuitous 2400-mile land route from the State of Washington to the State of Alaska by way of Canada. Although continuously undergoing improvements, the land route also poses more challenges than typical interstates. It is narrow and winding in some places, experiences loose gravel breaks and has areas without center lines and shoulders, all of which can limit reliability, speed and capacity.

This Marine Highway route serving this Route already hosts about 90 percent of the interstate freight shipments (excluding petroleum) originating in or destined for Alaska and handles substantial vehicle and passenger traffic. Water transportation also provides the primary link for intrastate freight shipments to the Aleutian Island chain which are vital to the communities served by this route.

**Marine Highways**

- █ M-5
- █ Other Marine Highway Routes



Projection:  
NAD 1983 State Plane Alaska

Data Sources:

1. International Boundaries: IPUMS (<https://international.ipums.org/international/gis.shtml>)
2. Bathymetry data: Michael Baker International
3. Marine Highways: MARAD/DOT