

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 17, 2009
To: Harbor Commissioners
From: John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Harbor Oil Spill Quickly Contained

At 9:00 a.m. on December 1, Harbor Patrol responded to an oil spill in the vicinity of Fish Float South in Santa Barbara Harbor. Given the amount of the spill (an estimated five gallons of lubrication oil) the Coast Guard became immediately involved, directing a cleanup contractor to begin remediation of the area. In addition, Harbor Patrol placed a boom around all of Fish Float South within 25 minutes of being directed to do so (prior to the contractor's arrival), including all the fishing boats on the east side and skiffs on the west side of the float. Using absorbent pads to pull oil off the water and scrub boat hulls and adjacent breakwater rocks, the spill was entirely mitigated by 3:00 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the spill, taking bilge-oil samples from several boats berthed in the vicinity of the discharge. If convicted of the pollution violation, a perpetrator could be held liable for three times the cost of the cleanup, which was estimated at \$7,000.

Prepared By: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager