

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 19, 2011
To: Harbor Commissioners
From: John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Operation Clean Sweep

The fifth annual Operation Clean Sweep took place Saturday, May 7th. Thirty-five volunteers—divers and dock workers—concentrated on fingers “A” through “D” in Marina One. They removed 2,500 pounds of seafloor junk, including shellfish traps, nets, cable, buckets, steering wheels, chairs, carpet, pipe, one toilet and three marine batteries. To date, this annual event has removed 17,500 pounds of seafloor litter from the Harbor. This is hard work and staff wishes to recognize the Surfrider Foundation, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper, Cal Fish and Game and the Maritime Museum, as well local boaters and our harbor dive businesses, for their ongoing commitment to Operation Clean Sweep.

Mother’s Day Cruise Ship Visit

The 950-foot *Sapphire Princess* made its sixth visit on Sunday, May 8th, a crisp, partly cloudy and breezy Mother’s Day. The ship anchored just over a half-mile offshore, from where its 2,700 passengers and hundreds of crew shuttled ashore to Sea Landing—the departure point for walking tours, trolley tours in town (725 passengers on these), bus tours to the wine country, whale-watching trips and downtown shopping. The ship arrived at 7:00 a.m. and departed at 4:30 p.m. Four more cruise ship visits—two each from the Crystal and Princess lines—are scheduled this fall.

SB 623—Copper Bottom Paint

As the Commission was informed last month, recently introduced State Senate Bill 623 would prohibit boat manufacturers from selling recreational vessels with copper-based hull paint after 2014 and would prohibit recreational boat owners from using or applying copper-based paint after 2018. Christine Kehoe, the bill’s author, says the measure is designed to address copper contamination in harbors throughout the state.

On May 2nd, SB 1623 passed the Senate’s Environmental Quality Committee and now heads for the Senate Appropriations Committee. Meanwhile, at least one statewide boater’s group—Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) has announced it’s opposition to the bill, claiming alternatives to copper bottom paint need more testing, the legislation would impose undue costs on boaters for application and maintenance of

alternative hull coatings, and copper remains the number one defense against bottom fouling, including repelling invasive marine species.

The California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, to which the City of Santa Barbara belongs, has taken no formal position on the bill, though informal discussions with the bill's author suggest possible support for SB 623, if amended. Amendments might include extending the sunset date for using copper paint and/or reducing the percentage of copper in bottom paint from its current level of approximately 60% to levels that remain effective but pose negligible environmental harm.

Meanwhile, on May 5th, Washington Governor Chris Gregoire signed into law a bill prohibiting the sale of new boats with copper-based bottom paint after January 1, 2018, and no paint with more than 0.5% copper can be used on recreational boats as of 2020.

Prepared By: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager