

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT
DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

Date: May 15, 2014
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

SANTA BARBARA COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN SENTENCED IN ABALONE CASE

In the first case of its kind in 15 years, a Southern California commercial sea urchin diver has been convicted of poaching abalone, the take of which has been banned south of San Francisco for the past 17 years. On April 18th, Bob Laumer of Santa Barbara was fined \$15,000 and put on three years' probation. In addition, his commercial and recreational fishing licenses and permits were revoked for life.

Department of Fish and Wildlife officers discovered Laumer's poached abalone, which ranged in diameter up to a "trophy" size of 10", last November, while checking commercial sea urchin vessels at the City Pier in Santa Barbara Harbor. Inspecting Laumer's catch, wardens found a red-abalone shell. A more thorough search yielded two additional shells and four live red abalone concealed inside a wetsuit.

In addition to the abalone charge, Laumer was convicted of failure to possess valid identification, commercial fishing without a license, failure to possess a sea cucumber permit, unlawful take of Kellet's whelks and possession of undersized sea urchins.

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP A BIG SUCCESS

The eighth annual Operation Clean Sweep, a volunteer seafloor cleanup program, took place on May 3rd. Nearly 40 dock workers, aided by a dozen divers (many from Salty Dog Dive Services), collected 1.2 tons of debris from beneath fingers M-P in Marina 1, bringing the program's total to 15.7 tons. This year's "haul," included items such as a fuel tank, microwave oven, dock steps, satellite dish and boat liner. Staff wishes to thank the many volunteers, from local citizens to groups like ChannelKeeper, the Maritime Museum, Santa Barbara Surfrider, NOAA and Harbor Commissioners themselves. Next year's Clean Sweep in Marina 1, fingers Q, R and S, will complete a nine-year harbor "circumnavigation," to begin again in Marina 4 in 2016.

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager