

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 20, 2011
To: Harbor Commissioners
From: John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Mooring Area Update—Lottery Pending

Established in 2006, the Permitted Mooring Area east of Stearns Wharf includes 46 mooring sites (recently reduced to 45, following discovery of a wrecked boat on the seafloor near one site). Moorings are owned by individual permittees and inspected annually by City-approved inspectors, the cost borne by the permittees who also pay annual permit renewal fees of \$250 apiece.

City Council Resolution No. 09-075 requires that any time the number of Mooring Area permittees declines to 30 or fewer, the Waterfront Department shall undertake a new lottery to fill the vacant mooring sites. The Department conducted lotteries in 2006, 2007 and 2010 to assign vessels to vacant mooring sites. Owing to termination and/or relinquishment of several mooring permits during the past year, the current number of active mooring permits is 29. As such, the Department will conduct a general lottery, open to the public, to help fill currently vacant mooring sites.

A window period for submitting a lottery application for a mooring permit shall commence on Thursday, February 3rd and close at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 3rd. Applications are available at the Harbormaster's Office or can be accessed on the City's website, www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Government/Departments/Waterfront. Application forms may be dropped off, mailed or faxed to the Waterfront Department. The mailing address is 132-A Harbor Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. The fax number is 805-897-2588. The lottery will be advertised in local newspapers and a regional boating newspaper, *The Log*.

The Harbor Commission Chair will conduct a drawing to identify and rank lottery applicants at the Commission's March 17th meeting. Following the drawing, staff will contact prospective permittees to initiate the process of assigning available mooring permits. Questions? Call Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager, at 805-897-2587.

Blackboard Connect Messaging Test—January 24th

Following last year's implementation of a Reverse 911 system at the Waterfront, the City reached agreement with Blackboard Connect, Inc. for a web-based, voice-activated messaging system for non-emergency uses. Examples might include temporary power

outages, water supply outages or construction projects requiring dock boxes to be emptied or vessels relocated. The idea is to notify boaters and tenants to important matters in a timely fashion, expediting information dissemination while avoiding the administrative burden of hand-dialing dozens, if not hundreds, of phone numbers.

Staff recently received training on the system, which will allow it to send messages to slip and mooring permittees and Waterfront tenants for one year at a cost of \$4,800. After one year, the Department will assess the program's value and decide whether to enter another annual contract with Blackboard.

Staff will test the system January 24th, sending a phone message to slip permittees, mooring permittees and tenants throughout the Waterfront. A week or two after the test, staff will mail a survey to all recipients, gauging their satisfaction with the service.

Finally, a reminder: Staff does not intend to "overuse" the system to the point of annoyance. As noted earlier, messages will be tied to important events but not emergencies. We will continue using reverse 911 for emergencies. We hope and expect this messaging system will significantly advance our ability to communicate quickly and effectively with Waterfront constituents.

Marine Life Protection Act—South Coast Closures Adopted

In a meeting in Santa Barbara on December 15th, the California Fish and Game Commission gave final approval for South Coast Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) ranging from Point Conception to the Mexican border. With few exceptions (mostly boundary adjustments), the Commission adopted an Integrated Preferred Alternative that combined pieces of proposals from three state-appointed stakeholder groups who worked for more than a year on the process. The Commission also considered dozens of hours of public testimony and some 12,000 written comments during the lengthy process before reaching its decision, as mandated by the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). Drafted in 1999, the MLPA required California to reexamine and redesign its MPA system with the goal to, among other things, increase MPAs' effectiveness in protecting marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems and marine natural heritage.

The Commission's December 15th action created 36 new MPAs covering 187 square miles (8%) of state waters in the study region. Over half were designated "no take" areas, where no extraction of living marine resources will be allowed. Others will allow extractions and/or activities, such as fishing for specific species, dredging, wastewater infrastructure maintenance and scientific research.

In the northern region of the study area, the Commission approved large no-take MPAs at Point Conception and Isla Vista (from west of Devereux Point to Campus Point). They also adopted a slightly less restrictive State Marine Conservation Area at Naples Reef, where only spear-gun harvest of pelagic finfish such as white seabass will be allowed, along with mechanical or manual kelp harvesting. Existing MPAs in the

northern Channel Islands, which encompass an additional 168 square miles and 7% of state waters in the study region, were not modified.

The south coast study region is the third of five study regions to complete the MLPA planning process. Remaining areas include the north coast and San Francisco Bay.

South coast MPAs are anticipated to go into effect in mid-2011 after appropriate filings with the Office of Administrative Law and the Secretary of State. The MPAs can be viewed at the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) website. From the CDFG homepage, access the "Conservation" tab, which will link you to MPA maps, descriptions, boundary lines and regulations.

Huge Squid Harvest Forces Season Closure

Thanks to record catches and a phenomenal abundance of squid from La Jolla to Half Moon Bay, squid fishermen reached their legal quota of 118,000 tons and the fishery closed December 17th. The season, which runs from April through March, will reopen April 1, 2011.

This was the first time the squid fleet met its quota since the California Fish and Game Commission established the cap in 2002. Marine scientists attribute the abundance of squid to cold ocean temperatures. Conversely, abundance and landings typically decline in warm-water El Niño years.

The bonanza was particularly welcomed by purse seine fishermen, who claim it was actually more difficult to find coastal spots absent of squid than spots that contained squid. The fishermen earn an average of \$500 per ton for squid, which is exported to over 30 countries, the lion's share going to China. Some is also sold to U.S. markets and restaurants for calamari. Overall, economic benefit from the banner season is estimated at \$60 million.

Although Santa Barbara Harbor has unloaded squid boats in the past, it is a difficult operation to support, owing to high volumes of squid, limited pier space and the need to accommodate other uses, including local fishermen and work boats. Ventura Harbor, in turn, is set up for squid offloading, handling tens of thousands of tons of the recent haul.

December 19th Cruise Ship Visit

The cruise ship *Sapphire Princess* visited Santa Barbara for the day on December 19th. Despite steady rain, half the ship's 3,000 passengers disembarked for walking and bus tours in town. The ship's total manifest included 4,000 passengers and crew, which in turn generated \$20,000 in landing fees for the Waterfront Department. Considering the inclement weather, the visit was a big success, according to passengers, cruise ship representatives and hospitality volunteers. Since 2002, 13 cruise ships have visited Santa Barbara. Seven more have scheduled visits in 2011, beginning in April.

Parade of Lights Recap

On a night warmer than any could remember in Parade of Lights history, 26 boats lighted to the theme of “Silver Bells and Winter Swells” glided past a silhouetted Santa Cruz Island during the event’s 25th annual celebration December 12th. Following the parade, a fireworks display fired from West Beach and a gala awards party at the Carriage and Western Art Museum concluded the memorable evening.

As always, prior to the parade Santa visited the City Pier, where hundreds of children played in 10 tons of snow, whispered secrets to Santa on his lap and enjoyed holiday music care of KLITE radio.

The grand prize (a Club Med trip to the Caribbean islands of Turks and Caicos) went to Jack and Karen Byers’ power boat *Serengeti*. Other first-place prize winners included:

Name	Vessel	Category
Bernard Friedman	<i>Perseverance</i>	Commercial Fishing
King Williams	<i>Channel Cat</i>	Commercial Other
Rich Ciolino	<i>Va Bene</i>	Sail
Tara Brown & Friends	<i>Kayak</i>	Human Power

Waterfront staff wishes to thank all Parade of Lights participants for their spirit and dedication, as well as the event’s multiple sponsors and volunteer judges. We look forward to doing again on December 11, 2011. See you there!

Prepared By: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager