

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 21, 2013
To: Harbor Commissioners
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Boating Season Arrives!

At the Waterfront, we like to think there are really only two seasons: Dredging season and boating season. And with a kickoff breakfast and opening-day regatta, the Yacht Club celebrated the arrival of boating season on Sunday, March 3rd.

Wet Wednesdays, a staple of the Yacht Club racing season, begin March 13th and run through October 16th. Wet Wednesday races are open to any boat entered by a member of a U.S. Sailing Association-recognized club. Locally, this means Santa Barbara Sailing Club and Santa Barbara Yacht Club boats, with occasional out-of-town visitors invited to participate. Also, anyone can participate as crew aboard an eligible boat. Wet Wednesday courses vary with wind conditions and boat size, and vary in length from 2-8 miles. The first start is at 5:10 p.m., followed by six other classes spaced five minutes apart. Following the races, an “after party” barbeque open to all racers and their guests is held at the Yacht Club. For more information, contact the Santa Barbara Yacht Club at 965-8112 or visit their website at www.sbyc.org.

Catamaran Beach Permits On Sale Beginning April 5th

Locally known as “Cat Beach,” the east end of Leadbetter beach is a popular place for launching small catamarans. Seasonal beach storage permits are available beginning April 5th from the Harbormasters office. The season runs from April 5th to October 31st. To purchase a Catamaran Beach Permit, bring your current vessel registration and personal identification to the Waterfront office. Permits cost \$200 and are limited to one per person. A maximum of 65 permits will be sold. Please call the Waterfront Administration office if you have questions about Cat Beach at 805-564-5531.

Fishing Season Also Arrives. . .

March 1st marked the season opener for rockfish and lingcod—two of the most prized species in local waters, on the coast and at the Channel Islands. Rockfish and lingcod may be taken in depths up to 50 fathoms (300 feet) through December 31st. No boat? Try Stardust Sportfishing at Sea Landing. They run open-party and charter trips almost daily, weather permitting. Call 805-963-3564 for reservations. You might also take a trip with one of our “six-pack” charter-boat operators. For a list of them, contact Pat Henry, Property Management Specialist, at 805-897-1961.

California Game Warden Stamp

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW--formerly Cal Fish and Game) is promoting a program it began in 2010 that it hopes will better protect, train and support its officers in the field: the California Game Warden Stamp.

Many people believe wildlife officers simply check hunting and fishing licenses. Actually, while their overall mission is to protect California's natural resources, they are also responsible for public safety, pollution investigations, wildlife response and more.

Overall, fewer than 400 wildlife officers (one for every 200,000 constituents) patrol and protect 159,000 square miles of natural habitat, often working alone in remote wildland areas where the individuals they encounter likely carry weapons. Increasingly, they are also involved in uncovering and investigating illegal marijuana grown on public lands and guarded by well-armed drug cartels.

The voluntary \$5 Game Warden Stamp (really a decal—not part of your fishing license) helps fund law enforcement essentials not covered in CDFW's budget, like communications and surveillance equipment, protective gear, specialized training and a new K-9 program. For more information or to purchase a 2013 California Game Warden Stamp, go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wardenstamp/>

Harbor Patrol and City Firefighters Extinguish Blaze Aboard the *Condor Express*

At approximately 4:05 p.m. on Saturday, March 9th, an off-duty firefighter from San Francisco noticed smoke coming from the wheelhouse of the *Condor Express*, which was unoccupied and docked at Sea Landing. Harbor Patrol and Fire were dispatched to the scene. Officers aboard Patrol Boat #3 were first on scene at 4:08 p.m., followed by several fire engines and a fire truck. Harbor Patrol knocked down the blaze with the bow monitor on Patrol Boat #3, followed by firefighters who further contained, and ultimately extinguished the blaze, using water-fed handlines. Nobody was injured and no other boats were involved in the blaze, the cause of which is under investigation by the City's Fire Prevention staff.

Meanwhile, the *Condor Express* has been towed to Ventura for haul out and repairs, the cost of which could approach \$500,000. Sea Landing officials hope the vessel will be back in service by June.

Prepared By: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager