

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT
DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

Date: October 17, 2013
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Slip Sublets, Leases, Loans or Rentals – A Violation of City Rules

It has come to staff's attention that some boaters are renting or subleasing their slips, activity prohibited by Rule #17 of the Marina Rules and Regulations, which are part of every slip rental agreement signed by a prospective permittee. Authority to terminate a slip permit for violation of Rule #17 is found in MC 17.20.005 I (5).

The Department considers the sublet, rental or loan of a slip not only a violation of the slip permit agreement, but contrary to the stated Goal of the Harbor Master Plan, which says, in part, that "*The Harbor shall be a working harbor with priority given to ocean dependent uses, such as commercial fishing and recreational boating.*"

With 33 persons remaining on the Department's Master Slip Waiting List, staff considers the leasing, sublet or rental of slip permits not only a Municipal Code violation and misuse of municipally owned berths granted to the City by the State in trust to manage, but an affront to the Department's efforts to make public berthing available to individuals wishing to utilize the Harbor for reasons stated in the Harbor Master Plan.

In summary, staff takes this issue quite seriously, and is aware of – and vigilantly monitors – websites and other information sources where rentals and subleases are advertised. If these activities are discovered, the permittee involved may face immediate slip permit termination.

Boat Speeds in the Harbor

Recently, staff has received several complaints about boaters speeding in the Harbor, in excess of the 5 nautical-miles-per-hour speed limit described in MC 17.12.150. On the open waters of the Pacific, there is less chance of a collision between vessels or between vessels and fixed or floating objects. In confined waters of the Harbor, however, the chance of an adverse incident greatly increases with speed.

The wake caused by speed may dissipate without notice into the open waters of the Pacific, but can cause a person to fall or spill their hot dinner pot causing serious injury. One time several years ago, a 40' boat running in a narrow channel at high speed created a wake that knocked persons to the dock and into the water. The wake broke apart docks and pushed small boats up onto the docks, causing tens of thousands of dollars in damage.

Staff asks that boaters remember that adage, “Slow is Pro” and reduce speed in the Harbor before they receive a citation or, worse yet, hurt somebody.

Save the Date – Parade of Lights December 8th

It’s not too early to save the date. On Sunday, December 8th, boats will decorate to the theme of *Rockin’, Rollin’ Holidays* during the 28th annual Parade of Lights. Activities begin at 3:00 p.m. with Santa’s Village on the City Pier, where Santa Claus and his elves will treat kids to goody bags and a 10-ton snowfield. The parade begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by a five-minute fireworks show provided by Bay Fireworks and a lively awards party at the Maritime Museum. Slip permittees will receive a registration form in their November billing statements. Forms will be available at the Waterfront Office and Harbor Market. Best views of the Parade are from Stearns Wharf and the breakwater.

Attachments: 1. Marina Rules and Regulations
2. Santa Barbara Municipal Code Section 17.20.005
3. Santa Barbara Municipal Code Section 17.12.150

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager