

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT
DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

Date: November 19, 2015
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

HARBOR AND SEAFOOD FESTIVAL RECAP

Nearly 14,000 people attended the Harbor and Seafood Festival, held on Saturday, October 17th. The public got its fill of seafood—lobster, crab, sea urchin “uni,” oysters, mussels, barbequed albacore, fish-and-chips, clam chowder, paella, fish tacos and more—at the 14th annual event. Arts-and-crafts vendors reported brisk sales throughout the day and many said they would return next year.

As always, the heart of the festival was its volunteers—starting with fishermen who not only tended to a searing barbeque and 13 pots of boiling crab and lobster, to trappers who donated 1,200 pounds of crab to the Festival. The rest of the volunteer corps, from high-school students to NOAA, the Maritime Museum, the Harbor Commission Chair and general public, again proved indispensable to the event.

Meanwhile, festival-goers packed the *Double Dolphin* and *Azure Seas* for free boat rides, thanks to the generosity of Santa Barbara Sailing Center and Celebration Cruises, respectively. Three bands rocked a main stage all day.

If you want to circle your calendar now, next year’s Harbor and Seafood Festival will be on Saturday, October 15th.

PARADE OF LIGHTS DECEMBER 6th – HONORING VETERANS

By now, all slip permittees should have received their Parade of Lights (POL) registration forms in November’s billing statements. Forms are also available at the Fuel Dock, Harbor Market and Harbormaster’s Office. It’s time to sign up for what promises to be one of the most unique Parade of Lights ever!

This year’s Parade theme, “A Red, White and Blue Holiday,” reflects not only that the Parade will take place on the eve of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, but honors all veterans serving our country, past and present. After the Parade and a short fireworks display brought to you by Garden State Fireworks, the same folks who presented our July 4th display, an awards party at the Veterans Building (mountain side of Cabrillo Boulevard, between the Harbor and Stearns Wharf) will take place. Boaters will enjoy great food, care of the Waterfront Grill/Endless Summer Bar Café, and meet local veterans from wars dating back to WWII.

And don't forget: before the parade, beginning at 3:00 p.m. on the City Pier, Santa's Village, including 10 tons of snow and Santa himself, will entertain children and families until 5:00 p.m.

Between Santa's Village, the boat parade, the fireworks and awards ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Building, this will surely be a Parade of Lights to remember.

ROCK CRAB FISHERY CLOSED

On November 6th, the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) closed the commercial rock crab fishery, based on the presence of high levels of domoic acid, present in test samples from Santa Barbara to Crescent City. The closure will remain in effect until the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), in consultation with the Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), determines that domoic acid levels no longer pose a significant risk to public health and recommends the fisheries be open.

Domoic acid is a potent neurotoxin that can accumulate in shellfish, other invertebrates and sometimes fish. Often associated with algal blooms, it causes illness and sometimes death in a variety of birds and marine mammals that consume affected organisms. At low levels, domoic acid exposure can cause nausea, diarrhea and dizziness in humans. At higher levels, it can cause persistent short-term memory loss, seizures and can in some cases be fatal.

Algal blooms are common, but this one is particularly large and persistent. Warmer ocean water temperatures due to the El Niño event California is experiencing are likely the cause of the size and persistence of this bloom.

About 15 Santa Barbara fishermen trap crabs, earning about \$2 million annually. Staff will keep the Commission informed regarding duration of the domoic acid event and the rock-crab fishery closure.

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager