

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 17, 2016
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Harbor Operations Report**

STEARNS WHARF FISHING-AREA SIGNS INSTALLED

Last year, the Harbor Commission supported and City Council adopted an Ordinance describing Designated Fishing Areas on Stearns Wharf. Since then, Waterfront Maintenance staff has created and installed 30 new “No Fishing” signs on the Wharf, complete with Municipal Code reference, plus Municipal Code references for 12 existing “No Diving” signs (adjacent to Wharf ladders). As part of the project, staff also removed about 50 stenciled “no fishing” signs from the Wharf, as they were bunched too close together (plus the new signs are more visible and attractive).

Finally, staff routed and painted four “Designated Fishing Area—Good Luck” signs into deck boards on the seaward and shoreward fingers, showing anglers where fishing is not only allowed, but encouraged. Staff believes these upgrades will clarify where and where not to fish on the Wharf and make existing laws enforceable while enhancing the Wharf’s appearance.

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION VISITS SANTA BARBARA HARBOR

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) representatives visited Santa Barbara on February 22nd and February 23rd to explain their loan program and help fishermen affected by the recent rock-crab closure fill out loan applications. In all, 15 fishermen spoke with SBA representatives and five filled out applications.

Meanwhile, the state still awaits word from the Department of Commerce regarding its request to have a fishery disaster proclaimed for the rock-crab fishery and the Dungeness crab fishery to our north, both deeply impacted by closures stemming from high levels of domoic acid, a neurotoxin associated with algae blooms.

Finally, on the fishing grounds, the coastal rock-crab fishery remains open, but the island fishery remains closed due to continued tests for domoic acid that exceed permissible limits.

WET WEDNESDAYS BEGIN MARCH 16TH

Following the Yacht Club's opening-day ceremonies on Sunday, March 6th, complete with a very wild and windy regatta, Wet Wednesday races began March 16th. A Yacht Club staple and harbinger of the upcoming boating season, Wet Wednesday races will run through October 19th. 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, the Yacht Club hosts an "after party" barbeque open to all racers and their guests. For more information, contact the Santa Barbara Yacht Club at (805) 965-8112 or visit their website at www.sbyc.org.

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP MAY 7TH

The tenth annual Operation Clean Sweep, a volunteer seafloor cleanup program, will take place on Saturday, May 7th. This year's effort kicks off a second "circumnavigation" of the harbor, the first of which concluded at the east end of Marina One last spring, with the total weight of debris removed over nine years exceeding sixteen tons. On May 7th we'll return to the project's place of origin in Marina 4, where logic suggests the "haul" will be less. But we'll see. . .

Typically, Clean Sweep draws 40-50 volunteer dock workers, aided by about a dozen divers from harbor-area dive-service companies. It's a fun and productive "fishing trip" that yields surprises ranging from barbeques and bow pulpits to deck chairs, satellite dishes, cell phones and more. Plus, volunteers enjoy free donuts and coffee in the morning and a free lunch at 11:00, a.m. when the cleanup is finished.

Persons wishing to participate in this year's event and help celebrate a decade of environmental success, please contact Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager, at (805) 897-2587 or via email at MKronman@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

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