

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT  
DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** January 14, 2016  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** Harbor Operations Report

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**SPECTACULAR PARADE OF LIGHTS**

On a calm, clear night, 27 boats decorated to the theme of “A Red, White and Blue Holiday” for the 30th annual Parade of Lights on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Santa’s Village on the City Pier, a VIP judging party on Stearns Wharf, a spectacular fireworks display and an awards party at the Veterans Hall, where veterans (many in uniform) joined boaters to honor the nation’s servicemen and women, made this year’s event one of the best ever.

First-place winners included Roger & Sara Chrismans’ *Polaris* (power), Bernard Friedman’s *Perseverance* (commercial fishing), Rachel Williams’ *Channel Cat* (commercial other), Barbara Mullen’s *Sirocco* (sail) and Lisa Foote’s *SUP’s UP* (human powered). The grand prize went to the *Polaris* and crew.

Many thanks to dozens of sponsors, including the Yacht Club, Harbor Merchants Association and Stearns Wharf Business Association, whose contributions fueled generous prize packages for this event.

**MAINLAND ROCK-CRAB FISHERY REOPENS**

After a nearly two-month closure, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife reopened the mainland portion of Santa Barbara County’s rock crab fishery on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The decision came after state officials determined that current levels of neurotoxic domoic acid in the crabs have declined substantially, no longer posing a threat to public health. The news was greeted with relief by the 15 or so fishermen in Santa Barbara Harbor who participate in the rock-crab fishery, earning \$2 million per for their efforts.

Meanwhile, however, the closure remains in effect in state waters around Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa and San Miguel islands, due to continued elevated levels of domoic acid in sampled crabs.

Staff will continue update the Commission on this issue as events warrant.

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager