

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 19, 2016
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Harbor Operations Report**

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP RECAP

The tenth annual Operation Clean Sweep, a volunteer seafloor cleanup program, took place on Saturday, May 7th. Sixteen divers and 40+ dock volunteers (the highest turnout yet) removed 1.5 tons of debris from beneath Marina 4 docks, where Clean Sweep originated a decade ago, when two tons were removed. This brings the total weight of debris removed from the harbor seafloor over 10 annual events to 17.7 tons.

Items removed included bicycles, trash cans, dock carts, crab receivers, step ladders, tarps, a fiberglass skiff, three toilets and one marine battery.

Staff wishes to thank the volunteer corps for their spirited efforts in this event, including folks who show up every year and newcomers who joined the effort. Dive companies like Salty Dog Dive Service, Monterey Diving and Scrub-a-Dub Dive Service were again instrumental in locating seafloor debris. Dockside, volunteers from NOAA, Santa Barbara Surfrider Foundation, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, the Maritime Museum, plus local citizens and businesses contributed time and energy to the effort.

Next year the event heads back to Marina 3, where two tons of junk were removed last time around.

ISLAND ROCK CRAB FISHERY OPENED — SORT OF

State health officials have opened most areas of the northern Channel Islands to rock-crab harvests, after determining the crab no longer contain high levels of domoic acid and no longer pose a significant human health risk.

There is, however, a caveat. Areas between the east end of Santa Rosa Island and west end of Santa Cruz Island, which produce a significant portion of crabs landed in Santa Barbara, remain closed. Tests on crabs in those areas continue to show elevated levels of domoic acid. Meanwhile, all coastal regions in the Santa Barbara area remain open to the recreational and commercial take of rock crab.

Meanwhile, on April 28th, the state legislature's Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture convened a hearing on "Crab Season and Domoic Acid: Lessons Learned," during which protocols for testing crab, communications with fishermen and the status of federal disaster-relief legislation were discussed. The Committee plans to meet again in August, with the expectation that firm plans and protocols will be established by then.

At this writing, federal legislation that proposes \$138M in aid for fishermen and businesses harmed by the Dungeness crab and rock crab closures over the past several months, remains under consideration by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

May 21-27 is National Safe Boating Week, a good time to review and incorporate these boating-safety tips into your waterborne activities.

- **Wear a life jacket** no matter what activity you have planned – sailing, fishing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, etc.
 - ✓ Make sure your life jacket is U.S. Coast Guard-approved and appropriate for your favorite boating activities.
 - ✓ Take time to ensure a proper fit. Life jackets meant for adults do not work for children.
 - ✓ Children under 13 years old must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times (unless they are below decks or in an enclosed cabin).
- **Don't drink while boating.** Alcohol use is a major contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.
- **Know your state's boating laws before going out on the water.** Rules and laws can differ from state to state and violations can result in tickets, fines or jail.
- **Make sure you and your boat are prepared.** Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron (805) 570-2991 and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (info@cgauxsb.org) offer free vessel safety checks and boating-safety classes.
- **Check the weather.** Know the latest marine weather forecast and monitor changing conditions.
- **File a “float plan” with a relative or friend.** Let them know where you're headed and how long you'll be gone. If you don't communicate your safe return, they should contact the local boating authority or USCG. Communication devices can be the most important piece of emergency equipment on board, especially in case of emergency. VHF radios, cell phones, satellite phones, emergency position indicating radio beacons and personal locator beacons can all contribute to your safety.

To learn more about safe boating contact Harbor Patrol at (805) 564-5530, or visit www.safeboatingcampaign.com