

## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 19, 2017  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** **Harbor Operations Report**

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#### PARADE OF LIGHTS RECAP

Decorated to the theme of "Wild West Holiday," 30 boats threaded their way through patchy fog on December 11th, creating an eerie and gorgeous 31<sup>st</sup> annual Parade of Lights. As the final boat passed a judging stand at the Conway Deep Sea Wine Tasting Room on Stearns Wharf, Mayor Helene Schneider lit a 25' Christmas tree on the Wharf's shoreward finger. A five-minute fireworks show followed, casting a gauzy glow over the foggy harbor and thousands of spectators lining the breakwater and Wharf.

Bookends to the parade included a Santa's Village event at 3 pm, where over 400 children and families visited Santa and played amid 10 tons of fresh snow on the City Pier, and a rollicking awards party at the Maritime Museum, complete with buffet food provided by Chuck's Waterfront Grill.

This year's first-place award winners included:

Commercial Fishing: *Perseverance*;  
Commercial Other: *Channel Cat*;  
Power: *Arboleda*;  
Sail: *Could Be Trouble*; and  
Human Powered: *Peddle Boat Casino*

*Perseverance* earned Grand Prize honors, taking a gift pack that included \$500 cash.

This year's event was sponsored by the 2016 Parade of Lights Committee, City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department, Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants Association, Stearns Wharf Business Association and Santa Barbara Yacht Club. Considering the fun of this event *and* the rich prize packages, it's not too early to circle your calendar for next year's Parade of Lights on Sunday, December 10, 2017.

#### FISHERMEN'S LISTSERV

Commercial Fishermen work in a unique industry. Plus, they have specialized needs for specialized information, such as dissolved-oxygen levels in the harbor, breaking fisheries news or dates when the ice machine will be out of service for repairs.

To meet these needs, the Waterfront Department has for some time maintained a Fishermen's Listserv—a list of emails it uses to send an information “blast” when necessary. Lately, however, it seems the list has grown a bit stale. Each time information is disseminated, messages to several intended recipients come back as “undeliverable.” So, it's time to update the Listserv.

If you are commercial fishermen in Santa Barbara and wish to receive timely notices about programs, projects or news affecting your operations, especially locally, please consider joining the Fishermen's Listserv. Just email Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager, at [MKronman@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:MKronman@SantaBarbaraCA.gov) and you'll be added to the list.

## **SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR FISHERMEN**

Attention commercial fishermen: Need safety equipment? Need your life raft repacked, a new EPIRB or EPIRB batteries, new flares or an immersion suit?

Santa Barbara County can help.

A Fisheries Enhancement Fund (FEF), established years ago and funded by oil companies operating offshore Santa Barbara, has already been used to construct our ice machine, fish hoist #2 and interpretive plaques along the breakwater sidewalk. Limited funds remain available for safety equipment, with reimbursements up to \$500 each provided to qualifying fishermen on a first-come, first served basis.

For FEF program information and safety-equipment reimbursement applications, contact Kathy Pfeifer at the County's Energy Division (805-568-2507). Application forms are also available at the Harbormaster's Office.

## **CAR DRIVES OFF STEARNS WHARF**

At about 1:50 p.m. on December 31<sup>st</sup>, the driver of a rented 2016 Volkswagen Passat accidentally jumped a car-stop and drove off the east side of Stearns Wharf just north of the Passenger Loading Ramp. The car sank in a depth of about 12'. Luckily, the victim, who said he accidentally pressed slightly on the car's accelerator, was able to claw his way past a deployed air bag and quickly free himself from the vehicle. He then swam about 10 feet to a nearby ladder and climbed to safety on the Wharf. Except for a few cuts and bruises, he was essentially uninjured.

Harbor Patrol arrived on scene by boat two minutes after the incident and deployed 500' of absorbent boom around the area where the car sank, containing a small amount of gasoline that had leaked from the vehicle.

On Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Smitty's Towing, hired by the driver's insurance company, deployed a crane truck on the Wharf, which, with assistance from company divers, lifted the car onto the Wharf, where it was ultimately placed on a flatbed truck and taken

away. The operation went smoothly and did not damage the Wharf.

To the best of staff's knowledge, this may be the first time somebody drove a vehicle off Stearns Wharf.

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager