

## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** October 21, 2021  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** **Harbor Operations Report**

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#### **LOBSTER SEASON IN FULL SWING**

The opening of the commercial lobster season runs from Wednesday, October 6, 2021 through March 16, 2022. The Waterfront Department has, for years, allowed lobster fishermen the privilege and courtesy of staging traps in the Launch Ramp Parking Lot prior to the opening of lobster season. This year was no exception. The fishermen have found this to be a valuable accommodation provided by the Waterfront Department. Approximately 30 commercial lobster fishermen take advantage of the designated lobster trap staging areas.

This particular fishery has undergone added regulatory guidelines resulting in a reduced number of traps allowed to be set by individual commercial fishermen. Reducing the number of traps from what was once an unlimited number to 300 traps, is more manageable for fishermen and may be a potential benefit to local stocks. Lobster fishermen had a very productive and lucrative season last year and we anticipate another successful year for this fishery.

Recreational lobster season opened at 6:00 a.m. on the Saturday preceding the first Wednesday in October (October 2<sup>nd</sup>) and closes at 12:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday after the 15<sup>th</sup> of March of 2021 (March 16<sup>th</sup>).

#### **SURRENDERED AND ABANDONED VESSEL EXCHANGE (SAVE) GRANT AWARD**

The Waterfront Department submitted a grant application to the State Parks Department, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), for the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) program in March of 2021. After several months reviewing the applications, the DBW awarded a grant to the City of Santa Barbara's Waterfront Department in the amount of \$64,000 in late September.

The SAVE program allows local public agencies to accept and dispose of derelict or abandoned vessels, or vessels likely to become abandoned that are voluntarily surrendered to the City, for disposal. The funds are used to reimburse the City of Santa Barbara 90% of the cost of disposing vessels acquired under this program.

### **35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PARADE OF LIGHTS**

Every year in mid-December, the Waterfront Department hosts a number of family friendly events in order to bring people down to the Waterfront area to enjoy the holiday season together. This year's holiday events will be slightly modified. Barring foul weather or an uptick in COVID-19 infections, staff is working on the return of the boat parade, snowfield on the City Pier, and fireworks. Staff will continue to monitor current State and County COVID guidelines. For reference, all Waterfront events are posted online at [www.santabarbaraca.gov/waterfront](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/waterfront)

Prepared by: Erik Engebretson, Harbor Operations Manager