



Docklines

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT Winter 2022



Local Fishers Tops in State for Dockside Seafood Sales

While the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted many sectors of the economy, Santa Barbara's fishing industry is bucking the trend. Santa Barbara's small-boat fishing fleet captured the number one ranking among California's ports for the value of the seafood hauled in for 2020.

"Capitalizing on remarkable species diversity, sustainable fishing practices and skyrocketing demand for Santa Barbara Channel seafood, our port reported \$11,400,000 in total sales", said Chris Voss, President of the industry based nonprofit, the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB). In fact, Santa Barbara's Fishermen hauled in more of 19 commercial species than any other harbor in California.

SPECIES	POUNDS	VALUE
California Spiny Lobster	262,634	\$4,909,680
Rock Crab	637,932	\$1,213,509
Red Sea Urchin	569,854	\$1,550,916
Sablefish	294,494	\$753,144
Shortspine Thornyhead	56,474	\$490,656
Giant Red Sea Cucumber	19,595	\$97,711

The numbers coming from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) also point to a trend of rising local sales. CDFW documented a 60% increase in seafood purchased by locally-registered dockside buyers in 2020, a result of hobbled export markets combined with the rise of emerging local seafood entities like Farmers Markets, home delivery, and restaurant sales. For decades, around 85% of Santa Barbara's seafood was destined for somewhere else. Recently, that percentage began dropping sharply and by 2021, 50% of seafood from our harbor was purchased by Santa Barbara-based entities, including individual fishers selling their catch to the public and to restaurants.

Being home to one of the most productive commercial fishing fleets in California, Santa Barbara's Waterfront Department has long supported the industry by maintaining critical infrastructure like fish hoists and the Ice House. For decades, the Ice House has provided inexpensive ice to the local seafood industry's supply chain, making it a pivotal piece of our port's working waterfront.

And while the industry is doing well, according to the fishermen the future is looking even brighter. Kim Selkoe PhD, CFSB's Executive Director noted, "Many of our most desirable fish stocks, like rockfish and lobster, are booming. We forecast that the economic impacts of our local industry may double or triple in the next decade."



Crabs get sorted on City Pier



Stearns Wharf to Celebrate 150th Birthday

by Chris Bell, Waterfront Public Information Officer

Stearns Wharf is more than a nice place to watch boats or fish, it's a structure that

changed the face of Santa Barbara-literally. 150 years ago, Santa Barbara, being surrounded by mountains, was an isolated pueblo. There were no roads into town, there was no railroad. When John Peck Stearns built the wharf in 1872 he not only opened the door to large-scale commerce and trade; he introduced Santa Barbara to the rest of the world.

Since that time, Stearns Wharf has evolved along with the city. It was a vital conduit for a growing fishing fleet. It was the birthplace of commercial diving. It served as a focal point to bring the community together.

Over the years, Stearns Wharf has been battered by storms, scorched by fires, even damaged by a water spout, but through it all, it has persevered because it offers something no other place in town can-perspective.

In honor of this iconic structure's 150th anniversary, Stearns Wharf merchants will hold Wharf Wednesdays on the first Wednesday of each month. There will be anniversary specials, a bit of history and lots of fun, family-friendly activities. The

commemoration will culminate with a special celebration, complete with fireworks, in October.



Stearns Wharf Fun Facts:

- Before the wharf was built, lumber was thrown overboard and the buyers had to pick up their share off of the beach.
- Up until the wharf was built, buildings in town were almost exclusively made from brick and adobe.
- For a brief while, Stearns tried using Eucalyptus instead of Douglas Fir for pile replacement. The trial failed miserably.
- The wharf has had three major fires, been damaged by boats and even lost a 100-foot section to a water spout.

Stearns Wharf is 2,300 feet long and has an area of 3.8 acres and is supported by 2,307 piles.



Mandatory Boater Education Requirements

by Erik Engebretson, Harbor Operations Manager

As a reminder, beginning on January 1, 2022, recreational powerboat operators who are age 45 years and younger are required to carry a California Boater Card. The California Boater Card requirement will be phased in over the next several years based on operator age.

By January 2025, everyone operating a recreational vessel will be required to carry a California Boater Card while operating a mechanically driven vessel. The California



Boater Card shows that its holder has successfully passed a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approved boater safety education examination.

NASBLA approved boating education and safety courses are available online at www.CaliforniaBoaterCard.com.

See below for the scheduled implementation:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Operator Age</u>
January 1, 2018	Persons 20 years of age or younger
January 1, 2019	Persons 25 years of age or younger
January 1, 2020	Persons 35 years of age or younger
January 1, 2021	Persons 40 years of age or younger
January 1, 2022	Persons 45 years of age or younger
January 1, 2023	Persons 50 years of age or younger
January 1, 2024	Persons 60 years of age or younger
January 1, 2025	All persons regardless of age



Storm-Proof Your Boat

Santa Barbara winters are typically mild but it doesn't take much wind or rain to cause major problems, including damaging or sinking an unattended boat. Here are some things to consider...

- Early Warning: Monitor weather reports. Visit your boat before the next storm. If you can't check your boat, find a responsible person who can.
- Dock lines: Visually inspect for chafe, wear and trip hazards (please don't run mooring lines across fingers). Tie lines securely to cleats or pilings; consider chafing gear and doubling-up lines.
- Dock obstructions: Don't store skiffs or other items on the dock.
- Bilge check: Test your bilge pump to ensure that 1) it's working; 2) float switches properly activate the pumps; and 3) float switches aren't hindered by debris. Be sure limber holes aren't blocked. Close seacocks and check propeller and rudder shafts.
- Fenders: Have an adequate number of appropriate-sized fenders.
- Sails, rigging, tarps, loose gear on deck: Store or tightly secure.
- Hatches, ports and windows: Close and secure.
- Consider: Removing valuables and electronics, installing a dehumidifier or moisture absorber, propping up cushions and opening the boat during periods of fair weather to circulate air.

For assistance or to report problems contact Harbor Patrol at 564-5530 or on VHF channels 12 or 16.



Business Activity Permits and Six-Pack Charters

The Santa Barbara Municipal Code requires that anyone providing a business service in the Santa Barbara Harbor must **first** obtain a permit from the Waterfront Department. The permits are called Business Activity Permits (BAPs).

One important goal of the BAP program is to ensure the safety of slip permittees by requiring vendors performing work in the marinas have the proper liability insurance and a City Business License. BAP holders receive an identification card and are educated regarding “**Clean Boating Guide**” principles to ensure that the best

practices are adhered to in order to avoid polluting the Harbor waters and to follow water conservation efforts.

A current list of all Business Activity permittees qualified to work in the marinas is available online [here](#) or at the Waterfront Department office front desk.

Please contact Patrick Henry, Senior Property Management Specialist, at (805) 897-1961 for additional information and to obtain a Business Activity Permit (BAP) application.



Meet with Mike

Want to get the scoop on what's going on at the Waterfront? Have something you'd like to share about the operation? Waterfront Director Mike Wiltshire has an open office hour every Wednesday from noon to 1pm. Call 564-5519 or email arodriguez@santabarbaraca.gov to schedule a time.



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