
❖ TIDE LINES ❖

The Newsletter of the City of Monterey Waterfront

October 2003

Sea Lion Update.. Congressional Subcommittee Hearing Held

Most boaters are painfully aware that the California Sea Lions that began to arrive in mid-May have still not left Monterey Harbor. They may have charmed tourists, but they presented mostly problems for boaters and your harbor staff.

The main problems have been the sea lions boarding and trashing vessels, followed by the sinking of numerous dinghy's, fouling of our docks, and the horrible odor problems associated with the animals that stay along the rocky banks. Boats moored in the outer harbor have been under near constant attack. Many boaters have been quick to respond by putting up anti-sea lion fencing and other devices on their boats, even moving them into the marina at times. Other boaters have not been so active. A few boats have seen 15-20 sea lions board them every day. Frustrations have run very high on this issue with some boaters calling for even more drastic action from your harbor crew.

If you don't know, you should be aware that we have expended a huge effort in trying to keep these animals off boats and docks and minimize their impact. In addition to the efforts of our permanent crew we have hired additional part-time workers. This duty is no fun and your harbor crew has been on the front line of this problem for four months now. In addition to trying to keep the animals off boats, we have unpleasant duties like pressure



washing the fouled dock and launch ramp areas, and removing up to ten dead sea lions a day from the water and rocky areas.

Boaters should also be aware that the Marine Mammal Protection Act, a federal law, is currently up for reauthorization by Congress. The House Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans has been holding hearings on the status of currently protected marine mammals. A hearing was held in August in San Diego. Public Facilities Director Carl Anderson was invited to speak and documented, through vivid photographs, the extent of the problem in Monterey. He concluded with a call for the Federal Government to look to science to conclude whether or not these animals are over-populated and, if so, what humane means might be used to bring their population under control.

The existing Marine Mammal Protection Act does allow your harbor staff, and individual boaters a limited ability to harass these animals to protect your safety or your

property. However, the broader question of their growing population in reference to food supply and haul-out space is one which scientists and federal regulators must now grapple.

Carl's testimony is available for review on the Harbor website at www.monterey.org/harbor. ❖

New Rules For Fishing Off Wharf II

For the last couple of falls when the salmon are present off of Wharf 2, there has been a frenzy of people casting overhead and standing on the railing trying to catch or snag one of these fish. Overhead casting and the jerking motion associated with trying to snag the fish, all while standing on the railing, presents dangers to anyone walking or driving behind these activities. There have been, in fact, several serious injuries directly related to this, and numerous broken car windows and dented car hoods from sinkers and hooks being cast backward.

Therefore the City Council has made it illegal to stand on the railing while fishing off of Wharf 2., as well as making it illegal to overhead cast. If boaters see this activity occurring please don't hesitate call our office or the Monterey Police directly. ❖

How to Contact Us

Harbor Office Hours:
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily

Phone Number:
(831) 646-3950

After Hour Emergencies:
594-7760

Coast Guard - Monterey
(831) 647-7303

E-mail:
scheibla@ci.monterey.ca.us

Internet:
www.monterey.org/harbor

Radio Watch:
VHF channels 5 & 16



❖ **City of Monterey** ❖

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Public Facilities Director

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**Mid-Wharf Restroom
To Remain Boaters Only**

*D*uring the late spring the Monterey City Council heard testimony from some local citizens concerned that the mid-wharf restroom located off of A-gate was closed to the general public. This was viewed as an inconvenience to citizens wishing to fish or walk on Wharf 2. At the same time the City Council was aware, and became even more aware through the efforts of boaters, that there are a large number of issues associated with opening the restroom up to everyone. Vandalism, fish cleaning in the sinks and incursions by the homeless are among the known consequences of opening the restrooms to the general public.

After deliberating on the subject for two City Council meetings, the City Council voted decisively to leave this restroom closed to the general public and be available to boaters and guests only. At the same time there was concern about the quality of other restrooms in the area. Special attention is being placed on the renovation of the beach restroom as well as other restrooms in the area of Pirates Cove and the new Window on the Bay park. ❖



LeeRoy Returns to Idaho

*I*t is with sorrow and disappointment that we announce that LeeRoy Perry, who served as our Waterfront Maintenance Supervisor for the past year has left our employment to return to his native Idaho. Let us assure you that this occurred not through any unhappiness on LeeRoy's part regarding his employment in Monterey, but rather because significant opportunities were made available to him in Idaho that only a crazy person would ignore.

Those who know LeeRoy realize that he is an extraordinarily talented Maintenance Supervisor, a real problem solver, and hard worker. We will miss him.

We are in the process of recruiting for a replacement. Look for an announcement of a new hire in the near future. ❖

**Post Boxes Available
For Liveaboards**

*Y*ou may have noticed a new 16 space mail delivery box along side the Harbor Office. We are renting these spaces for \$30 for six months or \$50 for one year. The hitch is, we are only allowing liveaboards to receive mail at the Harbor Office.

If you are interested, please inquire with Jennifer at the Harbor Office for more information. ❖

Colombian Tall Ship “Gloria” To Visit

A 250-foot Colombian Naval training vessel, the “Gloria”, will visit Monterey Harbor October 1st through October 3rd. The “Gloria” is the sister ship to the Ecuadorian Tall Ship the “Guayas” which has visited twice, most recently in June 2002. The “Gloria” will be tied along side Wharf 2. The Captain and crew will participate in numerous activities while in Monterey, including a parade from the ship down Alvarado Street to the Custom House Plaza on October 1st at 10:30 a.m. The ship will be open for public tours on October 1st and 2nd from 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM and October 3rd, from 9:00 am to 12 Noon. There is no admission charge. The Ship is scheduled to leave at 3:00 PM on Friday, October 3rd

Due to the extreme parking and traffic problems which occurred during the “Guayas” visit, you should plan on parking in the waterfront lot, not on Wharf 2, if you want to visit the “Gloria”. ❖



Monterey Beer Festival “Brew with a View”

On Sunday, October 26th the Monterey Beer Festival will be held for the first time at Monterey Bay Boat Works. The festival will offer taste samples from over thirty micro-breweries, from some of America’s best-loved national brands, and the best the international beer community has to offer.

Admission to the festival is \$20 and includes unlimited sampling of beers, plus a souvenir Monterey Beer Festival tasting glass.

A percentage of the proceeds will benefit the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries as well as the Monterey Commercial Fishermen’s Association. Both these outstanding organizations were established to provide an organized voice for recreational and commercial fishermen.

There will be all types of wonderful food, live music, interesting merchandise, fresh air, games raffles, great views and fun, fun, fun.

The festival is from noon to 5pm at Monterey Boat Works. Owner Mike Maiorana was instrumental in bringing the Monterey Beer Festival to the boatyard and was the driving force behind the partnership of the “Festival” and the fishermen’s organizations.

The Festival is accepting a limited number of corporate sponsorships of varying levels to help defray the expenses incurred in a festival of this size. They are expecting approximately 2500-3000

attendees.

If you or your organization feels it would benefit from an association with the Monterey Beer Festival, please contact Ray Napolitano, 831-648-8566, raynap@sbcglobal.net or Jeff Moses, 831-915-4059, hookielo@yahoo.com for further information. ❖

Marina Dredging

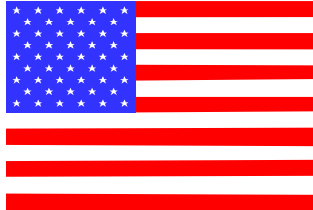
Being well aware that there are some shallow spots in the harbor, your harbor staff has been working on all the permits and contracts needed to secure a dredging of these shallow areas sometime this winter or early spring.

The permitting for such a project is a highly complex matter with some 22 local, state, and federal agencies involved. If all goes smooth, and our dredge material is free from pollutants, it is our plan to pump it in the upper areas of Del Monte Beach sometime between November and April. If we not get all the necessary approvals to conduct the project this winter, it will happen the following winter. We only have limited windows of time when we can dispose of the material during the off season because of agency permit requirements.

Once the dredging operation starts, please play close attention to the gate notices, which will instruct boaters on passing the dredge or other obstacles associated with the project. It is anticipated that once we get going the project should not last longer than about three weeks. ❖

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