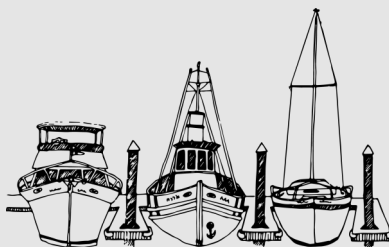


SANTA CRUZ PORT DISTRICT
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PORT COMMISSIONERS
Toby Goddard
Reed Geisreiter
Steve Reed
Bill Lee
Robert DeWitt

HARBOR NEWS

SANTA CRUZ SMALL CRAFT HARBOR

SEPTEMBER 2026

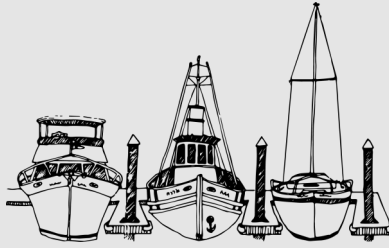


DREDGE HAULOUT PROJECT UPDATE

The Santa Cruz Port District's dredge, *Twin Lakes*, was successfully hauled out at the launch ramp on July 7 and 8, marking an important maintenance milestone for the District's dredging program.

Since the haulout, crews from DSC Dredge have completed sandblasting of the hull and work is now underway on the bottom paint, followed by reassembly of the dredge and preparation for relaunch.

The project is expected to continue through September, with the dredge anticipated to return to the water following completion of the maintenance work. This major maintenance project will help support the continued operation of the District's dredging program and safe navigation within Santa Cruz Harbor and the federal navigation channel.



APPOINTMENT IN LIEU OF ELECTION

Commissioners Reed Geisreiter and Toby Goddard were the sole candidates to file for their respective Port Commission seats during the recent candidate filing period. As a result, both Commissioners have been appointed in lieu of election and will continue serving on the Santa Cruz Port Commission. No election for these two seats will be held in November.



PORT COMMISSION MEETINGS

Regular monthly Commission meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. Items for the agenda must be submitted to the Port District by the Tuesday prior to the meeting date of each month.

Please join us in person or virtually! For more information visit our [website](#).

REGULAR PUBLIC MEETINGS:

September 22, 2026, 5:30 PM

October 27, 2026, 5:30 PM

November 24, 2026, 5:30 PM

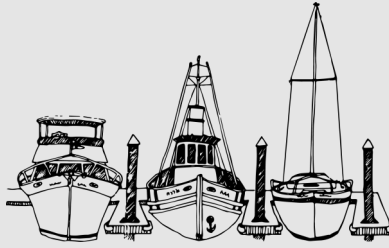


EXPIRED MARINE FLARE TURN-IN EVENT

The Santa Cruz Port District is pleased to announce another free Expired Marine Flare Turn-In Event on Sunday, October 25, 2026.

Following the success of last year's event, which collected more than 1,700 expired marine flares from local boaters and residents, the Port District is again partnering with the Santa Cruz County Household Hazardous Waste Program to provide a safe and responsible way to dispose of expired marine flares.

Additional details, including event hours, registration information, and what to bring, will be announced as they become available. Stay tuned for more information!



PARKMOBILE NOW AVAILABLE AT SANTA CRUZ HARBOR

ParkMobile is being introduced throughout Santa Cruz Harbor, providing visitors with a convenient way to pay for parking and launching using their smartphones. Most ParkMobile signs are now installed, with the rollout continuing in applicable parking areas.

Traditional pay stations will remain available for those who prefer that option. Please note that the Concession Parking Lot will not be transitioned to ParkMobile and will continue operating under its existing structure.

For more information, visit the Port District's [parking webpage](#) or contact the Harbor Office at (831) 475-6161.



HARBOR WATER TAXI

The free inner-harbor water taxi typically operates on summer weekends and holidays. In addition to weekend service, the water taxi operates on Thursday evenings during the Crow's Nest beach barbecues.

As a result of the Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit and Barrier Replacement Project, water taxi service will continue to operate on an extended schedule through October to provide an additional transportation option for harbor visitors.

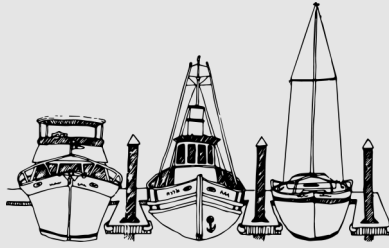
The water taxi service calendar on the Port District's website will be updated on a month-to-month basis to reflect extended hours and special event service as they are confirmed.

Passengers may be picked up and dropped off at the following locations:

- X-1 Gate
- AA Dock
- Launch Ramp

[Click here](#) to view the water taxi service calendar and map for all water taxi pick-up and drop-off locations in the harbor.



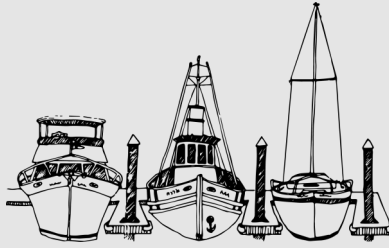


PROJECT CORNER

The Port District continues to make significant progress on multiple projects this year, enhancing harbor infrastructure, safety, and operations:

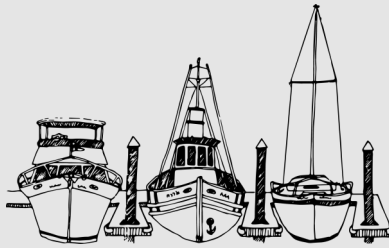


Project	Status	Description
Redecking East Side Public Pier	Completed (\$165,000)	Replaced 5,700 sq. ft. of decking to improve walking surface.
Launch Ramp Sinkhole Repair (Phase 1)	Completed (\$976,390)	Stabilization of sinkhole, reconstruction of approach apron, asphalt paving, and utility restoration completed.
Fuel System Upgrades	Completed (\$73,810)	Upgraded fuel dock equipment, including replacement of fuel monitoring alarm system.
Harbor Security Upgrades	Completed (\$12,000)	Additional cameras and hardware completed.
Walton Lighthouse Painting Project	Completed (\$15,195)	Exterior paint completed.
Building Improvements - 2222 East Cliff Drive	Completed (\$14,030)	Interior paint and flooring improvements completed.
Building Improvements - 345 Lake Avenue	Completed (\$13,558)	Exterior repairs and paint completed.



Project	Status	Description
Metal Roof Coating - 555 Brommer St. Ext.	Completed (\$30,000)	Roof repairs, skylights replaced, and recoating completed.
Harbor Beach Refuse Improvements	Completed (\$12,127)	Replaced 10 waste receptacles at Harbor Beach.
Dredge Haulout Project	In Progress (\$950,000)	Haulout dredge, <i>Twin Lakes</i> , for it's 10-year maintenance service.
G & X Dock Replacement	In Progress (\$11.6 million)	Repairs to storm damaged docks in north harbor are underway.
G-Dock Lift Station Repair Project	Fall 2026 (\$91,000)	Rehabilitate the G-Dock sanitary sewer lift station.
Parking Upgrades	Fall 2026 (\$75,000)	Replace parking access revenue control system in concession parking lot.
Building Improvements - 365 Lake Avenue	Fall 2026 (\$20,000)	Exterior repairs and paint.
Pavement Repairs	Fall 2026 (\$350,000)	Launch ramp parking lot paving and striping.





MURRAY STREET BRIDGE PROJECT UPDATE

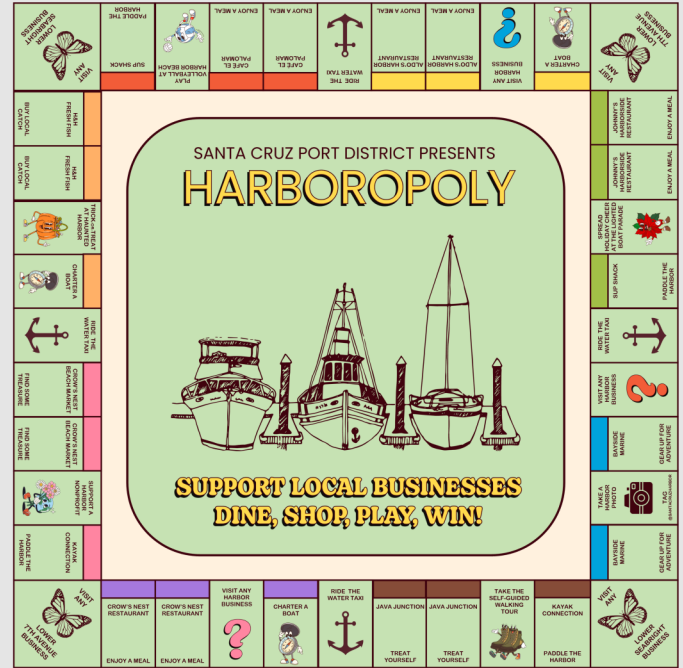
Construction on the Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit and Barrier Replacement Project is progressing, with the bridge fully closed to vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians through September 2026. Crews are currently focused on pile driving and construction of new bridge supports on the south side of the bridge, along with relocation of the sanitary sewer force main.

The overall project remains on schedule for completion in January 2028. Additional full closures of the bridge are currently anticipated for one week in February 2027, and two weeks in December 2027.

For more information on the City's project, please visit the [City's Public Works webpage](#).



Pictured above: The newly relocated sanitary sewer force main, which will replace the existing line beneath the Murray Street Bridge. Photo by @NativeSantaCruz.



HARBOROPOLY RETURNS!

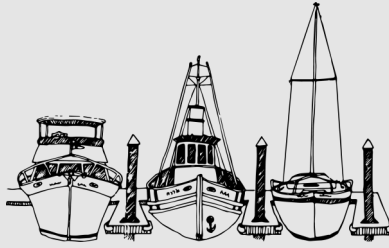
Harboropoly is returning this holiday season, and we're excited to bring back this fun way to explore, shop, dine, and support the businesses that make Santa Cruz Harbor and the surrounding community special.

Starting October 1, pick up your gameboard, visit participating harbor, lower Seabright, and lower 7th Avenue businesses, collect stamps, and enter for a chance to win great prizes!

Last year's game was a hit, and we're ready to set sail for an even better Harboropoly in 2026.

Stay tuned for more details and get ready to play!





FISHING LINE RECYCLING STATIONS

Fishing line that is improperly disposed of or abandoned in the environment can lead to numerous issues. The line not only has the potential to cause damage to vessels but also to entangle and endanger wildlife. Even when the line is disposed of in trash bins, it still goes to a landfill, creating the same hazards for wildlife.

Since the line is NOT biodegradable, it remains in the environment for years. To address these issues, fishing line recycling containers are available to boaters and anglers throughout the harbor to properly discard their used line.

Santa Cruz Harbor is proud to participate in the California Fishing Line Recycling Program. We encourage our boating and fishing community to use the recycling stations located at:

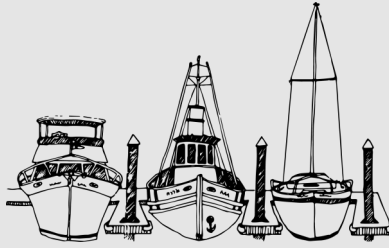
- Launch Ramp
- Boat Wash Area
- V-Dock Fish Cleaning Table

To find additional fishing line recycling container locations throughout California, please visit the [California Fishing Line Recycling Program map](#).



DO NOT PLACE TRASH OR OTHER MATERIALS IN FISHING LINE RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Trash and other debris contaminate the fishing line and may prevent it from being recycled. Please dispose of trash in the appropriate trash receptacles.



DAY ON THE BAY REGATTA HELPS LAUNCH NEW DOCK FOR JUNIOR SAILORS

The 34th Annual Day on the Bay Regatta, hosted by the Santa Cruz Yacht Club on August 9, 2026, was a successful day on the water in support of the Santa Cruz Sailing Foundation. The event drew 24 vessel entries and raised approximately \$20,000 to support the construction of a new Small Boat Dock for the Santa Cruz Yacht Club Junior Sailing Program.

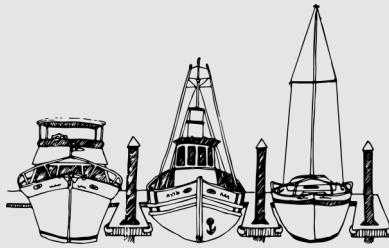
Just one week later, the Junior Sailing Program celebrated the completion of the new dock with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 15. Located at Slip F-19, the new float was designed to provide a dedicated place for young sailors to launch and retrieve their boats, while also reducing congestion at the public hand launch.

The project was completed as a partnership between the Santa Cruz Yacht Club Junior Sailing Program, the Santa Cruz Sailing Foundation, and the Santa Cruz Port District. Harbor maintenance crews constructed and installed the new float system, with funding provided by the Santa Cruz Sailing Foundation.

The Junior Sailing Program serves approximately 350 to 400 young sailors ages 8 to 21 through year-round sailing programs. The new dock will support youth sailing, maritime education, and the next generation of harbor users.

Congratulations to the Junior Sailing Program, the Santa Cruz Sailing Foundation, the Santa Cruz Yacht Club, and everyone who helped bring this project to the water.





O'NEILL SEA ODYSSEY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

O'Neill Sea Odyssey celebrated its 30th anniversary on Friday, August 21, 2026. Founded in 1996 by surf legend Jack O'Neill, OSO has provided hands-on ocean education to nearly 135,000 students.

The celebration honored three decades of connecting students with the Monterey Bay and advancing ocean education. OSO also announced its Transportation for Ocean Stewards Fund, which will help address rising transportation costs that can prevent low-income schools from participating.

Help get students to the ocean. Donations to the fund help cover school transportation costs, making it possible for more students to participate in OSO's hands-on ocean education programs.

Visit the [O'Neill Sea Odyssey website](#) to learn more or make a donation.



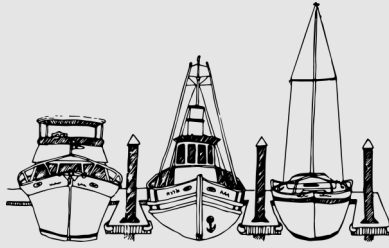
U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BOATING SAFETY CLASSES

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a boating safety course on Boating Skills and Seamanship, which meets the education requirement for a California Boater Card. As of January 1, 2025, the card is required for all operators regardless of age.

Registration for these classes will take place on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Santa Cruz Harbor Public Meeting Room.

For more information on course offerings, email boatingclasssantacruz@yahoo.com.





NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Santa Cruz Port District and Santa Cruz Police Department hosted National Night Out on August 4, 2026, bringing community members together with local first responders for an evening of family fun.

The event was well attended and provided an opportunity for community members to meet the local first responders who help keep our harbor and community safe.

Special congratulations to Deputy Harbormaster Kyle Kingdom for his impressive showing in the hands-free donut-eating contest! We are not sure what the winning strategy was, but Kyle certainly committed to it.

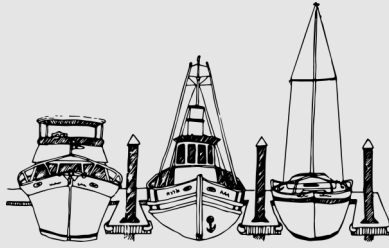


SHERIFF'S YOUTH ACADEMY

Harbor Patrol staff participated in the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Youth Academy on July 20, 2026. The program gives local youth an opportunity to learn about the work of public safety agencies throughout the county.

Students visited Santa Cruz Harbor to learn about the role of Harbor Patrol, boating safety, seamanship, and day-to-day harbor operations. The session provided an opportunity for students to gain a better understanding of the work Harbor Patrol staff perform to help keep the harbor and surrounding coastline safe.





ATTENTION BOATERS: PREPARE YOUR BOAT FOR WINTER

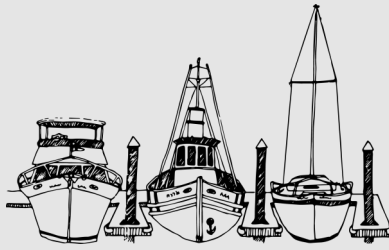
With an El Niño winter expected for 2026-27, boaters should be prepared for periods of stronger storms, heavy rain, larger swells, and challenging conditions on the water. While El Niño does not mean every storm will be severe, it can increase the potential for significant winter weather along the California coast.

A little preparation can help prevent damage to your boat, neighboring vessels, docks, and harbor facilities.

Before winter weather arrives, take a few minutes to inspect and secure your boat:

- Check your dock lines.
- Tie lines securely to cleats; consider chafing gear and doubling-up lines.
- Replace your worn lines.
- Test your bilge pump to ensure that it's working properly and free of debris.
- Be sure limber holes and scupper drains aren't blocked.
- Have an adequate number of appropriate-sized fenders.
- Inspect fenders for damage, wear, or deflation, and replace any that are damaged or no longer provide adequate protection.
- Store or tightly secure all sails, roller furlings, rigging, tarps, loose gear on deck.
- Close and secure hatches, ports, and windows. Make sure they're watertight.
- Make sure appliances like space heaters are not left unattended.
- Clear all clutter and loose items from the dock around your slip. Loose items can be blown or washed into the harbor during storms.
- Update your email address and emergency contact phone numbers with the harbor office.





SEE A SPOUT? WATCH OUT!

As boaters and sailors, we have the unique opportunity to share our sanctuary waters with some extraordinary gentle giants. With that opportunity comes a responsibility to help protect them.

Whale-vessel collisions can threaten the safety of both whales and boaters, but these harmful interactions can be reduced through awareness, knowledge, and responsible boating practices.

See A Spout? Watch Out! is an outreach program designed to help boaters safely navigate waters shared with protected marine species, especially large whales. The free online “[Spout Spotter](#)” course provides information on whale protection laws, safe viewing guidelines, and ways to minimize the risk of harmful interactions.

[CLICK HERE](#) to take this free, 30-minute self-directed training and become a more informed and responsible boater.

