THE CHANGING TIDE
Winter 2015

2015 Dockwalkers Rock

Dockwalker in action in Stanislaus County
Photo: Stanislaus County Dept. of Environmental Resources

The California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program, and The Bay Foundation (Program Partners) would like to express our deep gratitude to all Dockwalker volunteers and organizations that supported the Dockwalker Program this year.

Again this year, the Program Partners worked together with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadron, Save Our Shores, Lake Berryessa Partnership, the City and County of San Francisco, Department of the Environment, The County of San Mateo, Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources, and many more organizations. Partnering with these organizations was essential to the program's great success.

Dockwalkers are trained to provide face-to-face boater education and distribute boater kits with educational information while visiting marinas, boat launch ramps, boat shows and events. Boaters receive a kit after completing a boater survey and pledge. This questionnaire helps to identify gaps in environmental services and improve future education efforts.

Over 150 new volunteers became Dockwalkers this year, participating in one of the 11 trainings conducted in 2015. These dedicated volunteers donated over 1,000 hours, distributing 7,000 boater kits. Working together made this year another success!

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California Vessel Operator Card

Contributing Author: Denise Peterson, California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways

On September 18, 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed Senate Bill 941, authored by Senators Bill Monning (D-Carmel) and Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord), requiring boating safety education for California boat operators. The new law requires the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) to develop a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) -approved boating education program for recreational boaters operating motorized vessels on California waters. In response, DBW has begun the development of the California Vessel Operator Card (CVOC) Program to implement the requirements of SB 941. While many implementation activities are just beginning, DBW will issue CVOC cards to persons who provide proof that they have taken a DBW-approved educational course and passed a subsequent examination, beginning in January 2018.

While the new law went into effect on January 1, 2015, the CVOC requirement begins on January 1, 2018, by age, and will be phased in through January 1, 2025, when all persons, regardless of age, will be required to have a CVOC.

Once issued, a CVOC remains valid for a boat operator's lifetime.

SB 941 also requires DBW to convene a technical advisory group (TAG) to assist the Division with fees and other programmatic advice. The first meeting of the TAG will be in January of 2016. Members of the TAG were appointed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation Director, Lisa Mangat.

DBW will continue to update its website with the latest information on the CVOC Program.

A California Clean Boating Network Publication presented by The Bay Foundation, Division of Boating And Waterways, California Coastal Commission, and the Keep the Delta Clean Program. This publication is partially funded by the Division of Boating And Waterways Clean Vessel Act Education Program and the Federal Clean Vessel Grant Act Program. Funded in part by a grant from CalRecycle.

Destination Series:

Oceanside Harbor *gets a* BILGE PUMPOUT

Protecting the environment we live and recreate in is important. Oceanside Harbor is helping boaters become environmental stewards by bringing them the tools and resources they need.

Join us for the grand opening of Oceanside Harbor's Bilge Pumpout.

Photo: Carrie Baldwin

A new state-of-the-art bilge pumpout facility will open December 11th, after a ribbon cutting ceremony at 1:00 p.m., at Oceanside Harbor's launch ramp. Join us at 1350 N. Pacific Street/ Oceanside, CA 92594 for a tour of the equipment and learn why it is for use on oily bilge water only. The bilge pumpout is connected to an oil-water separator, which directs the oil into drums for proper disposal and the water into the city's sewer system.

The facility is one of only three in Southern California; bilge pumpouts are also located in Santa Barbara and Channel Islands Harbors. This valuable asset will help boaters who previously had no lawful option for the proper disposal of oily bilge water, other than pumping it into containers and bringing it to a certified Household Hazardous Waste collection center. The facility was installed by Oceanside Harbor Department, in partnership with The Bay Foundation and KECO, with funding from CalRecycle.

Oceanside Harbor Department also implements an Absorbent Pad Exchange, located at the Harbor Office. Boaters can bring their oily absorbents for proper recycling and pick up clean absorbents for free. This is one of four new Absorbent Pad Exchange locations in Southern California established in partnership with The Bay Foundation and funded by a grant from CalRecycle.

That's not all; Oceanside Harbor also installed a new sewage pumpout station across from the harbor office. This new station replaced an older, worn sewage pumpout. Funding provided by a grant from California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways Clean Vessel Act.

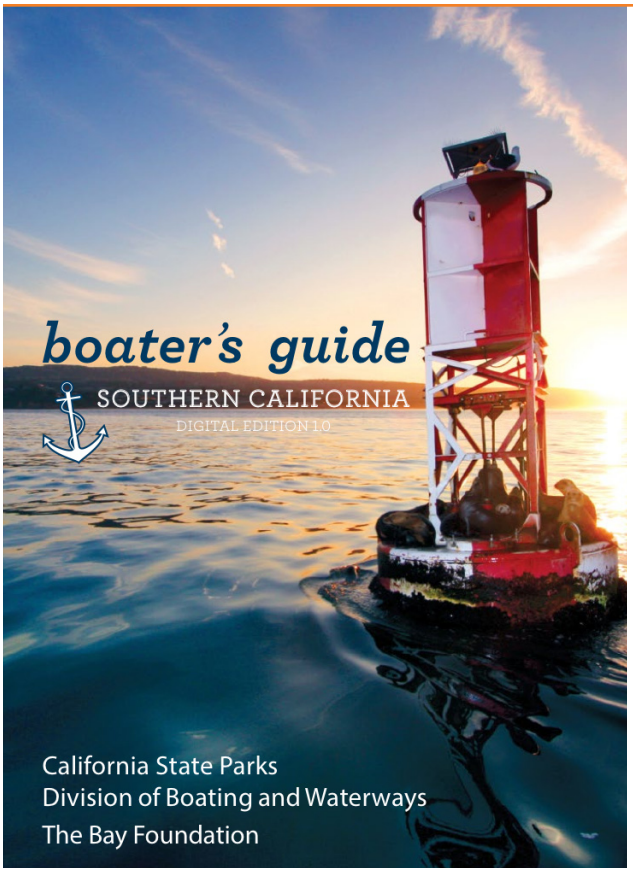
Oceanside's bilge pumpout and oil-water separator use the latest in science and technology and are valued at over $82,000. To report misuse of this equipment, please contact the Harbor Office at (760) 435-4031.

One pint of oil can produce a slick of approximately one acre on the surface of water.

Photo: John Hollenbeck

FREE Boater's Guide App

Planning for a Southern California cruise? Then it's time to download the Boater's Guide App! This interactive eBook allows the user to swipe and explore Southern California harbors, watch helpful videos, enjoy illuminated professional photography, and link directly to useful online resources. The Guide is available for free through iTunes' App Store: "Boater's Guide" App.



The Guide provides comprehensive information about each harbor in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties, including each harbor's unique features, how to get a guest slip, locations of waste disposal and fueling facilities, what to see and do in and around the harbor and much more. It also contains an aerial photograph and an interactive detailed map of each harbor. Further, the Guide has a selection of website addresses with additional information about each harbor.

The Southern California Boater's Guide was created by The Bay Foundation for the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterway's Clean Vessel Education Program.

The Guide is a must-have for boaters cruising along the Southern California coast.

Look for our icon in the app store.

Don't have an iPad?
Download or order a paper copy from The Bay Foundation.

Honey Pot Day 2015

Did you know that a single discharge of untreated sewage from a recreational boater contains 10,000 times more pathogens than treated sewage? That's a tremendous environmental impact on our waterways.

To help improve California's water quality along coastal waterways and marinas, Honey Pot Day was initiated. In 2015, Honey Pot Day granted boaters in Marina Del Rey Harbor, King Harbor, Port of Los Angeles, and Port of Long Beach one free mobile sewage pumpout during the months of April-August. The goals of this program are to encourage boaters to properly dispose of their waste and educate boaters about the environmental impacts if improperly discharged as well as the convenient options locally available for proper disposal.

This year, 74 boaters participated and over 2,832 gallons of sewage were properly disposed. That's enough sewage to fill a small swimming pool. One participant commented, "Thank you for this great program, particularly today- Earth Day! It is well-run, informative, and important to help keep the waterways in SoCal clean."

Look out for Honey Pot Day 2016 kicking off June 1st. For more information, visit the Honey Pot Day website and follow The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation on Facebook and Twitter.

Pumpout complete!
Photo: Victoria Gambale

Honey Pot Day is funded by California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways.

Delta Destination Series:

Visit
Boathouse Marina

Boathouse Marina is located in the heart of Northern California's best farm land, a short 30 minute drive from Downtown Sacramento. You can take the river and country roads and enjoy the beauty as you drive to the marina.

Photos: Boathouse Marina

Boathouse Marina sits at the entrance to the Sacramento Delta, with more fresh water boating available than anywhere else in California. Every slip at the marina has an unobstructed front row view of the Sacramento River. The gated marina has everything you need for a day out on the water: gas, ice, restrooms with showers, and a pump out station.

The marina itself is a historic landmark and is steps away from the Town of Locke, another fabulous historic landmark. One mile south of the marina is Walnut Grove, a wonderful town where you feel as if you've gone back in time.

From the marina within minutes you can access Steamboat Slough, Miner Slough, Sutter Slough, Georgiana Slough, Locke Slough, the Meadows Slough, and the Mokelumne Rivers, North and South. The Sacramento River will take you all the way to the San Francisco Bay if so inclined, with many local river communities along the way, like Isleton and Rio Vista.

The fishing is some of the best in Northern California, with Salmon, Striped Bass, Trophy Sturgeon, and of course Catfish and Crawdads.

The area around the marina has some of the best water conditions for water skiing and wake boarding in the Delta. In the summer as the tide comes in, the sloughs are calm much like swimming in a fresh water lake. We advise that you always have a safety rope in the water, to not swim alone, and to wear life jackets.

Store your boat inside or in a slip. The marina also rents boats, paddle boards, and kayaks. You can rent the Mermaid Cafe for a meeting, birthday, or wedding. There is even a studio for taking family or individual photos.

For more information, please visit their website.

Mercury Advisory for Delta Fish

Eating fish is generally good for your health. Fish have Omega-3s, which can reduce your risk for heart disease and improve how the brain develops in unborn babies and children. However, some fish are contaminated by high levels of mercury and PCBs. Mercury can harm the brain especially in unborn babies and children. PCBs can cause cancer.

To protect the public's health, fish consumption advisories have been issued for the Delta. These advisories provide guidance on the specific types and amounts of Delta fish that can be safely eaten. Some fish that are regularly caught in the Delta, such as striped bass, have high levels of mercury. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has completed revised safe eating guidelines for eating fish from the Delta.

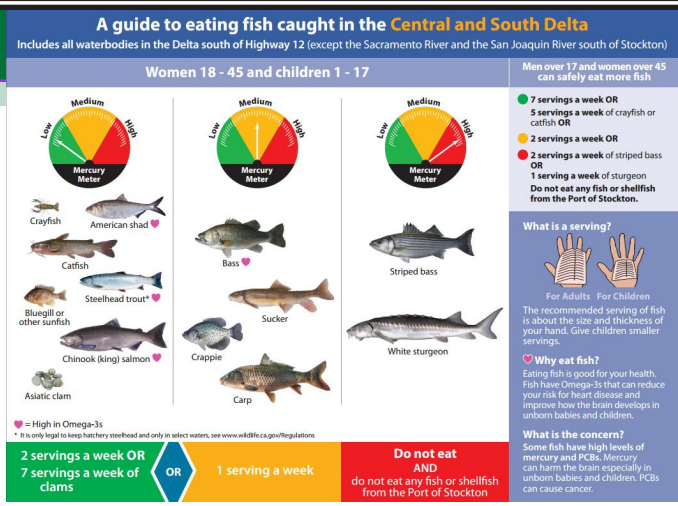


Photo: Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

To download the brochures please visit their website.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Contributing Author: Angela Llaban, California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways.

Management of invasive aquatic plants in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is no easy feat. The Delta is a dynamic and complex system that provides optimal conditions for aquatic weeds to proliferate. Undaunted by challenges, the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) continues to operate control programs for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and floating aquatic vegetation (FAV), integrating chemical and mechanical control methods.

In 2015, The SAV Control Program treated *Egeria densa* and curlyleaf pondweed with the herbicide fluridone in 25 Delta sites for a total of 1,531 water surface acres. Treatment sites were in various locations throughout the North, Central, and South Delta. Extensive water quality monitoring occurred during the herbicide treatments to track residual fluridone concentrations. Herbicide treatments were effective in reducing the density of *Egeria densa* and curlyleaf pondweed.

As of October 12, 2015, the FAV Control Program treated approximately 3,315 acres of water hyacinth and spongeplant with herbicide. DBW was successful throughout the year keeping water hyacinth under control in Central and South Delta and with some success in regions of the North Delta such as the Meadows. However, water hyacinth reached its annual peak biomass during late-summer/fall and where plants broke loose from larger mats and moved with the tides and winds. Locations such as Lost Slough and Sycamore Slough had increased growth of water hyacinth due to environmental restrictions regarding treatment times and herbicide use.

DBW also conducted mechanical harvesting of water hyacinth between January to mid-March of 2015 with state and federal partners. Approximately 36,356 cubic yards of water hyacinth was removed from Old River near Fabian Tract.

To help prevent further spread of aquatic weeds, it is critical for boaters to clean all plant fragments from their watercraft and equipment. To learn more about the SAV and FAV control programs, sign up for our weekly announcement at DBW's Aquatic Weed webpage.

Pre-treatment water hyacinth in the Meadows Slough.

Photo: Tyler Brookins

Water hyacinth two months post-treatment in the Meadows Slough

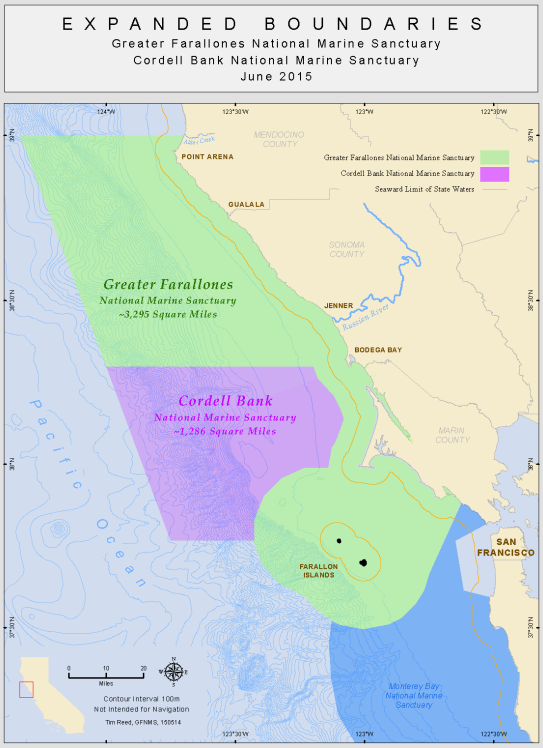
Photo: Tyler Brookins

DBW and partners find little to no Egeria densa in Discovery Bay after treatments.

Photo: Michael Kwong

NOAA Expands Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries *off Northern California*

Contributing Authors: Jennifer Stock, Cordell Bank



Map of expanded Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

Photo: NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries

In June 2015, after more than a decade of community action, scientific research, political effort, and public participation, NOAA announced the expansion of Gulf of the Farallones (now Greater Farallones) and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries to areas more than twice their original sizes, extending their boundaries to encompass this ruggedly beautiful and ecologically critical stretch of California's coastal and ocean waters.

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, which encompasses an area to the north and west of San Francisco Bay, increased in size from 1,282 square miles to 3,295 square miles. The expansion extended its boundary northward along the Sonoma and Mendocino county coasts, from Bodega Bay to just above Point Arena. Neighboring Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary also saw its borders expand from 529 to 1,286 square miles, reaching farther into the offshore waters of Marin County to include the deep waters of Bodega Canyon.

The expansion increased protection of the marine resources and coastal habitats within the 2,770 square miles of newly incorporated waters including areas of major upwelling where nutrients come to the surface and support a vast array of sea life. The sanctuaries support 25 endangered or threatened species, 36 marine mammal species, over a quarter-million breeding seabirds, and one of the most significant white shark populations on the planet. Off Point Arena in particular is one of the most productive upwelling zones in North America.

Sanctuary designation protects these waters from impacts of petroleum exploration and development, seabed alteration, wildlife disturbance, and harmful discharges, among others. It is important for boaters to know that it is illegal in California to discharge untreated sewage in national marine sanctuaries. Discharge of some treated sewage from a Type I or II marine sanitation device is allowed for some vessels (15 CFR 922).

More information about the expansion and the full list of regulations can be found at www.farallones.noaa.gov and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1981, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1989, both contribute greatly to ocean and coastal management by engaging in public outreach and education to promote stewardship, conducting scientific research and monitoring, and carrying out programs that strengthen resource protection for the long-term health of the region.

Another Great Year for Coastal Cleanup Day

Sandy Beach Park, Rio Vista on-the water cleanup

Photo: Delta Protection Commission

On September 19th, the state celebrated the 31st anniversary of California Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD). The boating community demonstrated its interest and commitment to keeping coasts clean in both 2015's state and international effort.

More than 620 volunteers cleaned 48 miles and collected 10,847 pounds of trash and recyclables on land and from 87 vessels (kayaks, canoes, and dinghies). Thirty-one percent of the volunteers brought their own reusable cleanup supplies. Dana Point Harbor in partnership with Dana Point Yacht Club conducted a very comprehensive cleanup not only on the shoreline but also underwater and on-the-water.

Statewide more than 68,000 volunteers participated in CCD this year. These volunteers removed 1,142,997 pounds of trash and recyclables from California's coast and inland waterways.

Continued on next page.

Japan Tsunami Debris Update in California

Contributing Author: Eben Schwartz, California Coastal Commission

By now, the March 2011 tsunami that caused devastation and loss of life in Japan may seem like just a part of history. In fact, California and other states along the West Coast continue to feel the impact of that horrific event. On July 25th, a volunteer in Pacifica (San Mateo County) found the third item to be confirmed as tsunami debris in California: a 33-liter crate that was washed off a boat in the Yamada Port, an area hard hit by the tsunami. This follows two skiffs that have also been confirmed as tsunami debris, one found in April 2013 in Crescent City, and the next found in June 2014 in Dry Lagoon, Humboldt County.

As with all suspected tsunami debris items, positive identification can be extremely difficult, since confirming tsunami debris – as opposed to other debris from around the Pacific Rim that regularly washes up on California's shores – requires ownership identification numbers or some other method of tracing the item back to its source. As a result, it is likely that there has been far more tsunami debris washing up along our coast than we can confirm. The Coastal Commission has been running volunteer beach cleanups in each coastal county since 2012 in order to assess and identify debris that could have come from the tsunami using a special data card designed to track suspicious items. Over 12,000 people have taken part in the program, removing thousands of pounds of debris from our coast, doubtlessly removing smaller items that came from the tsunami whether we were able to identify it as such or not.

Jeff Christner, a volunteer in Pacifica (San Mateo County), found the third item to be confirmed as tsunami debris in California: a 33-liter crate. *Photo: Jeff Christner*

The Commission's Tsunami Debris Cleanup Program will continue through June 2016, seeking to activate even more volunteers who may be attracted to a beach cleanup that is also part of a detective story of sorts. Information, including cleanup dates, can be found at www.coastal.ca.gov. For the latest information regarding the Japan Tsunami, what we've learned, and how we continue to respond to it, you can visit NOAA's Marine Debris page.

Another Great Year for Coastal Cleanup Day

Continued from previous page.

The California's Coastal Commission and State Park's Division of Boating and Waterways would like to thank the following boating facilities, coordinators and partners for their participation:

Marinas, yacht clubs, and other boating facilities:

- Alameda Marinas
- Aeolian Yacht Club
- Ballena Bay Yacht Club
- Ballena Isle Marina
- California Yacht Marina
- Dana Point Harbor
- Dana Point Yacht Club
- Del Rey Yacht Club
- Eureka Marina
- Glen Cove Marina and Glen Cove Yacht Club
- Grand Marina
- Half Moon Bay Yacht Club
- Humboldt Aquatic Center
- Humboldt Yacht Club
- King Harbor Yacht Club
- Lake Merritt Institute
- Lake Merritt Boating Center
- Oakland Yacht Club
- Owl Harbor Marina
- Peter's Landing Marina
- Pillar Point Harbor
- Port Royal Yacht Club
- Port Royal Marina
- Redondo Beach Yacht Club
- San Joaquin Yacht Club
- San Leandro Marina and San Leandro Yacht Club
- Sandy Beach Park, Rio Vista
- Santa Cruz Wharf and Harbor
- Seal Beach Yacht Club
- Sequoia Yacht Club
- Shoreline Yacht Club
- Sun Harbor Marina
- Vallejo Marina

COUNTY COORDINATORS/PARTNERS:

These organizations lent invaluable support to the boating facilities and the on-the-water cleanups

- Alameda County Industries
- American River Parkway Foundation
- Aqua Safari
- Aquarium of The Bay
- Avila Kayaks
- California Canoe and Kayak
- City of Alameda
- City of Long Beach El Dorado Nature Center
- Dana Point Youth Foundation
- Delta Kayak Adventures
- Delta Protection Commission
- ECOSLO
- Heal the Bay
- I love A Clean San Diego
- Kayak Connection
- Monterey Bay Kayaks
- Monterey Bay Sea Otters Dive Club
- Northcoast Environmental Center
- Orange County Dana Point Harbor
- Orange County Parks Volunteer Services
- Orange County Sea Scouts
- Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association
- Pacifica Beach Coalition
- Pier 39
- San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program
- Save Our Shores
- Solano Resource Conservation District
- SUP Shack
- The Bay Foundation
- The Clean Ocean's Project
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Vallejo Kayak and Bike Club
- Venture Quest Kayaks

If you aren't already part of this effort, **we invite you to join us in 2016**. For information on how to participate, visit www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/boating.html or contact the coordinator: Vivian Matuk, (415) 904-6905.
We hope your boating facility can be part of this worthwhile event.

Boaters conducting on-the-water cleanup at Dana Point Yacht Club
Photo: Dana Point Yacht Club

2015 Dockwalkers Rock

Continued from front page.

The following volunteer Dockwalkers administered and returned the highest number of surveys and will join the ranks in the Dockwalker Hall of Fame:

- Charlie Duncan
  US Coast Guard Auxiliary - Shasta County
- Jim Goff
  US Coast Guard Auxiliary - Sacramento County
- Tim Harden
  Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area - San Bernardino County
- Richard Huffman
  US Power Squadrons - San Joaquin County
- Peter W. Kyryl II
  US Coast Guard Auxiliary - Santa Cruz County
- Jeannie Matthew
  Willow Berm Marina - Sacramento County
- Stephanie Gomez
  Beaches and Harbors - Los Angeles County
- Jim Minkel
  US Coast Guard Auxiliary - Solano County
- Maggy Herbelin
  US Coast Guard Auxiliary - Humboldt County
- Lilli Ferguson
  US Coast Guard Auxiliary - Marin County
- Linda and Tom Tcimpidis
  US Coast Guard Auxiliary - Los Angeles County
- Norm Pennington
  US Power Squadrons - San Mateo County

Dockwalker Jeannie Matthews (Willow Berm Marina) conducting face-to-face education *Photo: Willow Berm Marina*

Special thanks to Lake Berryessa Partnership, the Rio Vista Boating Program, San Mateo County, Save Our Shores and the Stanislaus County Boating Program.

Awards included:

- Fleece jackets from West Marine
- Personal Flotation Devices
- Starbucks Gift baskets
- Trader Joe's products
- Rubio's Tacos coupons
- State Park's statewide day use passes

To learn more about the Dockwalker Program, upcoming trainings or to schedule a training class, visit Boating Clean and Green's website (click on "Dockwalkers") or contact the program coordinator Vivian Matuk via email or by phone at (415) 904-6905.

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The Changing Tide newsletter is a great resource for you to get California's latest clean boating information. Help to reduce our carbon footprint and the amount of trash added to the waste stream by going paperless.

To go paperless, contact Victoria Gambale at vgambale@santamonicabay.org or 213-620- 2271