

Little Things That Matter

Basic Oil Spill laws and important contact numbers.

It is illegal to discharge fuel, oil, oily wastes, and hazardous waste into the navigable waters of the U.S. including the territorial seas (up to 12 nautical miles from shore) or contiguous zone if the spill causes a film, sheen, or discoloration of the water surface or causes a sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water. Under federal law, violators are subject to the cost of cleanup and civil and criminal penalties. Under California state law, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife prohibits the discharge of petroleum or any other substance harmful to fish, plants, and birds. Report spills immediately. Cleaning up the problem is critical no matter how small the spill. Even small amounts of oil can harm aquatic life.

To report spills, contact your marina, and BOTH the California Office of Emergency Response at (800) OILS-911 and the National Response Center (800) 424-8802.

The 411 on Compostable Toilets

Compostable toilets are increasing in popularity. Two common questions are: what do composting toilets accomplish and why are they increasing in popularity? Compostable toilets are considered Type III Marine Sanitation Devices (MSDs). These toilets separate liquids from solids; when separated, the solids sit in a lower compartment that gets mixed with a peat moss, sawdust, or coconut husk fibers and oxygen. Next, bacteria work their magic to break down the solid waste into compost. Do not dump the solids overboard; the compost can be used as soil amendment for plants or can be placed in a bag for disposal on land. In some systems, the solid tank may hold a month of everyday use for two people. The cost for this system varies, ranging from \$600 to \$2,000.

Liquids are collected in the smaller forward tank. The liquid tank will hold approximately four days use per person if used exclusively. Do not dump the liquid overboard; dump the liquid to a shore side restroom or to a dump station.

This alternative toilet system appeals to boaters for various reasons. First off it's a waterless system, so there's no plumbing required. Not all composting toilettes need to be installed; with less complex plumbing comes saved time and money on maintenance and repairs. Secondly,

it's lighter in weight. One boater found by using a compostable toilet, it would replace it's roughly 150 pounds system for 35 pounds (when the latter is at its heaviest). Thirdly, compostable toilets have been found to have less offensive odors. An additional bonus to this is without a strong smell, there's no need to use funky chemicals that can be hazardous for the environment. Lastly, you can cruise the seas for long periods without stressing about finding the closest pumpout station. Depending on the model and usage, users are looking at emptying approximately every month to once a year. The disadvantages of composting toilets can include their size and their electricity usage. Sizing depends on the model but some of the toilets are taller than most, so it might take some getting used to or some initial reconfiguring of the toilet room before installation. In regards to electricity, some composting units have a vent to circulate air, which helps facilitate the composting process. This fan can either come with the toilet or is installed separately, so electric power usage may or may not increase depending on the situation.

If you're in the market to replace your current sanitation system, check the information available on the web to familiarize yourself with the ins and outs of each system.



Destination Series:

SANTA CATALINA ISLAND

Catalina Island, just 26 miles off the coast of Los Angeles County, offers an island get-a-way that is sure to please. Whether you stay at Avalon, Two Harbors, or anchor in one of the many coves, this island has something for everyone.

People have enjoyed the benefits of Catalina for 8,000 years. Today, the romantic City of Avalon welcomes thousands of tourists from around the world, with a wide array of activities to partake in, from zip lining and SCUBA diving to enjoying fine dining and shopping. Avalon has 266 moorings, which fill up quickly on popular boating weekends and are assigned on a first come first serve basis, so plan accordingly. To obtain a mooring, standby at the harbors main entrance for an assignment; no moorings are assigned over VHF marine radio. Mooring rates vary according to vessel length, starting at \$21.00/ day and check-out time is 9:00 a.m.

Avalon Harbor is a leader in environmental stewardship. The harbor is a No Discharge Harbor; no sewage, treated or untreated, may be discharged. This law is strictly enforced; all vessels are required to place dye tablets into each on-board head. A free sewage pumpout is available on a floating dock located near the Casino building and, for a fee, boaters can call Head Pumper on CH 68 for a mobile pumpout.



Photo: John Hollenbeck

Two Harbors is located at the western end of Catalina Island. This rustic seaside village has a year-round population of less than 200 people. Two Harbors is a great place to enjoy outdoor activities and take in the beautiful landscapes and seascapes. Moorings are available at Two Harbors and several other coves and bays in Catalina. For pricing and to make a reservation (3 night minimum required) visit www.visitcatalinaisland.com. A sewage pumpout station is seasonally located at the Isthmus Pier, in addition to a free mobile pumpout service offered to Cat Harbor boaters.

Avalon Harbor hosts an annual Underwater SCUBA cleanup in February each year. This year 404 volunteers removed 5,200 pounds of trash from the harbor.



Photo: John Hollenbeck



Refuel Your Boating Fun with Refillable Propane Cylinders

Author: Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director, California Product Stewardship Council

Propane fueled boating adventures are easier than ever with refillable 1 lb. propane cylinders!

Over four million 1 lb. propane cylinders are sold every year in California. Consumers spend around \$4.00 per disposable cylinder, just to be able to use about \$0.30 worth of propane gas. When finished, how do you get rid of these cylinders? Some folks sneak them into their garbage bins, since they cannot go into regular recycling, or call their local Hazardous Waste hauler. Some people buy adapters to refill them, which is extremely dangerous as they are not manufactured to be repressurized. Many people use and leave them in parks costing \$3.50 each to recycle - taking limited park funds away from park improvements. Refillable 1 lb. propane cylinders are an exciting new alternative that not only saves money and hassle, but are good for the environment, and our marinas and parks too!

The ReFuel Your Fun Campaign was developed by the California Product Stewardship Council using CalRecycle grants to promote the use of refillables over disposables and has partnered with retailers such as West Marine, U-Haul, REI, and Kamps Propane to offer the sales, refill and/or exchange of refillables at over 290 locations in California & 440 locations nationwide. Thanks to the campaign, refillables are now sold online through Walmart and Home Depot as well.

To find locations where you can *ReFuel Your Fun*, go to <http://refuelyourfun.org/fnd-retailers-near-you/>. Is your local marine retailer on the list? If not, ask them to offer refillables today! Want us to recruit a propane dealer to be a refill or exchange location? Contact Jordan at jordan@calpsc.org. Watch the TV commercial with California's Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird explaining the benefits of refillables. Tell a friend - remember, please choose refill over landfill.

Honey Pot Day: Free Mobile Pumpout Service Starting 6/1

Honey Pot Day is back, offering boaters a complimentary mobile pumpout service. Honey Pot Day is offered from June 1 - August 31, 2017 in four Southern California harbors: Marina del Rey, King Harbor, Port of Los Angeles, and Port of Long Beach.



Visit www.honeypotday.org to sign up and obtain a free mobile pumpout.

Photo: Grace Lee

This program, established in 2009, focuses on reducing bacteria levels in local harbors. Dumping one toilet flush of untreated boat sewage can cause the same environmental impact as 10,000 flushes from a homeowner's toilet processed by a municipal sewage treatment plant. By offering a convenient and free service, boaters are incentivized to properly dispose of sewage and keep our local waters clean.

Since the program's inception, over 950 boaters have been educated about the adverse effects of discharging sewage directly into waterways, and nearly 27,000 gallons of sewage were properly disposed. The combination of installed pumpout facilities, mobile pumpout services, and education programs such as Honey Pot Day, are helping boaters learn more about the importance of proper waste disposal and improved water quality.

"I found the videos to be very informative and have changed my mind about dumping in the ocean even within acceptable dumping region. Will use mobile and stationary pumps," commented one 2016 Honey Pot Day participant.

To sign up for the program (starting June 1st), boaters should visit www.honeypotday.org, which includes directions to watch a short video, read three brief publications, and take an online quiz. For more information, contact Georgia Tunioli at gtunioli@santamonicabay.org or (213) 576-6648.

The Honey Pot Day program is funded by California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways' Clean Vessel Act Program.

Destination Series: KING ISLAND MARINA

Author: Sherri Keys, King Island Marina, Marina Manager

King Island Marina is located in Stockton (San Joaquin County) on Disappointment and White Slough. If you visit by land, the marina is located on Eight Mile Road. The marina has a spectacular view of Mt. Diablo and some exquisite sunsets.

John Sacconne and Ed Canyon built a dock on the property in 1947 and started renting out small fishing boats to local fisherman. This area is known for its large-mouth bass and to this day the area is visited daily by bass fisherman and is a destination spot for professional fisherman looking for the big one for their tournaments. Still standing on the property is the old Venice school house, which is over 100 years old. The school attendees were local children that lived on or around the island.

The waterway surrounding King Island Marina was once traveled by George Shima who was known as the Potato King of California, because he owned the largest potato farming business on the Delta and used barges to ship his potatoes from Stockton to Sacramento. Some of the wooden barges are still located on White Slough, covered in vegetation, and now used by birds for nesting.

King Island Marina main building & used oil collection center.

Photos: Sherri Keys, King Island Marina, Marina Manager



Blue heron at King Island Marina.

Photo: Marqueux Webb, King Island Marina Tenants

A wide variety of wildlife calls King Island home including otters, turtles, and many species of birds. The abundant wildlife attracts many photographers.

King Island Marina has covered and uncovered slips up to 65 feet, dry storage, a boat launch ramp, and a fuel dock. It offers several pollution prevention services including a sewage pump out, used oil and oil filters recycling, and an oil absorbent exchange center. There is a fishing line recycling station at the boat launch ramp and several pet waste stations, and Septic Brothers mobile pumpout service. The marina also has a general store, mobile home and RV Park, and is home of the Tinsley Island Launch (the ferry that takes St Francis Yacht Club members out to their island). Plan your visit to Disappointment and White Slough and King Island Marina soon and experience the friendly atmosphere and beautiful scenery. And make sure to pick up a free oil absorbent, recycle your fishing line, or drop off some used oil and oil filters!



Destination Series:

BALLENA ISLE MARINA

One of the Bay Area's Best Kept Secrets

Author: Risa Delatoria, Harbor Master, Ballena Isle Marina

Nestled in the protected Ballena Bay Harbor on the west side of Alameda Island and overlooking the gorgeous San Francisco skyline, Ballena Isle Marina is a magical location. The only marina on the east side of the San Francisco Bay, members reserve first class access to world class sailing in 10 minutes or less. Situated on 56 acres of privately operated land, the marina leases personal slips to approximately 500 boats in lengths up to 108 feet. Amenities include water and electrical to all docks, keyed gate entry, dedicated restrooms and showers, gas and diesel fuel dock, grocery store, two fantastic restaurants, a yacht club, boating schools, garden reception area, paddle boarding, and yoga classes to name only a few. Security is being upgraded with video cameras, key fobs, and night time Harbor Patrol.



Ballena Isle Marina during a Sunrise.

Photo: Dave Burdick

Members enjoy seminars to help educate and build boating skills as well as social events, which include everything from garden parties, barbeques, and dances to “Cruise-In’s” in our dedicated guest docks in order to allow boaters to feel like members of a community rather than just vessels in a marina. Ballena Isle Marina believes in responsible stewardship of the waterways and environmental resources and is proud to host and participate, with its members and neighbors, in the successful annual Coastal Cleanup in conjunction with the California Coastal Commission and the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways. The marina is a certified Clean Marina and some of its staff members are trained as volunteer Dockwalkers. The marina offers several pollution prevention services including a sewage pumpout, an oil absorbent exchange program, and used oil and oil filter recycling.



Ballena Isle Marina aerial photo.

Photo: Michael Britt

Recently purchased by Safe Harbor Marinas, Ballena Isle Marina is pleased to announce that plans and permits are actively underway for the design and installation of a totally new marina infrastructure worthy of its location. The friendly marina staff is always ready to help with all inquiries seven days a week, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and would be honored to take visitors on a tour of the location as well as assisting future tenants with the steps and documentation necessary to secure a spot on their waiting list.

For more information about this marina visit <http://ballenaisle.com/>.

Managing Sewage the Environmental Way?

There's an App for that!

Author: Adrien Baudrimont and James Muller, San Francisco Estuary Partnership



The San Francisco Estuary Partnership is in the final stages of developing the Pumpout Nav, a free iOS and Android App scheduled for release this Spring, as part of a Clean Vessel Act grant provided by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways.

As its name hints, Pumpout Nav is designed to help boaters with locating the closest sewage pumpout station for their vessels. Through an iOS or Android device, the app displays the pumpout stations closest to the boater, their operational status, as well as the cost, hours, and location within the marinas for each unit. This app will also have instructions on how to use a pumpout station, and information about the environmental risks and applicable regulations regarding sewage discharge. All of that will soon be available from any personal device!

Pumpout Nav also has a tool meant to enhance the quality of the pumpout network in both Northern (Bay and Delta) and Southern California. If a boater finds a non-operational pumpout, they can report the issue directly through the App. Once a boater submits a report, the marina manager and the local Clean Vessel Act Program get notified. This will let marinas know their pumpout could be experiencing technical difficulties and should be looked at. The local Clean Vessel Act Program staff can also follow up with marinas, encouraging them to apply for state funding to address the issue.

The release is scheduled for early spring in the Apple and Google online stores.

For more information, please contact Adrien Baudrimont at adrien.baudrimont@sfestuary.org or James Muller at james.muller@sfestuary.org.

Boating And Waterways Website Re-Designed For Ease Of Use And Mobile Device Responsiveness

Author: Joleane King, California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways Associate Park and Recreation Specialist for Boating Safety Media

Yesterday's glossy brochure is today's website and social media channel. This vast, evolving upgrade from print to digital allows us to communicate instantly and efficiently with ever-changing data. California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) has promoted two-way communication and understanding online for many years. To keep current, DBW recently migrated its previous website pages to the new State standard website design and content managing system. This redesign and upgrade simplifies site management and coordinates an engaging, California State design that is user-friendly for the boating public.

With the majority of connections now made via mobile devices, the ease of use on small screens is important. Mobile connections require websites to be based on a fluid, responsive grid. This is a major improvement for the new DBW website. It now allows users to scroll down rather than across to read a large page on a small screen.

Take a tour! The [DBW home page](#) features quickly accessible, top level boater information: the new California Boater Card, Safety Equipment, Places to Boat in California, Pumpout Stations, Boating News and Alerts, Boat Registration and a Calendar of Events. For deeper levels of information, the top of the page tabs remain similar to the previous DBW pages with drop-down lists of particular programs and information.

As with all information technology changes, unexpected bugs and broken links quickly come to light during a website re-design. Both DBW and California State Parks' webmasters are working to fix or create work-arounds for content and database snafus. We welcome your comments and assistance in maintaining quality information in an engaging, easy to use format. Email your comments to: Joleane.King@parks.ca.gov.



Check Our 2017 Events Calendar and Join Us!

Plan to join us in some of the following free trainings and workshops:

Dockwalker Trainings

Oakland – Wednesday, April 12, 2017

7 pm – 8:30 pm

Oakland Yacht Club (Regatta Room)

1101 Pacific Marina, Alameda, CA 94501

Download the flyer/registration form in [PDF](#).

San Diego – Saturday April 15, 2017

10 am – 12:45 pm

Silver Gate Yacht Club (Banquet Room, first floor)

2091 Shelter Island Dr, San Diego, CA 92106

Download the flyer/registration form in [PDF](#).

Vacaville – Friday, April 21, 2017

8:30 am – 11 am

Solano County Water Agency (Lake Berryessa Room)

810 Vaca Valley Pkwy #203, Vacaville, CA 95688

Download the flyer/registration form in [PDF](#).

San Jose – Wednesday, April 26, 2017

7:30 pm – 9 pm

American Red Cross building

2731 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95134

Download the flyer/registration form in [PDF](#).

Long Beach – Saturday, April 29, 2017

10 am – 12:45 pm

Long Beach Yacht Club (Skippers Cove, first floor)

6201 E Appian Way, Long Beach, CA 90803

Download the flyer/registration form in [PDF](#).

Marinas and Yacht Clubs Spill Response Communication Workshops

Thursday, June 1st; 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

South Lake Tahoe Yacht Club

2435 Venice Dr E, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Parking: Free parking available at the facility.

(You must register to attend by Tuesday, May 30)

[See the flyer for further information.](#)

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Workshops

Discovery Bay – Wednesday, March 15, 2017

(You must register to attend by Monday, March 13)

8:45 am – 2:45 pm

Discovery Bay Yacht Club

5871 Marina Rd, Discovery Bay, CA 94505

Workshop Partner: Discovery Bay Yacht Club

Stockton – Wednesday, April 19, 2017

(You must register to attend by Monday, April 17)

8:45 am – 2:45 pm

Stockton Yacht Club

3235 River Dr, Stockton, CA 95204

Workshop Partner: Stockton Yacht Club

Benicia – Thursday, May 18, 2017

(You must register to attend by Monday, May 15)

8:45 am – 2:45 pm

Benicia Yacht Club

400 E 2nd St, Benicia, CA 94510

Workshop Partners: Benicia Yacht Club

California Coastal Cleanup Day

September 16 Statewide

Check out www.CoastalCleanupDay.org for further details.

To register and for more information about any of these trainings and events, please contact Vivian Matuk at vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov or (415) 904-6905.



Photo: Michelle Staffield

CHANGING TIDE STAFF

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Bay Foundation
www.santamonicabay.org
Grace Lee
glee@santamonicabay.org
(213) 576-6757

CALIFORNIA DELTA

San Francisco Estuary Partnership
www.sfestuary.org
James Muller
james.muller@sfestuary.org
(510) 622-2406

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

California State Parks Division
of Boating and Waterways,
California Coastal Commission
www.BoatingCleanandGreen.com
Vivian Matuk
vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov
(415) 904-6905