San Diego Bay
Boater’s Guide

A guide to safe and environmentally friendly boating on San Diego Bay

BAYLANDPARKS
3165 Pacific Highway • San Diego, CA 92101
P.O. Box 120488 • San Diego, CA 92112-0488 • (619) 686-6200 • portofsandiego.org
San Diego Bay is filled with wildlife that depend on the Bay’s natural resources to survive. The Bay has the largest contiguous mudflat in Southern California and is the site of the Sweetwater Marsh and South San Diego Bay Refuge.

Keeping the Bay clean, safe and healthy is important for the native and visiting wildlife as well as for our community. By following these environmentally friendly boating practices, together we can preserve and protect our beautiful San Diego Bay.
More than 100 species of fish and marine mammals and hundreds of other marine organisms feed, grow and reproduce in the waters of San Diego Bay and along the shoreline. Nearly 300 different bird species use the salt marsh areas and mudflats to feed, roost and nest. The Bay supports eight federal and state listed endangered or threatened species.

Animal Rescue Information
For animal rescue information, contact Project Wildlife at (619) 225-9202. For stranded marine mammals and sea turtles, call the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center at (858) 546-7162.

Keep your boating environment clean and minimize environmental impacts by using these tips:

## Wildlife Friendly Boating Practices

### Respect our Wildlife

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### Do not Pollute

#### Sewage Pollution
- Store sewage in holding tanks and dispose regularly at pump-out stations. See map for pump-out locations.
- Use onshore restrooms when docked.
- Remember, sewage may NOT be discharged in the Bay.

#### Bilge Water and Grey Water
- Before pumping the bilge, check for traces of oil or fuel. If any is present, use an absorbent pad or other dry clean-up method to remove it.
- Keep an oil absorbent pad in your bilge to prevent an accidental discharge of oil and other contaminates.
- Grey water (galley, bath and shower water) containing phosphates, solvents, grease or other non-biodegradable chemicals may not be discharged into the Bay.

#### Practice Safe Fueling
- Do not top off fuel tanks.
- If a fuel nozzle does not have automatic shutoff, hold the nozzle by hand and keep a rag around the opening to prevent spills or splash.
- Install a whistle in the fuel line to signal when the fuel tank is full.
- In case of a spill, use dry clean-up methods such as oil absorbent pads. Do not use straw, soap or detergents.
- Fuel only at fuel stations. Transferring fuel in marinas is prohibited.
**Engine and Topside Maintenance**

- Check with the marina manager to determine what type of maintenance projects are allowed in the slip. Large maintenance projects should always be done at a boat yard.
- Regularly inspect and fix small leaks. Inspect lines and hoses for deterioration and prevent lines from chafing.
- Use drip pans or secondary containment when painting, sanding or varnishing.

**Boat Cleaning and Maintenance**

- Use non-toxic hull paint when possible.
- Use water when cleaning the inside or outside of your boat. Use a biodegradable and phosphate free soap.
- Dispose of soapy and rinse water in a sanitary sewer.

**Hazardous Waste**

- Properly dispose of hazardous waste materials such as oil, waste fuel, solvents and paints.
- Recycle wastes whenever possible. See map for waste disposal information.
- When fishing, remember to retrieve and dispose of all fishing line. Animals such as the Green Sea Turtle can ingest or become entangled in the line.
- Dispose of your trash in the proper trash receptacle.

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**Cruise Carefully**

Many migratory birds rest in large flocks in the open water areas on the Bay. Please do not approach these flocks as they are easily disturbed. Fleeing costs them energy that they need to successfully complete their migrations.

- Cruise carefully near marshes and mudflats.
- Birds such as Black Necked Stilts and Great Blue Herons forage for food in marshes.
- Endangered birds, like the Light-footed Clapper Rail and the Belding’s Savannah Sparrow nest in marsh vegetation and may be disturbed by high boat traffic and wakes.

Observe all posted speed limits. All of the South Bay south of Sweetwater Channel is a 5 mph no wake zone due to the abundance of wildlife [SPUPD Code 4.30 (C)].

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Thank you for doing your part to protect our Bay.
**Boating Directory**

**Anchorage Information**
Recreational/commercial anchorages . (619) 686-6227
Recreational vessel mooring buoys . (619) 291-0916
Transient slips at Shelter Island . . . . (619) 686-6227

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**Launch Ramps (no fee to use launch ramps)**
1. 2200 Shelter Island Drive . . . . 24 hours
2. Foot of Tidelands Avenue . . . . Sunrise – 9:00 p.m.
3. Foot of Marina Parkway . . . . Sunrise – Sunset
4. Stand Way & SR-75 . . . . . . . 24 hours

**Fishing Piers**
1. Shelter Island
2. Embarcadero Marina Park South
3. Crosby Park
4. Pepper Park
5. Chula Vista Bayside Park

**Fuel Docks**
1. Pearson’s Fuel Dock . . . . (619) 222-7084
2. High Seas Fuel Dock . . . . (619) 523-2980
3. Harbor Island West Fuel Dock . . (619) 291-6443

**Pump-out Facilities**
1. Harbor Police Dock and Transient Vessel Dock . . . . (619) 686-6277
2. Pearson’s Fuel Dock . . . . (619) 222-7084
3. Driscoll’s Wharf . . . . (619) 222-4930
4. Harbor Island West Fuel Dock . . (619) 291-6443
5. Sheraton Harbor Island Marina . . (619) 692-2249
6. Sunroad Resort Marina . . . . (619) 574-0736
7. Laurel Street Moorings . . . . (619) 725-6099
8. San Diego Marriott Marina . . (619) 230-8955
9. National City Launch Ramp . . (619) 686-6277
10. Chula Vista Marina . . . . (619) 691-1860
11. California Yacht Marina . . . (619) 422-2595
12. Chula Vista Launch Ramp . . (619) 725-6099
13. Loews Crown Isle Marina . . (619) 575-7245
14. Fiddler’s Cove Marina . . . . (619) 522-8680
15. Glorietta Bay Marina . . . . (619) 435-5203

**Boat Yards**
1. Shelter Island Boat Yards (6)
   - Driscoll Customs Boats . . . . (619) 226-2500
   - Eichenlaub Marine . . . . (619) 222-0297
   - Kettenberg Marine . . . . (619) 221-6930
   - Koehler Kraft Co . . . . (619) 222-9051
   - Nielsen Beaumont Marine, Inc . . (619) 222-4255
   - Shelter Island Boat Yard . . . . (619) 222-0481

2. National City Boat Yards (2)
   - Knight & Carver Yacht Center and Repair Yard . . (619) 336-4141
   - Ortiz & Allds Sandblasting and Painting . . . . (619) 477-3645

3. South Bay Boat Yard . . . . (619) 427-6767

**Military Zones**
San Diego Bay is the homeport of the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet. The boomed perimeters around Navy vessels are off limits to non-military personnel. Please avoid these areas and keep your distance from military vessels underway. Contact the U.S. Coast Guard at (619) 278-7262 for additional information.

**Harbor Police Mooring / Harbormaster Office / Customs**
1401 Shelter Island Drive . . . . (619) 686-6272
www.sdhp.org

- The placement of mooring buoys in San Diego Bay is by written consent of the Port of San Diego. All anchoring permits, moorings and transient slip rentals must be requested from the Harbor Police.

- A vessel entering San Diego Bay as its first point of call from an international voyage must report to U.S. Customs. Recreational vessels, including corporate yachts less than 130 feet in length may clear U.S. Customs at the Shelter Island Harbor Police Dock.
U.S. Coast Guard
2710 North Harbor Drive . . . . . . . (619) 278-7262

Courtesy Vessel Inspection Information
Coast Guard Auxiliary
http://sandiegocgaux.org/safetychecks.htm

Vessel Assist
Dispatch center . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (800) 399-1921
Membership information . . . . . . . . . . . . . (800) 367-8222
Sea Tow . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (800) 973-2869

Report a spill or discharge into San Diego Bay
Coast Guard . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (619) 295-3121
Harbor Police . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (619) 686-6272

Waste Disposal
Ask a marina manager for disposal locations or call the
County Hazardous Material Dutys Specialist (619) 338-2231

This map is for reference only. It is not to scale and should not be used for navigational purposes.

For further information on navigation charts, please visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website at http://chartmaker.ncc.noaa.gov

For information about attractions, entertainment, restaurants, parks and recreation on San Diego Bay—The Big Bay—visit our website at thebigbay.com

Photos: Dale Frost, Rinus Baak