



# THE CHANGING TIDE

Spring 2014



## Teamwork Keeps Pumpouts Operational!

Most boaters are familiar with the “ins and outs” of pumping out their sewage holding tank, but did you know many of the sewage pumpout stations, in California, are surveyed quarterly? Since 2008, the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) has funded The Bay Foundation (TBF) and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) to survey California’s public sewage pumpout facilities. Currently, 67 sewage pumpout stations in 34 Southern California marinas are surveyed by TBF, and 89 stations in 65 marinas in the San Francisco Bay and Delta are surveyed by SFEP. Many of these units are funded by the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) with CVA grant funds, and both organizations work closely with DBW and marina operators to share their findings.

Pumpouts are surveyed to make sure they are functioning properly for boaters, and keep sewage discharges out of California’s waters. In the field, staff checks the mechanics of the pumpout, equipment condition, and posted signage. When checking a pumpout’s mechanical performance, staff measures the vacuum pressure and time it takes to pump five gallons of water. This helps determine how well the unit works and can be used by marinas to determine the need for maintenance. Damage to pumpouts due to improper usage, such as pumping out an oily bilge, is also noted.

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SFEP’s Steven Cochrane checks vacuum time and pressure at a Northern California pumpout.

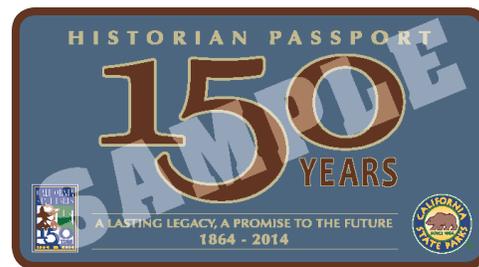
*Photo: James Muller, San Francisco Estuary Partnership*

If you come across a pumpout that is not functioning properly, let marina management know. This helps marinas know when their systems are down and encourages speedy repair. For more information on where to find pumpout stations or to obtain information on grant guidelines, contact the California Division of Boating and Waterways at (888) 326-2822, or visit [www.dbw.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.ca.gov).

## STATE PARKS IS TURNING 150 YEARS!

California State Parks commemorates the 1864 establishment of the first state park in the world. On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill granting 39,000 acres of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California. Never before had land been set aside to protect its natural state for the public to enjoy. This historic legislation was the beginning of not only the California State Park System, but the national park idea we know today.

You can celebrate this important Birthday in many ways including getting one of the four new annual passes to State Parks, these passes start at just \$50! For more information on annual passes, including how to order, please visit: <http://bit.ly/KV2Dz5>



Learn more about this important celebration at <http://www.150.parks.ca.gov/>

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. Printed on recycled and post-consumer paper with soy inks.





Photo: Josh Baugh

Destination Series:

## Newport Harbor

Newport Beach may be well-known for its surf culture and sandy coastline but it is also home of the largest recreational, small craft harbor on the west coast, with more than 10,000 recreational vessels making this their homeport.

Contributing Author:  
Shannon Levin, City of Newport Beach

It is easy to see why Newport Harbor is such a popular destination for both land-lovers and ocean enthusiasts. Surrounded by two classically enchanting villages, two charming islands, and an undeveloped nature preserve and ecological reserve (one of the largest coastal wetlands in Southern California) all within walking distance of each other, adventure awaits those visiting Newport Harbor.

Visiting boaters can contact the Harbor Master (CH 16) for available mooring, anchorage, or public guest slips, or contact one of the several private marinas that offer guest slips. Cruisers can also enjoy a dock and dine experience at one of eight waterside restaurants that maintain guest docks, or by using one of the eleven public docks maintained by the City of Newport Beach. To enrich your stay in Newport Harbor visit [www.newportbeachca.gov/HarborGuide](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/HarborGuide) to access the Cruiser's Guide to Newport Harbor for maps, information on waterside and shore side amenities, and more.

In February 2014, the City of Newport Beach broke ground on Marina Park. The Marina Park project encompasses a 10.5-acre site and involves new construction of a public park, a 24,000-square-foot Community and Sailing Center building, a 23-slip visitor-serving marina, a playground, outdoor fitness circuit, parking lots, and onsite café. Marina Park is located between 15th and 18th Streets on the Balboa Peninsula. Marina Park is slated for opening Spring 2016.

Uncontaminated used motor oil, oil filters, and absorbent pads can be disposed of for free at Hill's Boat Service fuel dock and Balboa Yacht Basin marina. Additionally, waste fuel, antifreeze, and marine batteries can be recycled at Hill's Boat Service. Potable toilet waste should be disposed of using any of the 10 sewage pumpout stations located throughout the harbor, or by contacting one of the two mobile-pumpout service companies available.

Photo: © Stephanie Hicks



Photo: William Nelson



Photo: Jim Slikker





## Honey Pot Day Returns

Untreated sewage from a single boat toilet flush can cause the same environmental impacts as 10,000 flushes from a home whose sewage passes through a treatment plant. So what do you do with all that boat waste?

Honey Pot Day is a popular program, which began in Marina del Rey in 2009 as a one-time free mobile sewage pumpout, and has since expanded to Honey Pot Unlimited, aimed at helping boat owners keep their holding tanks and local waterways clean over a three month period. This summer, boat owners in Marina del Rey, King Harbor, Port of Los Angeles, and Long Beach can sign up on-line to receive a free mobile sewage pumpout. The goal of this program is not only to encourage boaters to properly dispose of their waste but also to educate boaters about the convenient options to properly dispose of raw sewage and the detrimental environmental effects if improperly discharged into local waterways.

If you are interested in participating in Honey Pot Day, visit [www.HoneyPotDay.org](http://www.HoneyPotDay.org) from June to September and sign up! But don't delay, pumpouts are provided until funds are exhausted. Contact Michelle Staffield at (213) 576-6648 with questions. This program is funded by California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterway's Clean Vessel Education Program.



Keeping waterways clean is every boater's responsibility.

*Photo: Michelle Staffield, The Bay Foundation*

## BOATER'S GUIDE APP AVAILABLE FOR FREE



The highly sought after Southern California Boater's Guide App is now available for FREE from the App Store. This Guide is a must have for any boater cruising the Southern California coast. It provides valuable information about the numerous recreational opportunities in Southern California and conveniently features general boating information as well as clean boating information.

The App is available for download on iPads version 2 and later, and requires iOS 6.0 or later. The Bay Foundation hopes to bring this App to other tablet devices within two years and to phones within three years.

Don't have an iPad? Paper copies of the guide are available by contacting Victoria Ippolito at (213) 620-2271 or [vippolito@santamonicabay.org](mailto:vippolito@santamonicabay.org).

This interactive e-book was created by The Bay Foundation and funded by the Division of Boating & Waterways from the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program.

## Marine Science Institute – *Delta Discovery Voyage*

All photos this page: Marine Science Institute



The Marine Science Institute was founded in 1970, around the time that the issue of water resources was becoming a major concern. The Institute's philosophy was founded on the idea that putting students in direct physical contact with their local environment will help cultivate their natural sense of curiosity while enriching their understanding of science and fostering a responsibility to protect their environment.

One of their programs is the Delta Discovery Voyage, a tried and true education program that enables students to spend a half day as scientists exploring the Delta's ecosystem and learning how to improve the quality of their drinking water. The Voyage takes place on the waters of the Delta aboard a 90-foot research vessel.



The goal of the Delta Discovery Voyage is to teach 5th grade students about the unique ecology of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta with an emphasis on what they and their families can do to protect water quality and the environment. Students will:

- ↓ Actively discover the Delta marine environment including its mud, fish, and water, aboard a 90-foot marine research vessel on the delta waters.
- ↓ Develop a sense of responsibility for Delta water quality, and learn what steps they can personally take to improve and protect water quality.
- ↓ Increase science proficiency in a challenging hands-on outdoor education program aligned to California state content standards.

The program also helps teachers meet California content science standards related to Earth Sciences, Investigation, and Experimentation.



Once aboard the Delta Discovery Voyage, students rotate in small groups through a series of hands-on learning activities and in-depth discussions of wetlands and estuaries, drinking water, conservation, household hazardous waste, and mercury. They conduct scientific exploration of the River Delta using industry-standard marine research equipment aboard MSI's 90-foot research vessel the Robert G. Brownlee.

The Delta Discovery Voyage is an excellent hands-on program for teaching students about the value of the Delta and the environment in general. For more information, please visit <http://sfbaymsi.org/schoolprograms/deltavoyage.html>.



## Rio Vista Boater Education Program

Contributing Author & Photos: Marianne K. Butler, Solano Resource Conservation District

Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD), in partnership with Solano County, and the City of Rio Vista, are working together to educate boaters on clean and safe environmental practices with a goal of creating a cleaner and safer Delta. The primary focus of their efforts is the use of oil absorbents, which absorb oil leaking from boat engines, even in minute quantities. This is significant because it only takes one gallon of spilled motor oil to contaminate one million gallons of drinking water.

The Solano RCD is a proud partner and supporter of California's Boating Clean and Green Program, which provides resources to California's recreational boating community on clean and safe boating practices. During the 2013 boater season, the district completed boater surveys highlighting the importance of oil absorbents and clean boating practices, compiled data on boaters inducing bilge pad information, and participated in the Rio Vista Bass Derby. In total, 311 boaters were educated on the proper usage of bilge pads and other ways to improve water quality in the Delta.

Throughout the year, boaters can pick up free oil absorbents at Delta Marina and Sandy Beach County Park in Rio Vista. Oil absorbents are considered hazardous waste once they absorb engine fluids, and it is essential that they be disposed of properly. Sandy Beach and most boat maintenance shops have easily assessable containers for used bilge pad to make safe disposal easy.

The Rio Vista Boater Outreach Program 2013 was sponsored by Solano County, City of Rio Vista, and Solano Resource Conservation District, in partnership with California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, and California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program, and the Keep the Delta Clean Program. For more information about the Summer 2014 Rio Vista Boater Outreach Program, please contact Marianne Butler at [Marianne.Butler@Solanorcd.org](mailto:Marianne.Butler@Solanorcd.org) or (707) 301-5778.



Boater placing an oil absorbent pillow in the boat's bilge.



Boaters enjoying the Boater Kit.

## You Can Help During this Drought!

The Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta is not only a great place to boat, it is also a vital part of California's water system. It supplies drinking water to approximately two thirds of the state's population and irrigation water for more than seven million acres of farmland. Because of this, as Delta boaters or any boater in our beautiful state, it is important to be aware of the ongoing drought and to do our part to conserve water as much as possible.

Please visit [www.saveourh2o.org](http://www.saveourh2o.org) to find ways to get involved and do your part to protect California's water.

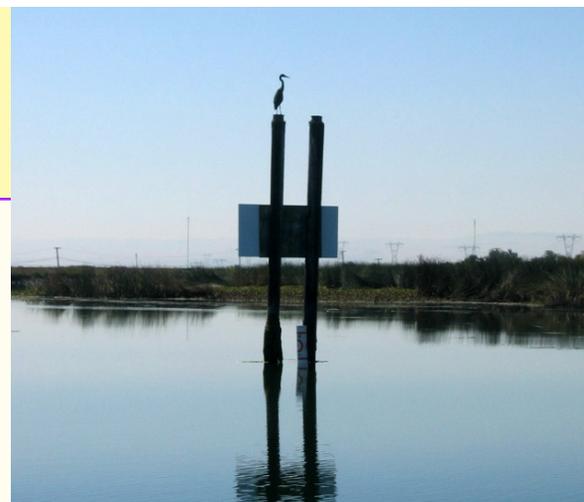


Photo: Dan Jordan, Contra Costa County Public Works, Watershed Program

## Good Clean Fun at Port San Luis

Contributing Author: Chris Munson, Port San Luis Harbor



Sunrise at Port San Luis Harbor  
Photo: Chris Munson, Port San Luis Harbor

Port San Luis (Port) is a popular destination for fishing, boating, RV camping, and other oceanfront and beach activities on California's central coast. Located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the Port offers beautiful scenery and plenty of sunshine. Steeped in history, the Harford Pier was built in 1873, making the Port a major commercial hub for trade, travel, fishing, and oil industry for nearly a century. Although much has changed, you can sense the history with a walk on the historic Harford Pier where you will experience the sights and sounds of fresh fish markets, sea lions, and a resurgent commercial fishing industry.

The Port San Luis Harbor District manages and maintains the Port, and is celebrating a 60 year anniversary. As part of its mission to be environmentally responsible, the District has taken a proactive approach. Since 2008, the District has been part of the Clean Marinas Program and was recently recertified. In compliance with the program and its own initiative the District provides a free oil pad exchange program, hazardous materials disposal, oil recycling, bilge and wastewater pumpout, and fresh water boat washing stations.

The District encourages its visitors and employees to be mindful of the environment and provides the means to reduce impacts. It recently installed additional bike racks and improved access to the beach for kayak and stand up paddle use, providing low impact ways to enjoy the coast. You'll notice when you bring your dog to play at the canine friendly beach that you're never far from a Mutt-Mitt dispenser. In summertime, the area is also accessible by trolley which will transport you to neighboring Avila Beach and beyond. Another trolley is used year-round to access the historic Point San Luis Lighthouse on scheduled tours. The lighthouse is also accessible by docent led hikes and kayak ([www.SanLuisLighthouse.org](http://www.SanLuisLighthouse.org)).

The Port has the facilities to meet a wide range of boater needs. It has a hoist or beach ramp for boats of various sizes. For visitors, the port offers guest moorings along with free anchorage for seven days. Fuel facilities and a free water taxi service are available year-round.

As a south facing, open harbor, wildlife and fish are plentiful. It is common to see dolphins, sea lions, migratory birds, and on occasion whales and sea otters. Port San Luis boasts some of the best fishing and crabbing in the region.

Please visit the Port's website at [www.PortSanLuis.com](http://www.PortSanLuis.com) for more information.

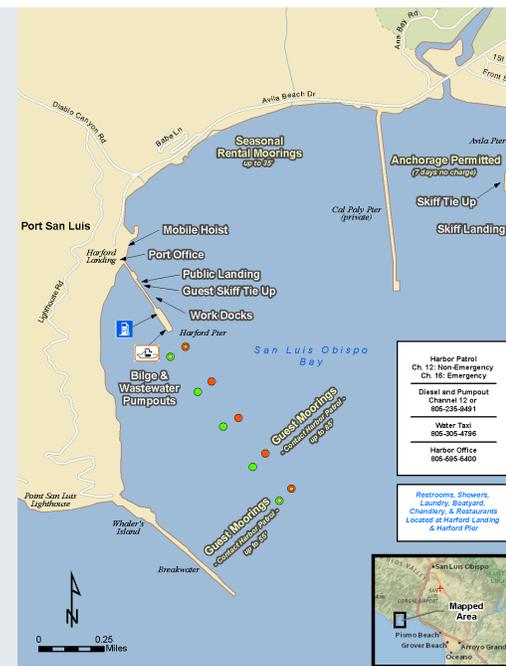


Photo: Port San Luis Harbor District



# Northern California Chapter

## Japan Tsunami Debris Cleanups

Author: Eben Schwartz, Marine Debris Program Manager, California Coastal Commission

Since the beginning of 2013, volunteers across California's coast have been scouring beaches in search of a very particular kind of debris: items that may have originated in Japan as a result of the massive tsunami that devastated the country in March 2011. Thanks to a grant from the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), almost 5,000 volunteers turned out to close to 60 cleanups scattered within the 15 coastal counties. These volunteers sought out items such as plastic bottles with Japanese writing on them, buoys, large Styrofoam pieces, and building materials like lumber that could potentially indicate locations where debris from the tsunami was washing up.

Thanks to this effort, a baseline of information is available now that shows us that there have, in fact, been a number of items collected that could be tsunami debris. Much of it was gathered in the northern part of the state, although suspicious items have been found as far south as San Diego; no county was entirely free from items that could have originated from the tsunami.

Does this mean that California is seeing increased debris along our coast because of the tsunami? Not necessarily. In fact, items from the Pacific Rim wash up here every year. Until now, we've never had a way to measure their quantity or their impact. With a baseline in hand, we now have a way to measure this source of debris going forward.

### Is it safe?

All of the debris that has been traced back to the tsunami has been tested for nuclear radioactivity and none has shown elevated levels. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently issued a statement that says, in part:

"There is no public health risk at California beaches due to radioactivity related to events at Fukushima. CDPH is not aware of any recent activity at Fukushima, or any new data that would cause elevated radioactivity on California shores from the Fukushima incident..."

Local, state, and federal staff will continue to test and monitor the coast for signs of any increase in danger. For now, the Coastal Commission looks forward to another year of incredible volunteer cleanups as we continue to search for, record, monitor, and clean up debris along our coast.



Lumber/building materials from a cleanup in Del Norte County that is likely tsunami debris.

Photo: Northcoast Environmental Center

Boat that washed up in Crescent City – California's first, and so far only, confirmed piece of tsunami debris



Photo: Lori Dengler

Marine debris items or significant accumulations potentially related to the tsunami can be reported to [DisasterDebris@noaa.gov](mailto:DisasterDebris@noaa.gov) with as much information as possible (including location, date and time you found it, and any relevant descriptions).

## Check Our 2014 Events Calendar and Join Us!

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

### Dockwalker Trainings

- **April 5** – Port of Los Angeles  
10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.  
Cabrillo Marina (San Pedro) 224 Whalers Walk, San Pedro, CA 90731
- **April 8** – Petaluma  
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Petaluma Yacht Club 10 C St, Petaluma, CA 94952
- **April 26** – Oceanside  
10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.  
Oceanside Yacht Club (Hetrick Room, 2nd floor)  
1950 Harbor Drive North Oceanside, CA 92054
- **May 8** – San Francisco  
6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.  
South Beach Harbor (Community Room) 40 Pier San Francisco, CA 94107
- **May 9** – Vacaville  
10:00 a.m. to 12:45 a.m.  
Solano County Water Agency (Engineering Room)  
810 Vaca Valley Pkwy #203, Vacaville, CA 95688

### Marinas and Yacht Clubs Spill Response Communication Workshop

- **June 6** – San Diego  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
San Diego Yacht Club 1011 Anchorage Ln. San Diego, CA 92106
- **July 17** – Los Angeles  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Port Royal Yacht Club 555 N Harbor Dr, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

### California Coastal Cleanup Day

- **September 20** Statewide  
Check out [www.CoastalCleanupDay.org](http://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](mailto:vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov) or (415) 904-6905.

# Teamwork Keeps Pumpouts Operational!

*Continued from front page.*

In 2013, the hard work of marina operators ensured 89% of pumpouts in the San Francisco Bay and Delta and 90% in Southern California were operational! During the visit, the condition of the hose, nozzle, site glass, valves, and on/off switches are noted and facilities are notified when replacement equipment is needed. Proper signage includes the national pumpout symbol, facility contact information, and instructions on how to use the pumpout. TBF and SFEP, in conjunction with CVA grant funds, offer services and materials to marinas to provide them with signage and help them obtain spare parts.

Sewage pumpout survey data provides information on how well units are functioning and maintained, as well as a reliable list of existing pumpouts for boaters. Surveying is an important part of staying in contact with marinas. It also ensures grant funds continue to be available. In Southern California, information cards are given to each location, which highlight that visit's surveying data. Statistics from the previous visit and standards for a well-functioning pumpout are included for comparison. By properly maintaining and using sewage pumpouts, we can all do our part to keep California's waterways clean.



Proper pumpout signage is important!

Photo: Michelle Staffield, The Bay Foundation

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 Ippolito at

[viippolito@santamonibay.org](mailto:viippolito@santamonibay.org) or 213-620-2271

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