



**VENTURA POWER SQUADRON OF
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS,
SAIL AND POWER BOATING**

www.ventura-usps.org
(888) 367-8777



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES™

CHANNEL ISLANDS

www.channelislands.noaa.gov

SANTA BARBARA HARBOR OFFICE

113 Harbor Way, Suite 150
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
(805) 966-7107

CHANNEL ISLANDS HARBOR OFFICE

3600 South Harbor Blvd., Suite 217
Oxnard, CA 93035
(805) 382-6149



**COUNTY OF VENTURA
HARBOR DEPARTMENT**

3900 Pelican Way
Oxnard, CA 93035
(805) 382-3001
www.countyofventura.org



**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK
ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO
VISITOR CENTER**

1901 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 658-5730
www.nps.gov/chis

BOATING & SAFETY

The purpose of this brochure is to provide a quick reference guide for safe and enjoyable boating. It includes weather tips, safety reminders, and resource information. While there is a good deal of important information offered here, there is no substitute for common sense, local knowledge, and good seamanship practices.



CINMS



**It is recommended
that boaters wear
life jackets at all
times while underway.**

Additional critical information about anchoring, cold water survival, and first aid for hypothermia can be found in the following free publications. These should be available for reference on your vessel.

- ***ABC's of California Boating Law***
- ***Federal Requirements and Safety Tips for Recreational Boaters***

These publications are available at most marine supply stores and online at www.dbw.ca.gov and www.uscgboating.org. See inside for additional helpful materials.

Santa Barbara Channel Weather

Before going boating, become aware of the dynamic weather patterns in the Santa Barbara Channel. There are many sources available to obtain this information. These sources include: newspapers, radio, TV, websites, information kiosks, the VHF/FM marine radio, and the Oxnard National Weather Service office.

www.nwsla.noaa.gov
**NWS Public Information:
(805) 988-6610
Marine Weather Radio CH 3
for marine weather only**

www.channelislands.noaa.gov
**Weather Kiosks located at Santa
Barbara and Channel Island Harbors**



© Glen Allen

Always be aware that the weather in the Channel Islands is in a continuous state of change. Fog and winds are a challenge to the most experienced boaters. All year expect fog if visibility is decreasing or there is a sudden drop in temperature when the winds are light and the sky is clear.

From November through April, expect high winds with clear skies and good visibility when the wind is warm and out of the northeast. Also, when the wind shifts to the northwest, expect high winds. Generally, the sky will initially be cloudy with restricted visibility; look for a cold northwest wind to rise with clearing skies and good visibility.

The prevailing sea breeze wind blows from the west to northwest throughout the year. It typically blows between 11 A.M. and 8 P.M. The average speed is 10 to 20 mph.

Ship Traffic Lanes Pose Danger!

Up to 300 large vessels per week travel at any hour, night and day, seven days a week, in the merchant shipping lanes located between the Channel Islands and the coast.

Some important facts to note are: The northbound and southbound lanes are one mile wide, separated from each other by two miles. The speed of modern cargo vessels can exceed 30 knots. In an emergency, a large ship can take more than two miles to stop. These ships pose a danger to any smaller vessel in the channel. These ships transit the entire world and there is no assurance that the ship's bridge officer is aware of pleasure boat traffic and/or has good English language communication skills.

There is a blind zone in front of these large ships due to their height, their radar's position, and the position of their command bridge. Communication with the ship can be made on VHF/FM marine radio channel 13 or 16.

It is up to the boater to be aware of this large vessel hazard when crossing the shipping lanes. To minimize transit time in these dangerous areas, cross at a right angle to the direction to the traffic lane and well astern of any cargo vessels, if sea state conditions permit. Refer to a current marine navigation chart for details.



© Ben Waltzberger

Boat Communication: Using the VHF/FM Marine Radio

Channel 16 is the hailing and distress channel for this area. Boaters should use VHF CH 16 in an emergency.

- Monitor Channel 16 at all times.
- Don't transmit on Channel 16 when the Coast Guard is using it, unless there is an immediate personal danger.
- Calling another vessel for any reason on Channel 16 when no one else is using it **is** permitted. State the other vessel's name three times followed by the name of your vessel (and call signs if available.) Wait one minute to repeat. After three tries without a response, stop the calling sequence for a while. When the call is answered, agree with the other boat to switch to another channel, such as 68, 69, 71, or 72. No radio checks on Channel 16.



CINMS

Transmitting Distress Calls

When grave and imminent danger threatens life or property and immediate help is required, transmit the **MAYDAY** Call on **Channel 16**. Start the call by repeating **MAYDAY** three times. Once you have made contact, communicate your boat name, position (latitude and longitude, or distance from known geographical point), problem, type of assistance needed, number of people on board (and if any are injured), safety equipment on board, and identifying characteristics of your vessel (length, type, color). Monitor Channel 16 for a response.

For non-life-threatening situations such as:

- Running out of fuel
- Mechanical breakdown

Transmit a **PAN-PAN** (pronounced PON-PON) **URGENCY** call on Channel 16. Start the call by repeating **PAN-PAN** three times. Once you have made contact, communicate your boat name, position (latitude and longitude, or distance from known geographical point), and type of assistance required or problem. Identify a listening frequency and monitor that channel. Cancel **PAN-PAN** when urgency has been resolved.

SECURITIE (pronounced se-cure-i-tay) – this will be broadcast when there are obstructions to safe boating in an area.

24 Hour Emergency Telephone Numbers:

Use the following telephone numbers, if necessary:

U.S. Coast Guard
Search & Rescue
805-985-9822

Channel Islands
Harbor Patrol
805-382-3000

Ventura
Harbor Patrol
805-642-8618

Port Hueneme
Wharfinger
805-488-4615

Santa Barbara
Harbor Patrol
805-564-5530

Divers Alert
Network (DAN)
919-684-8111



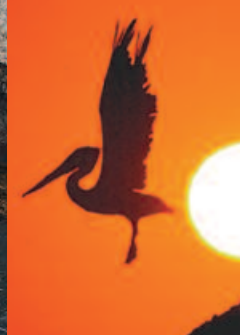
© Robert Ellington



© David Brown



© NPS

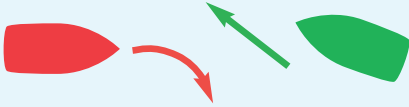





BASIC RULES OF THE ROAD WHISTLE SIGNALS

PORT (Left) SHORT BLAST: 1 second PROLONGED BLAST: 4 – 6 seconds STARBOARD (Right)

DANGER SIGNAL: (five or more rapid short blasts.) Alarm or emergency. Also used to indicate that other vessel's signal or intentions are not understood; or that conditions prevent immediate compliance with signals.

DANGER ZONE: From Dead Ahead to 112.5 degrees on the Starboard Beam. Vessels in this zone of your boat are **STAND-ON** and have the right of way. Vessels approaching, but not in your **DANGER ZONE**, are **GIVE-WAY** and must give way.

SITUATION	SIGNAL
If you cannot determine whether vessels are MEETING or CROSSING :	ONE SHORT BLAST. Assume vessels are MEETING . Both turn right and pass Port to Port.
If you cannot determine whether you are OVERTAKING or CROSSING :	Assume you are OVERTAKING . Keep clear and initiate Overtaking rules.
Emerging from slip or leaving dock:	ONE PROLONG BLAST (Warning signal)
Engine in reverse, vessel backing:	THREE SHORT BLASTS.
CROSSING: 	STAND-ON VESSEL—ONE SHORT BLAST: Maintain speed and course. GIVE-WAY VESSEL—ONE SHORT BLAST: Turn right and pass astern, slow down or stop until STAND-ON vessel passes.
MEETING HEAD ON or slightly STARBOARD : 	ONE SHORT BLAST exchanged by both vessels. Both turn right and pass PORT to PORT .
MEETING PORT to PORT : 	ONE SHORT BLAST to be exchanged by both vessels. Pass PORT to PORT . Turn right for clearance if necessary.
OVERTAKING and PASSING on lead vessel's STARBOARD side: 	ONE SHORT BLAST. Proceed only if lead vessel answers with ONE SHORT BLAST . Reply of danger signal (five or more rapid short blasts) indicates it is unsafe to pass at this time.
OVERTAKING and PASSING on lead vessel's PORT side: 	TWO SHORT BLASTS. Proceed only if lead vessel answers with TWO SHORT BLASTS . Reply of danger signal (five or more rapid short blasts) indicates it is unsafe to pass at this time.
MEETING STARBOARD to STARBOARD : 	TWO SHORT BLASTS exchanged by both vessels. Pass Starboard to Starboard ONLY IF THERE IS ENOUGH ROOM FOR SAFE CLEARANCE WITHOUT CHANGING COURSE.



© Ralph A. Clevenger



CINMS



CINMS



© David Brown

Fueling Safety

- Don't smoke
- Ventilate bilge
- Turn off all engines
- Avoid spilling fuel
- Extinguish stove, lanterns, and flames
- Turn off battery selector switch
- Close all hatches and windows before beginning to fuel
- Keep hose nozzle in contact with fill pipe. Stand by, watch fill nozzle.
- Remove portable gas tanks from boat before filling
- Keep fire extinguisher handy



Mandatory Safety Equipment

- Fire extinguishers fully charged
- Three hand-held flares
- Throw device (ring, horseshoe buoy, floating seat cushion, etc.)
- One personal flotation device (PFD) for each person onboard (all must have a proper sized PFD.) Children under 12 years must wear on boat 26 feet or less.
- Horn, whistle, or sounding device



Vessel Safety Check

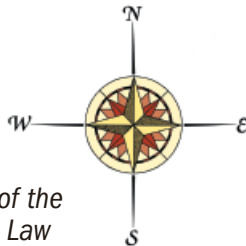
The Vessel Safety Check program is a free check of a vessel's equipment for compliance with federal, state, and local safety requirements. This inspection is not connected with any law enforcement agency or organization. It is for each boater's safety awareness and education. Some of the items checked are:

- Proper display of numbers
- Registration / Documentation
- Personal Flotation Devices
- Visual Distress Signals
- Fire Extinguishers
- Ventilation
- Backfire Flame Control
- Sound Producing Devices
- Navigation Lights
- Marine Sanitation Devices
- Overall Vessel Condition



Recommended Equipment

- Basic tools and spare parts
- Bailer, hand/foot pump
- Anchor and line length in excess of 100 feet
- One 36" X 36" orange international distress flag
- Compass
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Marine radio
- Reference: *ABC's of the California Boating Law*



Improve Your Boating Skills

Power • Sail • PWC

Ventura Power Squadron invites family and friends to their

SAFE BOATING COURSE

Learn About:

- Boat Handling & Seamanship
- Needed Equipment
- Rules of the Road
- Lines & Knots
- Charts & Aids to Navigation
- Engine Troubleshooting
- Boat Trailing
- And much more!

Visit the Ventura Power Squadron website at:

<http://www.usps.org/localusps/ventura>

Or call: **1-888-367-8777**

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Eastern

CONTACTS:

USPS

<http://www.usps.org/localusps/ventura>

1-800-SEA-SKIL (1-800-732-7545)

or 1-888-367-8777

M-F 8 AM – 4:30 PM Eastern

USCG Auxiliary

www.uscgaux.org or 1-800-368-5647

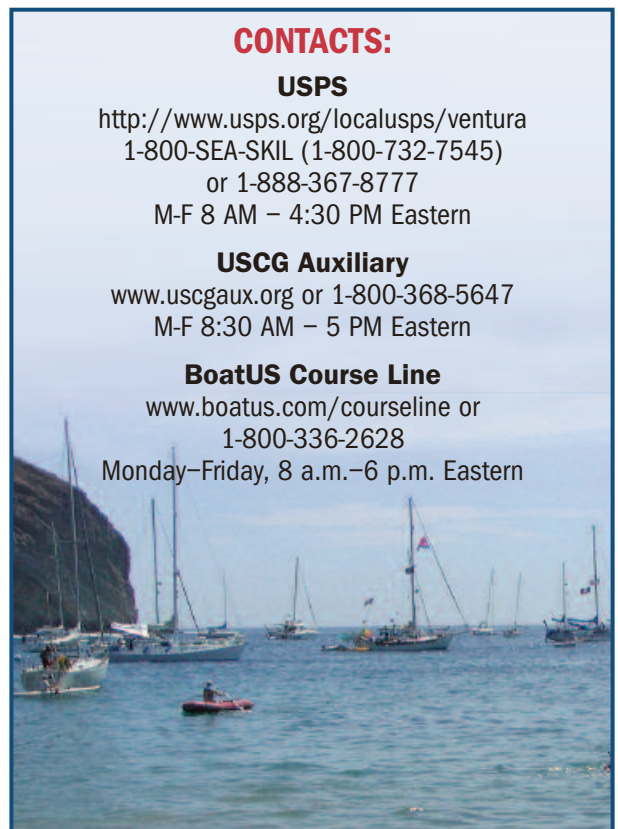
M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM Eastern

BoatUS Course Line

www.boatus.com/courseline or

1-800-336-2628

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Eastern



© Jim Brye

CHANNEL ISLANDS...

The Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary were designated in 1980, and are comprised of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Islands and the waters surrounding them. The park consists of 250,000 acres of land and ocean environment out to one mile from the islands. The sanctuary extends from mean high tide to six nautical miles around the islands, encompassing

1,252 square nautical miles of ocean habitat. Together the park and sanctuary protect a wealth of natural and cultural resources, increase awareness through public education, conduct monitoring and research, and offer visitors numerous recreational opportunities that include boating to secluded anchorages, fishing, scuba diving, kayaking, and exploring over 175 miles of coastline.

Landing on the Islands

- There are no all-weather anchorages around the islands. One capable person should stay on board the boat at all times. Boaters are responsible for any damage to the resources caused by their boat.
 - Private boaters may land on all five islands within the national park year round.
 - There are no landing permits required for the Channel Islands, except for the Nature Conservancy property on Santa Cruz Island. Please refer to the Channel Islands National Park newspaper and website for closed and restricted areas (see contact information on front of this brochure).
 - Boaters should contact the park ranger on Channel 16 before landing.

Pumpout Facilities

In order to protect the health of our waterways, boaters should use the pumpout facilities listed below. **Do not pump oily bilge discharge or sewage into the ocean.**

SEWAGE PUMPOUT LOCATIONS:

Channel Islands Harbor

Peninsula Park Dock
East Channel Day Dock
Harbor Administration Dock

Ventura Harbor

Ventura Harbor Launch Ramp
Ventura Isle Marina
Ventura West Marina 1

Santa Barbara Harbor

Field Dock Launch Ramp
Marina 1A Walkway
Marina 1OP Walkway
Marina 1RS Walkway

Bilge Pumpout and used oil collection:

Channel Islands Fuel Dock

Call **1-800-CLEANUP** for information on proper disposal of hazardous materials.



© Jack Peveler

Recreational Fishing

Anyone 16 years and older must have a sport fishing license to take any kind of fish, mollusk, invertebrate or crustacean in California. Additionally, an Ocean Enhancement Stamp is required for ocean fishing south of Point Arguello, except when fishing under the authority of a two-day sport fishing license. No fishing is allowed in Marine Protected Areas (see map on reverse side.)

Refer to the current ocean sport fishing regulation booklet for complete information on regulations, including seasonal and area closures, size limits, bag limits, gear restrictions, protected species and fillet requirements. Pick up a copy of regulations wherever fishing licenses are sold or contact:

California Department of Fish and Game

Marine Region Headquarters
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr, Ste 100
Monterey, CA 94025
(831) 649-2870

View the regulations online at:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/index.html>

A WORLD TO DISCOVER

Watching Wildlife

To protect wildlife, landing is prohibited on all offshore rocks and islets.

Under federal law it is illegal to disturb or harass seabirds, seals, and sea lions. Harassment may be interpreted as any action that modifies the behavior of birds and mammals.

Boaters need to be cognizant of different seabird nesting seasons and nesting sites at the Channel Islands. Species of concern, like the Xantus's Murrelet and Pigeon Guillemot, nest on rocky sea ledges and in sea caves.

Please observe the marine mammal viewing "code of conduct" by remaining at least 100 yards from marine mammals and if approached by a whale, put the engine in neutral and allow the whale to pass. Boat movement should be from the rear of a whale. Federal law prohibits pursuit of marine mammals.

Some Watchable Wildlife Guidelines include:

- Keep your distance to avoid disturbance.
- Do not touch any animal even if it appears to be sick, injured, or orphaned.
- Never feed wild animals.
- Do not use food, calls, whistles, decoys, or other artificial means to attract wildlife.
- Leave pets at home—they may startle, chase, and even kill wildlife.
- Respect the right of wildlife viewers.
- Never get between wildlife and a seaward escape route.
- Respect the rights of landowners.
- Take only memories and leave only footprints.
- Share the joy of wildlife viewing with others, especially children, and teach them about the importance of not disturbing wildlife or the habitats they depend upon for survival.



© Amy Cole



© Merrit McCrea

Important Channel Islands Regulations

- Discharging or depositing substances, with the exception of fish chumming materials, waters and biodegradable effluents generated by marine sanitation devices, is prohibited.
- Collecting, harassing, feeding or otherwise harming native wildlife, plant life or other natural resources is prohibited.
- Archeological sites and other cultural resources, such as shipwrecks, are protected under state and federal law. It is illegal to disturb or damage these sites in any way.
- Personal watercraft are prohibited within one mile surrounding each island in the Channel Islands National Park.
- Landing is prohibited on all offshore rocks and islets.
- Pets are not allowed on the islands.
- Fires, fireworks, explosives, carrying or using firearms is prohibited.
- No fires are allowed on island beaches. No camping is allowed on island beaches except seasonally by permit on Santa Rosa Island.



NOTE: Use caution when approaching a boat with a dive flag. Maintain a distance of at least 100 yards.

(Note: This is an abridged version of the regulations that apply to recreational boaters. Please refer to the Channel Islands National Park newspaper and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary website at www.channelislands.noaa.gov for a complete list of regulations.)

OTHER HELPFUL MATERIALS



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Ocean Survey charts 18720, 18721, 18725, 18727, 18728, 18729, and 18756

Detailed boating information on the channel and the islands may be obtained from the US Coast Guard's "Local Notice to Mariners." Contact Coast Guard-Long Beach at (310) 980-4300 extension 509 or online @ the USCG 11th District's website <http://www.uscg.mil/d11/>

Cruising guides to the islands are available at marine supply stores.