

# Stamford Harbor Master's Report 7/18/2017

## Moorings

- Mooring status (as of 7/17/2017);
  - Approved - 74 (increase in 1 from last month)
  - Under Review - 00
  - Approval on hold - 04
  - Expired, not renewed/no response - 11

## Fireworks and July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend

- A busy weekend with Police, Fire Department and Harbor Commission boats all active at some point.
- Despite the threat of storms causing a delay in getting the fireworks barge around to Westcott Cove (see figure 1.), the display went well with no known safety issues concerning spectators.
- During the weekend (all three agencies);
  - multiple vessels, both local and visitor, were cautioned regarding speed and/or wake in both the outer harbor and west branch. Many were photographed. There were some innovative excuses, including one who was seen speeding into the harbor and was spoken to in the west branch. His excuse? ... "I was putting my T-shirt on. You must have seen me?"
  - Broken down boats were towed to a place of safety to await commercial towing assistance.
  - 3 children without lifejackets were rescued from a sinking canoe (Police Harbor Unit).
  - A navigation buoy (subsequently identified as Dolphin Cove #1) adrift in the harbor was recovered. (USCG informed). (DHM turned out from home for this one and was later assisted by Sgt. Monck).
  - Numerous safety inspections were carried out.
  - Various mooring infractions were addressed (see figure 2.)
  - Perhaps the months' most interesting question; I was approached by a 38' Carver motor cruiser going 'up' the west branch and asked, "Is this the way to west beach?". I directed them out of the harbor and to the east, emphasizing that they should go outside of buoy "32" due to low tide/lack of water inside. I further enquired if they were local to the area. They replied that they were not, but had GPS!



Figure 1



Figure 2

## Harbor Activity

- We have all heard about the fatal accident that occurred in Late June. There is an on-going investigation by State Police.
- 6/24/2017 Two paddle-boarders were reported overdue from Harbor Point North in 20+ knot winds. After a search, the Police harbor unit located and recovered the paddle-boarders (who had dead

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cellphone batteries, did not know universal signal for distress and had no whistles.) and returned them unharmed to Soundwaters.

- 6/24/2017 I assisted Colin McLaughlin (prospective Eagle Scout) contact various marinas and facilities around the harbor in preparation for deploying the fishing line recycling units.
- 6/29/2017 I was contacted by the OCEARCH research organization regarding dockage for a motor vessel requiring 13' draft. I referred them to Harbor Point North where the similar vessels have previously docked.
- Over the weekend of July 15/16<sup>th</sup> there was a reported incident concerning a conflict between a recreational vessel and a commercial oyster vessel in the general area of the Ford North shell fish lease area. It is unclear whether this particular incident was in Greenwich or Stamford waters. The Stamford Police Harbor Unit attended and spoke the fishing vessel. When the recreational vessel operator was later approached (at his 'home dock'), he was very uncooperative. I believe that this is a continuation of the previous mooring dispute and am in contact with my Greenwich counterpart regarding possible escalation.

## Garbage and Debris

- 6/21/2017 report to Police Dispatch of a 'large tree' floating mid-channel near the Crabshell. The harbor unit was committed at a meeting in the Government Center, the HM and SHM were contacted but neither were available. Sgt. Monck attended when he was free of the meeting got underway and attended, eventually locating a 'pile of leaves' that could have been mistaken for an upturned tree. This was secured near the temporary fuel dock for later removal.
- 6/24/2017 a very large mass of congealed foliage and dirt was seen floating in the west branch by the Police harbor unit. It measured approximately 6'x4'x2' (deep) and weighed in excess of 150 lbs. (see figure 3). It was not possible to recover it and it later became trapped in the TGM Anchor Point marina. It was believed (by odor) to contain a large amount of sewage/rotting organic matter. Its origin could not be determined.
- At about 20:00 on July 6th, I received a call from 'fire dispatch' wanting me to turn out to a reported oil spill 'behind', 98 Southfield Avenue. The impression I gained was that the FD and their boat were already in attendance. I was unable to attend but (again) the DHM attended from home. He observed a sheen on the water contained to Stamford Landing, mainly against the bulkhead. The dock attendants said that they had noticed it before 8:00PM. The wind was blowing out of the SSE and there was a flooding tide. Perhaps it was from a spill at the fuel dock or from a boat at Stamford Landing. SFD had attended by car to take a look before DHM arrived. The Fire Boat never got underway or manned. During subsequent conversation with SFD dispatch, they stated that this (spill) was a regular and frequent occurrence and it was their 'protocol' to call me. They did say that they would get the Captain to send me details of the incident. I have received nothing yet. If the spill was significant, the USCG should be notified, if not does the city not have an oil spill / hazardous materials spill plan?



Figure 3

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## Safety

- 6/21/2017 The speed restriction marker outside of the breakwater that was out of position has been relocated.
- There seems to be an increasing issue with jet skis being launched from the West Beach boat ramp exceeding the speed limit (see figure 4) taken from my own boat approaching the fishing pier inbound for fuel. The problem seems to be worst on Sundays with the influx of out of state operators. The Police Harbor Unit are giving attention when they can both afloat and by land, giving advice, issuing tickets and terminating voyages,



Figure 4

## Harbor Commission Boat

- The fuel account for 2016 has now been cleared and we are up-to-date with the vendor.
- Finally, it has been surprising how many people who have commented that we were not flying a US flag from the Harbor Commission boat so, in preparation for the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, I took the liberty of buying one. The West Marine invoice (\$13.78) has been submitted electronically to the Frank Fedeli for payment against the relevant account.

Respectfully submitted

Captain Eric Knott

Captain Yale Greenman

State Harbor Master

State Deputy Harbor Master



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West Marine

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Invoice  
Account #: 15201296  
PO: HARBORMASTER

Customer: WEST MARINE PRO  
Company: STAMFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT COM  
888 WASHINGTON BLVD  
STAMFORD, CT 06901  
Signer: 5 ERIC KNOTT

Qty	NET	Total
Cabletie-Wh 8in (25)	12029807	
1	1.78	1.78
Mfg Part #: 199204		
Retail 4.29		
Flag US-Sewn 50 Star 12x18	6563449	
1	11.89	11.89
Mfg Part #: 8418		
Retail 16.99		
Subtotal		13.67
Sales Tax		0.11
Total		13.78

Charge 13.78

\*\*\*5074

Customer randomly entered in a monthly drawing  
to win a \$250 West Marine Gift Card.

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Mooring → 20 [redacted]  
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@gmail.com (OYM)  
e-mail/wh sel. 0945- 7/3/2017 U

FOR MAST  
STAMFORD  
CAPTAIN

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