



# Winter's on the Horizon

October 2022

Ahoy Mooring Patron,

Winter is fast upon us, and it is time to prepare your vessel for storm conditions. By checking the weather and visiting your vessel in good conditions for preventative maintenance, you can help keep your vessel safe. In a very large storm event, vessels that can be hauled should be taken out of the water. Mariners of larger vessels may consider relocating their boat to a harbor protected from southerly winds such as Morro Bay.

**Weather-** Winter presents many challenges. Two weather conditions to note are large swells and storms with southerly winds.

**Large W/NW Swells-** Surge from these swells can make getting to and from your boat dangerous and nearly impossible.

**South Winds-** When winter storms approach, they can whip up wind waves that come straight into port. These conditions are the most damaging to vessels. Plan to check vessels before and after one of these weather events occur.



**Checking Weather-** NOAA's Coastal Waters Forecast can be found at [NOAA Marine Forecast - Los Angeles to Oxnard](https://www.noaa.gov/coastal-waters-forecast). The District also has a live camera feed on the District website. <https://www.portsanluis.com/2155/Live-Webcam>

**Securing your Mooring-** Each mooring is designed specifically for your vessel. If you have questions on how your system is set up; contact the Main Office (805-595-5400 ext. 0) to schedule time to meet with the Mooring Crew, Mon - Fri, 6:30 am - 2:30 pm.



## Issues and Prevention

**Chaffing-** Most bridles will begin to wear through where they come in contact with the hull. It is important to put chaffing "gear" to protect the integrity of the line.



Here, firehose is used at the edge of the deck to protect the bridle lines. It can be challenging to keep the fire hose in the correct spot. By making a hole in the fire hose in the correct spot then using zip ties or twine to wrap the bottom of the eye keeps chaffing "gear" in the correct position. If possible check thimbles for chaffing or damage where the line connects to chain contact Harbor Patrol or the Mooring Crew if you notice any damage.



Fire hose should be inspected every time you visit your boat, or quarterly at a minimum, as it will chaff through and become ineffective.

**Chain-** Is very strong but must be fair led through a metal chock or an anchor chock. It is imperative that the top of the chock be secured with a bolt or lashed down to prevent the chain from popping out of the chock.



If a chain is chaffing on wood or fiberglass during a storm it will start to saw through the vessel causing damage. If your chain has a hook on it insure the clasp spring is operational or find another way to secure.

**Sea Lion Deterrent-** Keeping sea lions off your vessel is important. But if your deterrent makes it unsafe for a Harbor Patrol officer to board your vessel, we will not be able to board your boat to check on it.

**Mast Hardware-** The constant rocking of being on the water takes its toll on hardware. Check turnbuckles and cotter pins to ensure your mast stays secure in a storm.

**Bilge Pumps-** Ensure pumps, switches, and batteries are ready for the winter. Additionally, look into installing a one-way valve to prevent taking on water through the discharge through-hole. Clear debris from the bilge to prevent the float switch from being fouled up. Keep debris clear from drain holes in the cockpit of sailboats. Also, consider a solar charging system to keep your batteries topped off during periods of inactivity.

**Handline-** It is a good idea to use the handline or a secondary line secured to a different structural component (Mast) in case the structural component (Bow Cleats) the bridles are connected to fails. Additionally, securing the handline ensures it will not unintentionally wrap your propeller.

**Contact Information-** Keeping your information up-to-date at the Harbor Office helps the Harbor Patrol notify you if there is a problem. Additionally, if you plan on staying the night on your vessel to weather out a storm, please notify Harbor Patrol.

**Water Taxi-** Will not run in inclement conditions and Harbor Patrol will only give patrons rides for emergency repairs. Many of these problems can be avoided with routine maintenance. You are responsible for how your mooring connects to your vessel, not the District or the Harbor Patrol.

The safe operation, navigation, and mooring of your vessel is ultimately *YOUR* responsibility.

If you would like more information, contact the Harbor Patrol at 805-595-5435 or the Harbor District's Main office at 805-595-5400, ext. 0. If you would be interested in a class/lecture please express interest to the Main Office.

Thank you,

Port San Luis Harbor District,  
Harbor Patrol Department