

February 2016



The Marina News



A Monthly Publication
for the Boaters of Dana Point Marina
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Festival of Whales

Each winter a different type of visitor travels along the West Coast, heading to Baja during its annual migration: the majestic California Gray Whale. Peak gray whale watching season is between December and April. To honor the natural wonder, the Harbor and City of Dana Point present the **45th Annual Dana Point Festival of Whales** on the weekends of **March 5th and 6th, and March 12th and 13th.**

Festival highlights include an opening day parade, block party, art exhibits, classic car exhibits, concerts on land and water, environmental activities, educational opportunities, interpretive crafts, kids activities and of course, some of the best whale watching excursions on the west coast.

For more information on the Festival and Dana Point, as well as a detailed Calendar of Events, please visit: www.festivalofwhales.com.

El Niño

El Niño -- A large-scale, ocean-atmosphere climate interaction linked to warming of sea surface temperatures across parts of the Pacific Ocean – may bring big storms to California this winter. Boat owners and should prepare for extreme storms through spring 2016.

Below you'll find resources about El Niño, its potential effects on California's waterways and safety precautions to take.

What Boaters Should Know about El Niño Winter Boating Safety

- **Keep informed about the latest weather, water and tidal conditions.**
Develop a list of weather resources, sign up for alerts and use them before boating. In addition to local weather forecasts, critical meteorological information is available for boaters and marina operators: Tune to local radio stations or the National Weather Radio Broadcasts on frequencies of 162.400, 162.425, 162.450, 162.475, 162.525, and 162.550 MHz in areas where available.
 - **Check your boat's required safety equipment.**
 - **Avoid boating during strong weather.**
High tides, storm surges, poor visibility, moving sandbars and debris contribute to dangerous conditions during winter. Conditions on the water change rapidly. Boaters who must be on the water this winter should carry a registered Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) for marine use and know how to use it. For more Information: www.sarsat.noaa.gov/beacon
 - **Always file a float plan with friends or family.**
Searches for an overdue boat are more likely to succeed if the U.S. Coast Guard or other rescue agencies have certain facts. For your own safety, before you go boating, file a float plan with a reliable person who will notify authorities if necessary.
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