



**Harbor
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Division**

Sea Lion Issues in Newport Harbor

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Newport Harbor, Southern CA

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10,000 Vessels

1,200 Offshore Moorings

1,200 Residential and Commercial
Piers





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ISSUE:

- This past summer, approximately 20 to 25 sea lions were seen plying the waters of Lower Newport Bay. The sea lion population within the A,B&C mooring areas of the Lower Bay has increased dramatically in recent years
- They haul out on low freeboard vessels and unprotected swim steps, barking continuously over territory, day and night. Many residential areas are disturbed.
- The sea lions have damaged (and sunk) vessels, docks, aids to navigation and the white sea bass grow out pens.
- Sea lions are aggressive to humans at certain times and have charged kayaks with adults and children on board.



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White Sea Bass Hatchery

- The problem began when the Department of Fish and Game white sea bass hatchery was invaded.
- The pens provided an idea haul out location in the bay offering a flat, protected area.
- They became extremely territorial and loud, capturing worldwide attention through television, print and radio newscasts.
- Several attempts to repair the pens failed as the sea lions were determined to recapture their “home.”





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After the sea bass hatchery was repaired, the sea lions moved to other low free board vessels and swim steps.

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Deterrent Measures

The City and the Harbor Department have found that the best way to deter the sea lions is to control the following:

- 1. Harbor Patrol and Harbor Resources notify the permittee of any sea lion problem***
- 2. Access to convenient haul out sites***
- 3. Direct and indirect feeding***



Access to Haul Out Sites





Access to Haul Out Sites

Example of low freeboard vessels with no physical barriers

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Access to Haul Out Sites

Recent Local Deterrent Actions:

- Vessels were relocated to other locations in the harbor. Interestingly, the sea lions did not follow the vessel to its new location. (One vessel was sunk before it could be moved.)
- Mooring permittees were called and told to “sea lion proof” their vessels. (previous slide)
- The Harbor Patrol monitored vessels and they did their best to persuade the sea lions to leave, i.e. light water spray, constant patrols around problem vessels etc...)



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New Deterrent Measures
Recommended by National Marine
Fisheries Services:

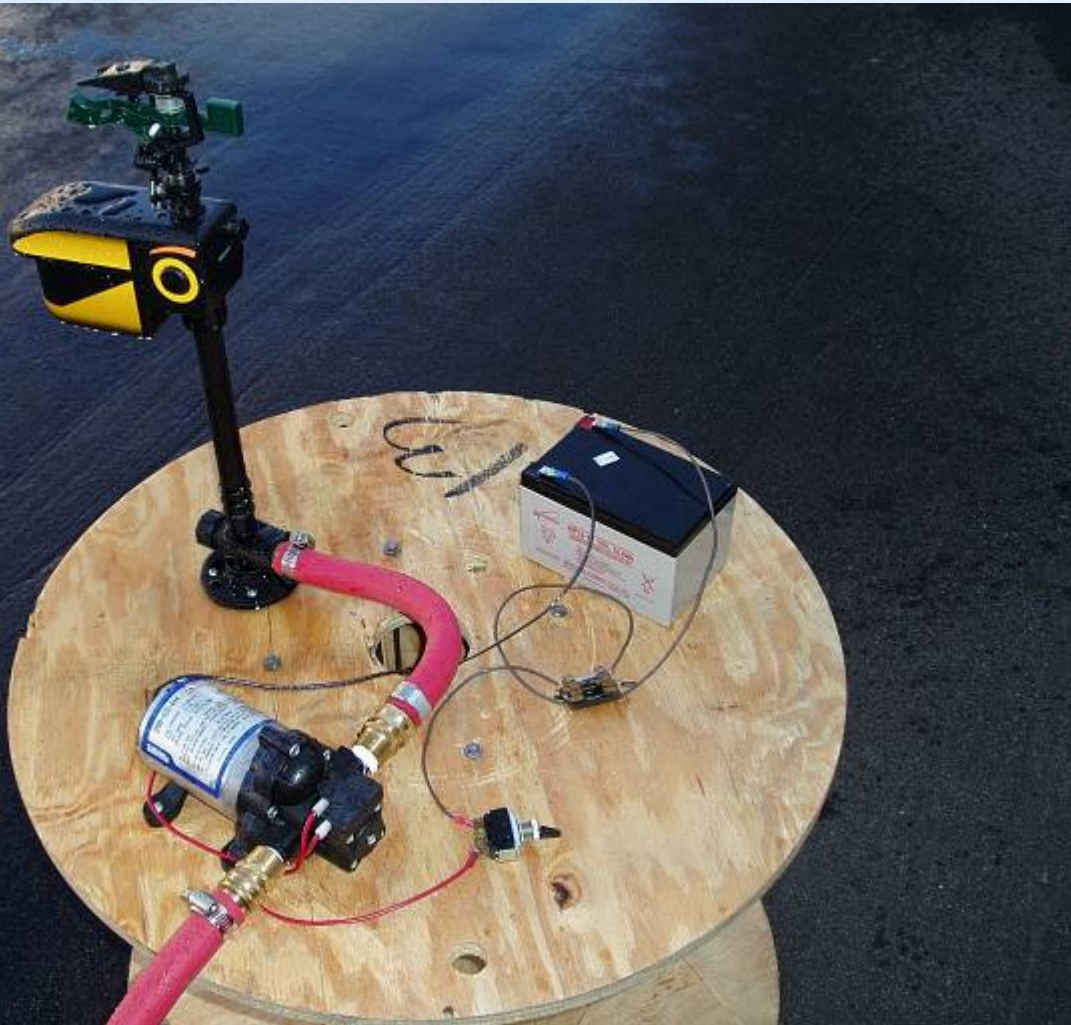
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<http://www.magent.com/scarecrowsprinkler.htm>

- Motion detector activated low voltage sprinkler system for moored vessels

***“Scarecrow Sprinkler
Electronic Outdoor
Pest Repeller”***

- Rollers (PVC, stainless steel or other materials) on lifelines, stanchions and pulpits





Sea Lion Issues in Newport Harbor

Direct and Indirect Feeding

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The City of Newport Beach may be adopting the following ordinance changes:

- 1. Feeding of non-domesticated animals**
 - a. Washing down vessels containing fish parts
 - b. Pumping out holding tanks
 - c. Dropping fish parts from a public pier

- 2. Vessel security on moorings from sea lions**
 - a. Vessel owner is given notice to rectify the problem
 - b. Enforcement via Administrative Citations

- 3. Pier (residential and commercial) security from sea lions**
 - a. Pier owner is given notice to rectify the problem
 - b. Enforcement via Administrative Citations

- 4. Public information bulletin**
 - a. Recommended deterrent measures posted on the City's website
 - b. Prototype Scarecrow device posted for others to build upon

- 5. Commercial vessel advisement sticker**
 - a. Sticker posted in all commercial vessels (fishing, charter etc...)



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**Don't Throw
Anything Overboard
In Newport Bay**

**It is a violation of Section 7.30.010
of the City of Newport Beach Municipal Code
to feed wildlife in Newport Bay.**



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For More Information

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