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MDR "VISION" COMES INTO FOCUS

COPPER PAINT ON THE OUTS?

CATALINA HAZARDS

TIPS FROM SAILMAKERS

A MAGAZINE FOR THE MARINA DEL REY BOATING COMMUNITY

Watching Whales the Right Way

The Ocean Conservation Society in Marina del Rey has begun a program called “Promoting Responsible Viewing of Marine Mammals in Southern California” with the goal of educating boaters about proper marine mammal viewing.

The Southern California Bight includes coastal Southern California, the Channel Islands and surrounding waters and is frequented by one of the largest populations of marine mammals in the world - up to 30 different species.

As humpback whales, blue whales and other endangered species frequent this area in search of food, people are taking to the water to see them first-hand. However, many people don’t know that these whales are protected or that getting too close can potentially cause harm to these magnificent animals. Whales and dolphins are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and boaters need to pay careful attention when approaching them.

It’s a violation of federal law to harass or harm them and penalties can include up to one-year imprisonment and fines of up to \$20,000. For full information and ways to help marine mammals go to www.oceanconservation.org.

Two Men Rescued Off MdR Coast

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) reported that a multiagency response lead to the rescue of two men after their boat capsized outside Marina Del Rey Harbor, Feb. 17, 2014.

Search and rescue watchstanders from Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles/ Long Beach received two reports of red distress flares near Marina Del Rey Harbor from a good samaritan and a sailboat returning to MdR from Catalina at about 6 p.m. Based on the elevation of the flare and angle of observation, watchstanders determined a likely location of origin.

Within 20 minutes rescuers were on scene and found two men clinging to a swamped 12-foot boat. Both men were recovered with no injuries. They confirmed that they had fired the distress flares after they both stood on one side of the boat at the same time while setting lobster traps, causing the boat to capsize. Even though they were able to right the boat, there was too much water inside and with darkness becoming a factor, they decided to shoot the flares.

“Having the right safety equipment aboard your boat will drastically decrease the time it takes to get help to you and also increase your chances of survival,” said Lt. Michael Turanitza. “These boaters did the right thing without a doubt.” *Story courtesy of uscgnews.com*



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