

A word about Oceanside Harbor Entrance

According to the Oceanside Harbor Maintenance Supervisor, the Oceanside Harbor entrance is passable even though the sand that can cause wave action there is building up again. The wave action at the harbor mouth occurs when one or more of the following factors are present:

1. The sand level at the harbor mouth is too high (6 – 12 feet)
2. The tide is very low
3. There is a large southerly swell or high surf warning for south facing beaches

There was an article published in the San Diego Tribune in June about the current situation in Oceanside, titled “Sand buildup at Oceanside harbor beginning to cause problems for boats.”

Here is a link to the article:

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/communities/north-county/sd-no-harbor-dredging-20180621-story.html>

After reading the article I did some research on my own since some of our DPYC boaters travel to Oceanside Harbor and we have the Oceanside Argosy Race/Cruise scheduled to go there July 28 & 29 and the Oceanside Yacht Club Charity Regatta is scheduled for August 4 & 5.

The Harbor Maintenance Supervisor for more than 20 years said he was concerned when he read the article because it does not appear to represent the real current situation. He offered the following information.

The Oceanside harbor entrance was dredged significantly in May of 2017 to a depth of 27 feet (measured at mean tide) but not this year. The target for past annual dredging has been 22 feet. The harbor is used regularly by commercial and private boats. However, the sand reef is currently at 20 feet depth and extremely low tides coupled with large swells, especially from the south, may cause the surf condition at the harbor entrance to be challenging. He said we had a relatively mild winter and felt the entrance should be safe as it is regularly used by the boaters of Oceanside. A commercial sport fishing operator in Oceanside agreed.

For the Oceanside Argosy Race/Cruise, we know the tides will be in our favor and the sand depth should not be a problem. We will keep an eye on the weather and any notices to mariners as the time approaches. Of course, each skipper must decide for themselves whether any situation is a concern to them or not.

Respectfully submitted for your information:

Bob Hartung