



## **Manchester-by-the-Sea Harbormaster** **Harbormaster**

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June 1, 2013

### **The Waterline**

Greetings Boaters,

#### **Safe Boating Graduates**

Congratulations to the twenty eight students who successfully completed the Massachusetts Safe Boating certification course in May. Upon certification boaters as young as twelve may operate a boat without an adult present. Many thanks to Jack Mason and Courtney Livingston, as well as the officers at the Gloucester office of the Environmental Police for their support of this important program.

**Storm Planning** Please see the attached PDF

The first hot days of summer have arrived and arriving Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> is hurricane season. Conditions in the Atlantic are currently clear of any tropical cyclones and it is obviously very early in the season. Cold water in our region this time of year means that a hurricane strike is very unlikely.

Take some time now to formulate your storm plan. Boaters in Area G and Magnolia are at greatest risk from ocean storms and as such you should have a plan in place today. Please look over the attached storm plan and the different alert levels that would be implemented in the event of a storm. Please call if you have questions about your storm plan.

Manchester is currently at Alert Level 0.

#### **MYC Boat Safety Inspections**

On the 22nd of June from 0800 - 1200 the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will be conducting free and risk-free safety inspections at MYC. Upon successful inspection you will receive a sticker visible to the Coast Guard should they board your vessel. If your

vessel fails you will not be reported and you will know what to correct. Contact Charlie Newhall at [clnewhall@gmail.com](mailto:clnewhall@gmail.com) to sign up. See you there!

If this time and date are inconvenient you may call Dick Salter at (978) 526-1004. He will provide a free inspection at your vessels location.

### **No-Wake Zone**

Just a reminder that the no-wake zone in Manchester has moved out to the West end of the channel. Let's make this the safest summer yet for our Area G mooring folks.

### **Waitlists**

My apologies for not posting new waitlists to the website sooner. I am waiting for all the new mooring sites to be accepted so that the lists reflect all names coming off this spring.

### **MASSPORT Moorings**

MASSPORT appeared before the Harbor Advisory Committee to clarify the offer for moorings in Manchester. Their legal department is retooling a proposal to Manchester in regards to replacing existing block and chain moorings with environmental moorings. A formal proposal is expected shortly.

### **Marine Mammals**

Several incidents reported in the news reflect the importance of not disturbing seals on a beach. In one case a young seal died after being removed by people trying to help. The young seal was reported to be in good health until it was removed from its mother.

**A beached whale, dolphin or porpoise** should be reported immediately and left alone pending further instruction. **Call the New England Aquarium's 24-hour Marine Animal Hotline: (617) 973-5247.** Please try to remain calm and leave your name and a phone number where you can be reached.

**Sea turtles** in our region do not typically come ashore unless they are seriously debilitated. **Call the New England Aquarium's 24-hour Marine Animal Hotline: (617) 973-5247.** Please try to remain calm and leave your name and a phone number where you can be reached.

**Seals** belong on the beach. It's normal. Please don't disturb them. Unlike whales or dolphins, seals are semi-aquatic and are comfortable out of the water. Most seals come onto beaches to sleep, nurse or soak up some sun.

**What should you do if you spot a seal on the beach?**

Seals are cute, but they are wild animals and should not be disturbed. By getting too close, you could upset the seal or possibly get bitten.

- **Watch quietly** from at least 150 feet away.
- **Keep dogs away** from the seal.
- **Do not** offer the seal food or water.
- **Do not** pour water on the seal or try to cover it with a towel or blanket.
- **Do not** try to make the seal move.
- **Does the seal look injured or unhealthy?**

Most seals on the beach are perfectly healthy, but sometimes they do need human assistance. Does the seal have any **obvious injuries, gunky eyes, or look skinny or underweight**? If the seal does, please take notes on its location, size, coloring and behavior and call the New England Aquarium's Marine Animal Hotline at **(617) 973-5247**.

All marine mammals are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This law makes it illegal to touch, disturb, feed or otherwise harass marine mammals without authorization.

### **Harbormaster Hours**

Monday	8AM-5PM
Thursday	8AM-8PM
Friday	8AM-5PM
Saturday	8AM- 5PM
Sunday	8AM- 5PM

Hours may vary depending on special events. This schedule may change as need dictates. Feel free to call before coming to the office. The Harbormaster can be reached by cell phone (978) 473-2520.

Click the following link for your latest Local Notice to Mariner's.  
<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/lnms/lnm01212013.pdf>. Be vigilant and notify the harbormaster of any missing or off station aids to navigation. The latest Manchester Harbor Rules & Regulations are posted on the Harbormaster website.

Stop by, say hi and don't forget your lifejacket! You can follow harbor happenings on the town website under Harbormaster or Facebook at Manchester Harbormaster Department. Updated as often as is practical.