THE MARINA
AT DANA POINT

NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2026

Greetings from the Marina at Dana Point!



As the summer crowds drift away, fall evenings in the harbor take on a crisp coastal glow. Fall is the perfect season to get out on the water with warm weather, radiant sunsets and tons of wildlife out there enjoying our big, beautiful ocean backyard!

Restaurants and retail in Dana Wharf will be open for business through October 31, 2026. Turks, Proud Mary's, Frisby Cellars, Coco Bloom, Art Sea + Gift Chateau, Golden Galleon Boutique and Vintage Yacht Club are all still open for business. In addition, Culture Pizza is open select Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in October. Stop by the Wharf and support our local harbor businesses throughout October.

As the harbor revitalization moves into the Wharf area, Dana Wharf Sportfishing & Whale Watching and Catalina Express will continue to operate out of trailers located near the parking structure. In addition, the Certified Farmers Market will continue every Wednesday from 9 AM to 1 PM in the small parking in front of the parking structure.

Love dogs? Join Dana Point Harbor and the Pet Project Foundation for the 2nd Annual Dogapalooza on October 17, 2026, at Bump Out Park 10 AM to 4 PM! Dogapalooza is an event themed entirely around dogs designed to delight both fur babies and their humans while benefiting a great cause. The event features live music, pet pampering stations, photo ops, kid and pet friendly crafts. Pet vendors, food trucks, beer & wine and a costume contest! Click HERE for more information.

The holidays may look a little different this year with the harbor revitalization well underway, but there will still be lights and holiday cheer in Dana Point Harbor! Happy Harbor Days kicks off on Thursday, November 12th with holiday lights and Dana Point Harbor's all-new holiday themed

night market, Harbor After Dark! Holiday lights will be on display from November 12, 2026 through January 10, 2027 and feature Happy Harbor Days, Merry Kiss Me, and more!

The 51st Annual Dana Point Harbor Boat Parade of Lights is Friday, Saturday & Sunday, December 11th, 12th & 13th at 6:30 PM nightly. This year's theme is Harboritaville! Parade registration will open in mid-October.

Marina Office



We are in the office and ready to help! Now is a great time to check in with us on anything you've been putting off during the busy summer season. Stop by anytime!

Southern California storms can arrive quickly once the season turns. We've already experienced large swells, and the forecast calls for more along with a potential super El Nino which is expected to bring heavy rainfall, severe storms and coastal flooding. Please take a few minutes to check your dock lines and chafe gear, confirm your fenders are properly placed, make sure bilge pumps and batteries are in good working order. Stowing loose gear and securing canvas now can prevent damage later. If you'll be away for an extended period, please let the office know and, if we don't have one already, make sure we have a good emergency contact for your account.

If your phone number, email, mailing address, or insurance has changed, please let us know. It is important that we have up to date contact information so we can reach you regarding your account as well as share important information and announcements. Proof of current vessel insurance is required for all slip tenants, so please send us your renewal as soon as you receive it.

Our friendly office team is onsite daily from 8 AM to 5 PM, including weekends. Stop by the office at 34555 Casitas Pl, call us at (949) 496-6137, or send us an EMAIL. We're always happy to help!

On the Docks



Fall is here, and so is lobster season! Fall is the best season to be on the water in Dana Point, and we are glad you're here!

California spiny lobster season opens Saturday, October 3rd, and we expect plenty of early morning activity on the docks and launch ramp. If you are heading out, please be courteous and do not leave hoop nets and gear on the docks. Happy hunting!

With lobster season underway, we want to remind everyone: please don't dump leftover bait into the harbor or leave it sitting in your slip. It may seem harmless, but tossed bait is one of the biggest reasons our wildlife problem keeps growing.

Sea lions and seabirds learn quickly where the easy meals are. Once they find a reliable food source, they come back, and they bring friends. That's how we end up with sea lions hauling out

on swim steps and docks, and gulls and pelicans camping on docks, railings and boat decks. The results are the same every time: droppings, damaged, canvas, torn cushions, torn lines, and a smell that lingers long after they've moved on.

It also matters for the animals themselves. Wildlife that gets used to handouts loses its natural wariness of people. Marine mammals are protected, so once they settle in, we're limited in how we can move them along. Prevention is by far the best tool we have.

Here's how you can help:

- Take unused bait home or dispose of it at least 3 miles outside the harbor.
- Don't clean fish or rinse bait buckets at your slip or into the water.
- Keep bait coolers closed and secured and never leave bait out or unattended.
- Store hoop nets and traps so leftover bait isn't exposed on the docks.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our docks clean and our wildlife wild!

Marina Revitalization



Phase 12 of the marina revitalization is open and occupied! Phase 12 is in the east basin island and includes G31, Dock of the **Juniper** Lanter, G32, Dock of the **Cobalt** Lantern, and G33, Dock of the **Coral** Lantern.

Slip selection for all locations coming into Phase 12 and Phase 13 is complete. Slip selection for locations coming into Phase 14 will begin in mid to late October.

We are just three phases away from completion of the marina! As we get into the final few phases of the marina revitalization project, any boats remaining in the marina will be in new slips within the next 15 months. At this point, we are working to identify which vessels remaining in old slips will not qualify to go into a new slip. As vessels in question are identified, we are reaching out to vessel owners requesting that they schedule a seaworthy evaluation. In addition to the requirement of a seaworthy vessel, tenants must be in good standing to relocate to a new slip. For all tenants still in old slips, it is time to start preparing for your move to a new slip. One way to prepare is to minimize the contents of your dock box. Another is to schedule your seaworthy and electrical evaluations in advance. This can be done by contacting the marina office to schedule an appointment on a date and time that is convenient for you. Lastly, please note the following important policies for new slips to ensure you are in compliance:

- **Floats and/or platforms are not permitted.** This includes Air Docks, Plastic Floats, and any other platform.
- No items are to be stored on the docks and **under no circumstance can anything be installed on the new docks.** No drilling anything into any part of the dock, no double-sided tape, no tying things to the dock.

- You are permitted to have your boarding steps (of reasonable size) and a water hose. Boarding steps may not be storage containers and should be kept on the starboard finger.
- **Bait receivers are not permitted in the water within the slip or on the dock.**
- Deionized water tanks are not permitted on the docks.
- Please do not attach anything to the power pedestal, pile or dock.
- Water/power will be billed based on actual usage. The billing period is from the 15th of the prior month to the 14th of the current month (example: April 15, 2026 through May 14, 2026).
- A proper marine grade electrical cord with a twist lock connection is required for connection of vessel to power pedestal. Extension cords are not permitted.
- Shore power cords will run from your boat directly to the pedestal. **The shore power cord may not be adhered to the dock in any way. This includes tape, screws, zip ties, etc.**
- If you plan to keep a dinghy behind your boat, it must fit within the allowable LOA of the slip. **Dinghies that create overhang greater than what is permitted in the slip size are not allowed.**
- Boat lifts, hydro-hoists, boat liners, or platforms are not permitted in the slip.
- ONLY contractors on the approved service contractor list maintained by the marina are permitted to perform work on the boat while it is in the slip. Service contractors not on the approved service contractor list are not authorized on the dock and are not permitted to work on the boat while it is in the slip. If you prefer to use an outside contractor, it will be necessary for you to have the work done at the shipyard or elsewhere.
- **All contractors/boaters will be responsible for any damage to the new docks.** This includes damage from attempting to attach or install something to the dock, damage to lines beneath the dock due to something being left in the water that slips under the dock, damage to the pedestal from something hitting it or being attached to it and any spills that may stain the dock.

As always, thank you to all marina tenants for your ongoing cooperation throughout the marina revitalization project. Things have moved quite smoothly thanks to good collaboration and coordination between the marina, the tenants and Bellingham Marine, who have done a tremendous job thus far.

There is so much to be excited about!



BOATING CLEAN & GREEN

Do you have expired marine flares?

The County of Orange has partnered with CalRecycle, the California Product Stewardship Council, California State Parks and Coastal Commission's California Boating Clean and Green Program to collect expired marine flares.

Residents and boaters berthing their boats in Orange County can take their expired marine flares to the marine flare collection event at Sunset Aquatic Marina on Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 7 AM to 1 PM.



Thank you for doing your part to keep our marina clean and our waters healthy!

As always, please contact the marina office directly if you have questions, concerns, or see something in need of our attention. You can reach me via **email** for a quick response, or you can call the marina office at (949) 496-6137.

Happy Boating,

Kelly Rinderknecht