

Blessing of the Fleet And Women at the Helm Race **May 25th.**

Blessing of the Fleet: 11:30

W.A.T.H. Race Start: Noon

*We are reinstating our annual Blessing of the Fleet. **This event is open to all boaters (sail or power) in the Hudson Beach area.** The **Blessing of the Fleet** is a centuries-old tradition originating in southern European fishing communities. A blessing from the local priest was meant to ensure a safe and bountiful season for the area's commercial fishing community. Over time, however, these ceremonies have evolved into community gatherings that celebrate not only safety but also the camaraderie of seafarers and their families.*

Dennis Stow's (HBYC Chaplin) boat will be the Blessing Boat. He will be anchored between the HBYC Start Waypoint (FR1) and Marker 2. That will be just a short hop south of Marker 2.

*The ceremony will begin at **1130** and will be broadcast on **VHF Ch. 72**. Plan to arrive and be in position before 1130. All boats should form a big circle (**under power**) and motor **clockwise** around the Blessing Boat. As new boats arrive, please make room for them to join the circle. Please maintain your position in the circle, don't overtake a slower boat.*



*Once Chaplin Dennis begins the Holy Water phase, boats will make a tight pass one-by-one staying in their position in the circle to receive the Holy Water. **Do not pass to close!** It is the symbolism not the splash that counts!*

As soon as your boat has received the Holy Water please break from the circle. Racers should head for the W.A.T.H. start line which will be the HBYC Start Waypoint (FR1).

The Women at the Helm Race is a trophy race featuring our women captains at the helm for the entire race. To sign up for this race please contact Dave Bauer. The course will be sent to the signed up racers on the eve of the race.

This will be a great day on the water, we hope you can come out and be a part of it.

Dave Bauer

Race Director