

Effective October 10, 2013

PORT OF NEW BEDFORD – HURRICANE POLICY FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS

The Port of New Bedford is a well-known safe harbor because of the hurricane barrier which can withstand storm surges of up to sixteen feet. The port is open for recreational vessels seeking shelter from storms and hurricanes until the Army Corps of Engineers closes the barrier.

Announcements regarding the time of closing are made by the Coast Guard via VHF marine radio – Channel 16 – switch to 22A.

Though the barrier provides protection from storm surges, the barrier does not provide protection against high winds or wind generated waves within the harbor. This guidance is intended to advise recreational boaters in advance of storms or hurricanes approaching Buzzards Bay.

- All vessels entering the port before the hurricane barrier closes will be placed at locations within the port as conditions (number of vessels, weather, etc.) allow. Vessels should call HDC staff on VHF channel 9, channel 74, or channel 16 or at 508-961-3000.
- Depending on the time of year and number of vessels in the harbor, a mooring may or may not be available.
- In the opinion of the port and its engineers, a mooring is generally a safer alternative than anchoring during a storm.
- The moorings available in the port are not storm moorings. The moorings in the harbor are only rated for winds of 40 knots.
- Vessels can come loose from a mooring for many reasons (e.g., chafing of pennant, weak pennant, dragging, struck by another vessel, or weak fixtures on the vessel.)
- Vessels coming loose from a mooring or anchor during a storm are a serious hazard to other vessels, shore side facilities, and critical port infrastructure including the Route 6 swing bridge and the Hurricane Barrier itself.
- Vessel owners requesting a mooring during a storm or hurricane will be required to sign a Waiver of Liability and Indemnity form assuming liability for all damage to persons or property caused by the vessel.
- Vessels coming loose from a mooring or anchor during a storm can expect serious if not total damage, and their owners/operators should expect legal action from vessels or facilities their vessel strikes.

In advance of a tropical storm or hurricane, vessel owners are requested to remove their vessels from the water in their home port, or use one of the haul out facilities in New Bedford. Vessels should be removed from the water early to avoid overcrowding at haul out facilities. Vessels owners should carefully consider the factors listed above in deciding when to haul their vessel from the water.

Haul Out Facilities.

Bayline Boatyard and Transport 508-994-2544, Hydraulic Trailer, 40 tons

Fairhaven Shipyard 508-996-8591, Rail Lift and Travel Lift, up to 1,000 tons

Niemiec Marine 508-997-7390, Hydraulic Trailer, 150 ton

Marine Hydraulics 508-990-2866, Hydraulic Trailer, 25 ton

Cozy Cove, Fairhaven 508-997-2444, Hydraulic Trailer and Travel Lift, 40 ton

Moby Dick, Fairhaven, 508-994-1133, Hydraulic Trailer, 40 ton

Earl's Marina, West Island Fairhaven, 508-993-8600, Hydraulic Trailer

New Bedford Boat ramps – East Rodney French, West Rodney French and Gifford Street