



Ventura Harbor
HOME OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

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Harbor Views



Plans for Sustainable Mussel Farm off Ventura Coast Move Forward

The Ventura Port District is moving ahead with a new project to farm mussels in the ocean off Ventura, an endeavor that would expand sustainable aquaculture and bring diversification and new opportunities to local commercial fishermen and the community.

The Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE) is a collaborative group seeking to permit a growing area for sustainably cultivated mussels in the Santa Barbara Channel off Ventura Harbor. Supported by a \$300,000 grant in 2015 to the Ventura Port District from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the National Sea Grant College Program, the Ventura Port District, as a VSE member, is moving forward with the effort to obtain all federal and state permits needed to cultivate mussels in the ocean. They would be farmed by commercial fishermen and landed at existing fish off-loading facilities in Ventura Harbor.

This aquaculture effort would expand and diversify commercial fishing activities in the Harbor. As an entirely new industry to the Ventura Harbor community, mussel farming would stimulate the local economy and bring a new source of fresh shellfish to the public that is grown using sustainable and responsible practices — all while lowering California's reliance on imports.

"The Ventura Shellfish Enterprise project is exciting and innovative and will help make our local economy more dynamic and diverse. The benefits from this

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Portside to Open, Start Leasing in Summer 2018

Portside Ventura Harbor, the Harbor's new waterfront development featuring apartments, retail space, a waterfront park and a marina, is expected to open the first phase with 56 residences for lease in the summer of 2018. Those interested in Portside Ventura Harbor may join the sign-up list for information and details at www.portsideventuraharbor.com.

Portside Ventura Harbor will be a catalyst for the Harbor and the city as it will bring attractive, new recreation and open-space amenities to the public, support existing Harbor businesses and boost tax revenue. Plans call for 300 residential housing units including 270 apartments and 30 live/work units; 20,000 square feet of commercial and retail space; a new recreational marina with 104 boat slips and a 90-foot public dock; a 2-acre public waterfront park; a public-access promenade; a public dock for personal watercraft like kayaks and paddle boards; and plenty of parking. Other benefits to the community include:

- ◆ Expanded marina facilities at Ventura Harbor
- ◆ Greater recreational opportunities for residents and visitors
- ◆ A new water taxi service connecting Portside Ventura Harbor to Harbor Village and other destinations in the Harbor
- ◆ Increased revenue for existing Port District businesses, stores and restaurants at Harbor Village
- ◆ New waterfront rental housing and upscale waterfront housing





Bryce Lucka cuts fish while Nathan Lile (right) and Jose Ojeda observe.

Wild Local Seafood Offers Fresh, Sustainable Fish from 'Boat to Table'

Riding the wave of the popular farm-to-table movement with its “boat-to-table” fresh-caught fish, Wild Local Seafood Co. at Ventura Harbor Village offers a daily fish market with a wide range of choices including tuna, crab, live rock fish, local black cod, live local halibut, squid, white sea bass, Pacific red rock cod lobster, prawns, oysters, seasonal albacore, ahi and local wild California king/Chinook salmon. Seafood lovers and foodies are growing in general and opting for food that’s freshly caught, freshly prepared and sustainably harvested.

“The interest in the sustainable seafood market keeps growing,” said Wild Local Seafood owner Ben Hyman of Santa Barbara, who opened Wild Local Seafood fish market at Ventura Harbor Village in June 2016.

“We are trying to encourage the public to get out and taste the bounty of our waters while supporting our local fishermen,” Hyman said, noting that 90 percent of local fish consumed in the United States is imported. “We can all do something for our domestic fisheries by purchasing more sustainable seafood products.”

Wild Local Seafood Co. does not buy or sell any farmed or imported fish; all seafood is caught under strict California and federal guidelines for size, season and by-catch, and only with sustainable practices.

Wild Local Seafood Co. is open every day at Ventura Harbor Village, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cutting days are Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, but fish is available daily. “Cutting days have more options than anywhere between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara and the best, freshest fish,” Hyman said. **Visit www.wildlocalseafood.com or call 805-252-3639.**

Squid Season Coming to Ventura Harbor April 1

Cooler water temperatures and other favorable sea conditions returned to Ventura Harbor last season to bring a good year for squid, and local fishermen are hoping for a repeat this year when the new squid season kicks off April 1.

All three squid offloading companies at Ventura Harbor — Del Mar Seafoods, DeLuca Seafoods and Silver Bay Seafoods — will soon be welcoming their seiner vessels to the Ventura Harbor Fish Pier every weekday. Once squid season kicks off, visitors to Ventura Harbor are encouraged to come out and watch the colorful spectacle from the Fish Pier near Andria’s Seafood to the Harbor Village Promenade, which offers a great view. The squid boats start offloading early in the morning and offload through the afternoon.

California’s squid season begins April 1 each year and ends when the state’s quota of 118,000 tons for squid is reached. The previous three squid seasons were disappointing for California but the season that ended this past winter was a winner. Ventura Harbor is home to 45 squid vessels. Squid is Ventura Harbor’s biggest fish bumper crop.

Salmon Recipe

Courtesy of goodhousekeeping.com

Ingredients:

1 head broccoli	Kosher salt, pepper
1 lb. Yukon gold potatoes	1½ lb. skinless salmon fillet
1 large red onion	¼ c. mayonnaise
3 tbsp. olive oil	1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
	½ clove garlic

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 450°. On a rimmed baking sheet, toss together the chopped broccoli, cubed potatoes, and diced onion with the oil, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper. Spread in an even layer and roast for 15 minutes.
2. Season the salmon with ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper, nestle it among the vegetables and continue roasting until the vegetables are golden brown and tender and the salmon is opaque throughout, 8-10 minutes more.
3. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise, lemon juice and garlic. Serve with the fish and vegetables.



Tall Ships Visit Ventura Harbor Feb. 13 – March 5

The tall ships Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain sail back to Ventura County for public tours, sailing excursions, educational sails for children and exciting cannon battles. These historic ships will dock at Ventura Harbor on Feb. 13 and remain until March 5, 2018. Tours and excursions begin Feb. 14.

History buffs, sailors and families will enjoy dockside tours that are like open houses, allowing guests to explore the ships at their own pace while crew members in period clothing answer questions and tell visitors more about the vessels and living onboard. Educational tours teach children about the history of trade on the West Coast in the 18th century, the history of navigation and the life of a sailor at the time.

"We get the kids to set the sails and handle the lines connected to the sails. It's a lot of fun," said Suzanne Maroney, with the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport in Aberdeen, Washington, which operates the ships.

Maroney started sailing the Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain about five years ago and has done most of the jobs on the ships. "It's a completely unique experience from the type of vessel that went out of style years ago. Usually you go to a museum to see history. When you are on our boats, you are experiencing history. It's a mix of history and action," she said.

Hawaiian Chieftain was built in Hawaii in 1988 and originally designed for cargo trade among the Hawaiian Islands. Naval architect Raymond H. Richards' design for the Hawaiian Chieftain was influenced by the early colonial passenger and coastal ships that traded among Atlantic coastal cities and towns. Launched in 1989, Lady Washington is a full-scale reproduction of the original Lady Washington, which was built in the 1750s and was one of the first U.S.-flagged ships to explore the west coast of North America. The ships sail up and down the coast from San Diego to Vancouver, stopping at 20 to 30 ports in any given year to bring living history educational programs to the public.

Grays Harbor Historical Seaport also runs a program called "Two Weeks Before the Mast" for people who want to spend two weeks at sea working as deckhands. "Many people from that program say they pursued a maritime career after that, which is why we are developing 'Sea School,' a new program that will more seriously get people into the maritime industry who are interested in a career. Maritime industry jobs are living wage jobs," Maroney said. Sea School is expected to launch later this year. **For tickets and information, visit www.historicalseaport.org.**



Dredging 2018

Ventura Harbor Remains Open to All Boaters While Dredging Takes Place

The annual Harbor dredging in 2018 that keeps Ventura Harbor open and safe for boaters will take place in February and March. The Ventura Port District expects to receive \$5 million in federal funds this spring to remove up to 600,000 cubic yards of material, said Dredging Program Manager Richard Parsons. Each year, tons of sand moves down the coast, accumulating at the Ventura Harbor entrance and potentially making it impassable for commercial and recreational boats. In the winter and spring of 2017, about 880,000 cubic yards of sand was removed from the Harbor entrance and sand trap at a cost of approximately \$7.3 million. The Ventura Port District continually works with local elected officials and those in Washington, D.C., to secure adequate funds to dredge the Harbor and ensure it's safe for commercial and recreational boats.

Mussel Farm

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project are great. It will expand opportunities for existing businesses, increase the productivity of our harbor and continue to advance and promote Ventura beyond our county," said Stephanie Caldwell, president and CEO of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce.

In November 2017, Port District commissioners voted to direct the district to prepare and submit permit applications to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use 2,000 acres of seawater bottom in federal waters near Ventura Harbor for the VSE project. The Port District and VSE partners also are moving ahead with preparing and submitting all other applications to local, state and federal agencies as required, and preparing all the necessary surveys, reports and environmental review documents.

"It's a milestone in the project's history in that our board took a formal step to select a site and proceed with applications. This is a key step to beginning the regulatory and environmental review process," said Brian Pendleton, recently named Deputy General Manager of the Port District. The project requires approval from the Army Corps of Engineers plus various federal and state agencies. The Port District and VSE partners hope to win approval and be underway in 2019.

In 2017, the VSE partners hosted seven educational workshops and three site selection workshops. VSE reached out to the owners of over 500 commercial fishing vessels from Goleta to Port Hueneme to help select the best site. VSE considered many factors in selecting the best site, including potential adverse water pollution sources, potential visual effects from shore, potential interaction with commercial and recreational fishing interests, and the distance from Ventura Harbor. **Learn more at www.venturashellfishenterprise.com.**

New Mermaid Theme Opens at Ultimate Escape Rooms

Using teamwork to solve puzzles and “escape” from a locked room is a new form of fun being offered at The Ultimate Escape Rooms at Ventura Harbor Village. One of the newest entertainment attractions at the Village, The Ultimate Escape Rooms venue offers several themes, including a new mermaid-themed room called “Mermaid’s Curse,” so make sure to visit during Mermaid Month in March!

Other themes are: “The Attic” (where your parents warned you never to go), “We Are All Mad Here” (watch out for those talking animals, shrinking rooms and magic mushrooms), and “Wizards Lair” (where using the wizard’s magic against him will enable an escape).

The Ultimate Escape Rooms is a perfect venue for parties and team-building corporate events. Military and first-responder discounts are offered. **Call 805-256-6600 or visit www.theultimateescaperooms.com.**

Thank You to the 2017 Parade of Lights Sponsors

The Ventura Port District thanks the 2017 Parade of Lights sponsors for their generous contributions to produce a festive community event.



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March is Mermaid Month Seaside

Ventura Harbor Village celebrates all things mermaid during the month of March. From nautical finds to coastal décor, mermaid fashion and artwork inspired by the sea, Ventura Harbor Village pays homage to the mermaid in all of us. Events, happenings, classes and mermaid sightings take place all month long; don’t miss out on the “seaworthy” festivities planned. **Visit www.venturaharborvillage.com/events for details!**

Enjoy Pacific Gray Whale Migration & Whale Watching through mid-April

Hop aboard an Island Packers vessel for a chance to see gray whales up close as they migrate south for the winter. Guests may also see seals, sea lions and dolphins along with occasional orca whale pods. Island Packers, Ventura County’s official concessionaire to the Channel Islands National Park, offers whale-watching tours through mid-April. **Call 805-642-1393 or visit www.islandpackers.com.**

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VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE
www.VenturaHarborVillage.com



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Board of Port Commissioners

Everard Ashworth, Chairman (appointed: 6-16-14/expires: 6-30-18)
Brian Brennan, Vice Chairman (appointed: 8-1-16/expires: 6-30-20)
Jim Friedman, Secretary (appointed: 8-6-12/expires: 6-30-21)
Nikos Valance, Commissioner (appointed: 7-27-15/expires: 6-30-19)
Chris Stephens, Commissioner (appointed: 7-1-17/expires: 6-30-21)