



# Human Powered Craft Guidelines

With the increase in Human Powered Craft (HPC) usage in Dana Point Harbor over the past year, OC Dana Point Harbor has issued guidelines for HPC operators. This educational tool, developed by the department in collaboration with many Harbor users and members of the community, promotes the safe and considerate operation of HPCs while **within** the Harbor. A sticker illustrating these guidelines has been issued to over 600 users and local vendors, who are asked to place them on actual equipment for reference. In addition, a detailed sign was introduced at the Mickey Munoz Mongoose Cup held at Baby Beach on March 13, 2010, where it is posted.

This effort is part of our continued educational outreach to increase boater safety within the Harbor. Please take note that the first bullet point of the Guidelines, "You Do Not have the Right of Way" is only applicable **within** the Harbor. U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules apply to all vessels when navigating beyond the Harbor's entrance.

Free stickers, displayed below, are available at the Harbor office, 949-923-2236. We encourage all boaters to review the guidelines and help to make Dana Point Harbor safe for all users.

**DANA POINT HARBOR GUIDELINES FOR HUMAN POWERED CRAFT**

- You Do Not have the Right of Way
- Outer channel - stay to the right
- Inner channel - stay to the right and avoid the docks
- Beginners should stay close to shallow waters
- Avoid all craft within the Harbor
- Avoid fishing lines
- Avoid paddling too far down-wind
- A light is required at night

**ALWAYS WEAR OR CARRY A LIFE JACKET and WHISTLE**  
**UNDER 13 ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A LIFE JACKET**  
**DANA POINT HARBOR PATROL (949) 248-2222**

THIS EQUIPMENT BELONGS TO:

\*Stand Up Paddleboard

- Inside Dana Point Harbor, all human powered craft: "...shall not impede or otherwise interfere with vessel traffic." (OCCO 2-2-204 B subsection 2). Human powered vessels must give way to all other vessel within the harbor.
- Away from swim areas or outside the surf line, a SUP is a vessel according to the U.S. Coast Guard (Title 1 U.S. Code, section 3), and California Harbors and Navigations Code 651.1. Vessels must carry a Coast Guard approved life jacket for each person on board under USCG 46CFR 25.25-5. They must also carry a sound device (e.g., a whistle), when operated between sunset and sunrise and must have appropriate navigation lights (e.g., a flashlight). When operated offshore, SUPs over 16 feet are required to carry visual distress signals (e.g., flares, smoke signals or a signal mirror); when operated offshore between sunrise and sunset, SUPs less than 16 feet are not required to carry visual distress signals. Outside of Dana Point Harbor, when operated beyond a swimming or surfing area, a SUP must follow all applicable navigation rules.
- Outside of the Harbor, rules of the road (for the water): approaching another vessel head-on or nearly so, keep to the right; in a crossing situation with an other vessel, the vessel which has the other on the starboard (right) side shall keep out of the way and avoid crossing ahead of the other vessel (the vessel that is not required to move is the "stand-on" vessel, the other is the "give-way" vessel).
- Outside of the Harbor, as a "stand-on" vessel (the vessel not required to alter its course), your duty is to maintain reasonable course and speed. Avoid erratic course changes that can confuse other vessels. In a right of way situation outside the Harbor, the "give-way" vessel which is to alter its course when meeting a "stand-on" vessel) may not always be able to prevent a collision; it is the duty of the "stand-on" vessel to maneuver to avoid a collision.
- Keep a safe distance from the sides of the inner "boat" channel. Keep to the right and yield to boats entering or leaving slips or when rounding a bend. In the outer channel, keep to the right. Watch for and avoid fishing lines along the shore and rock jetty.
- Consider your abilities and the weather. Beginners should stay near shoal areas near Baby Beach. Do not paddle downwind if you are not confident you can easily return.
- Tell someone where you are paddling and when to expect your return. In an emergency situation, always stay with your board. If it is difficult to stand you should kneel, sit or lie on your board but, do not abandon your board and attempt to swim ashore or to another vessel.

Remember your board is a vessel. To ensure everyone's safety obey the rules, use common sense and be respectful.

**ALWAYS WEAR OR CARRY A PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE AND WHISTLE**  
**A LIGHT IS REQUIRED AT NIGHT**