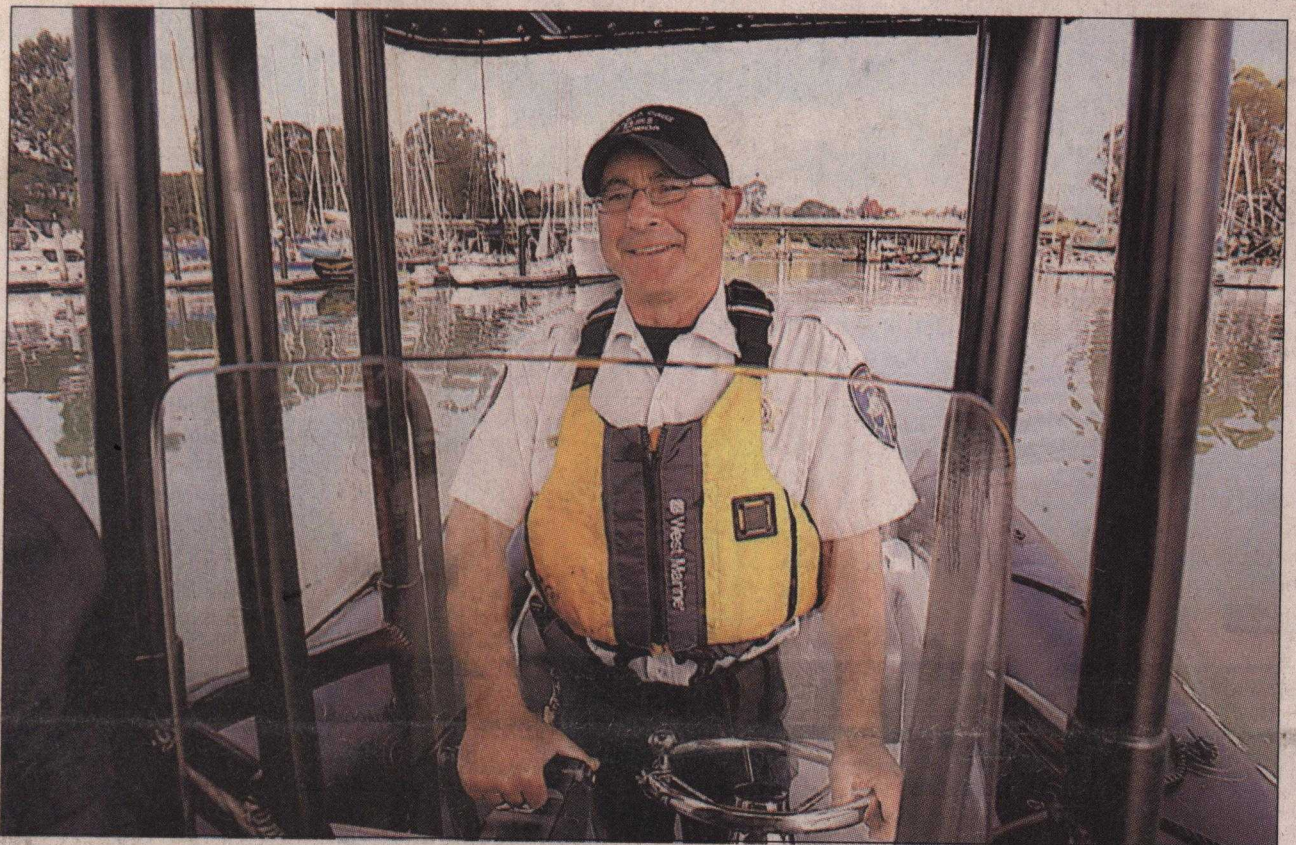


# ANCHORS AWEIGH

After three decades at the harbor, Chuck Izenstark retiring.



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Santa Cruz Harbormaster Chuck Izenstark retires on Halloween after nearly three decades at the harbor.

Harbor

By JASON HOPPIN

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SANTA CRUZ — It's been an eventful few decades for Santa Cruz Harbormaster Chuck Izenstark.

The Los Angeles-area native graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a biology degree in 1974 and settled into a life that was pure Santa Cruz — an overeducated painting contractor pursuing a graduate education at Four Mile Beach.

But the Soquel resident found part-time work at the Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor in 1984, and will retire Thursday with three decades of harbor stories under his vest — renegade surfers, the 13-foot great white that he swears was big enough to enclose a Volkswagen, the 1989 earthquake, and the 2011 tsunami, boat fires, a salmon-fishing frenzy and more.

"I was always an ocean guy, so that was it. I was just drawn to the ocean," Izenstark said of spending his career at the harbor. "There are still some of the same people that have been here since my first day. Great relationships with a lot of people, not just here but throughout the whole city and county."

You can even add a murder mystery to the list of harbor stories. Lucy the goose, a popular harbor resident who greeted walkers for years, was found dead one

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**CHUCK IZENSTARK**, Santa Cruz Harbormaster



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Santa Cruz Harbormaster Chuck Izenstark is tying up his craft after 27 years.

SEE HARBOR ON A4





DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Santa Cruz Harbormaster Chuck Izenstark started at the harbor 27 years ago as a part-time worker while attending UCSC.

## HARBOR

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spring morning in 2011. There were signs of trauma.

"We have a plaque," Izenstark said. "There actually is a plaque for her."

As harbormaster, Izenstark is one of the most-visible harbor figures, a part-cop and part-administrator who oversees a small harbor patrol force and issues slip registrations. He is responsible for \$2 out of every \$3 in harbor revenues.

After working his way up the ranks and spending more than three years in his current job, Izenstark is leaving the harbor in good

shape. The harbor recently purchased a second Zodiac boat using a grant from the state Department of Boating and Waterways, and harbor bureaucracy has been professionalized over the years, which has plusses and minuses.

"As an employee it's better ... because you can just make the same decision straight across the board for everybody, there's really no gray area," Izenstark said.

Izenstark is leaving his mahogany-lined office Thursday. The picturesque view will be gone after that, but the stories will remain.

One is about "Harbor Bill," a story that dates to Izenstark's earliest days on the

job. Local surfer Bill Mulcoy refused to be told he couldn't surf the harbor mouth and was deft at ducking the law — until Surfer Magazine printed his full name.

"Harbor police wanted to nab him. We were always chasing him down and he would head toward the bluffs, run away and beat us," Izenstark said.

Until the magazine came out.

"Our guys went knocking on his door and wrote him a ticket," he said.

No successor has been named. Port Director Lisa Ekers said she's sorry to see Izenstark go.

"Chuck and I have been through a lot together in a short time. He always has a

way of bringing a smile just when you need one," Ekers said. "He's been a tremendous harbormaster and a really great friend. I'll miss working with him."

Dan Haifley, executive director the harbor-based O'Neill Sea Odyssey, also worked closely with Izenstark over the years.

"We're very, very sorry to see him go. Very hardworking. His word was his bond. If we needed some help in a particular situation we would call him and it would get taken care of," Haifley said.

"Those are very big boots to fill."

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