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Harbormaster notes dangerous conditions

SANTA CRUZ — Sport salmon season opens Saturday morning, and Santa Cruz Harbormaster Steve Scheiblauber is warning boaters of the dangerous harbor-mouth conditions.

"The harbor-mouth is about two feet deep at mean low tide in the deepest area," he said this morning. "In a lot of circumstances a

skillful boater can go in and out with no problem — a lot of these guys are knowledgeable and have good boats, and they don't have any trouble. The problem is with people who overestimate their own ability or their boat's survivability, and may be completely unaware of the wave dynamics out there."

Four surfers were cited for surfing in the harbor-mouth Wednesday.

"We're going to be coming down hard on the surfers," he said. "We really can't have the conflict between them and the boats, in addition to the waves and the sand bars that are out there. It's dangerous enough as it is."

The Army Corps of Engineers may begin dredging Feb. 23, he said, to open a channel 50 feet wide and 16 feet deep.

"We want to do it early enough to get some good out of it for the sport salmon season," Scheiblauber said, "but we want to get some use out of it, and not have another storm blow in and fill it right back up."

Federal funds have been allotted for only one complete dredging in April, Scheiblauber said, but the engineers have told him they may be able to find the money for the partial February dredging.

He and harbor manager Brian Foss are still awaiting final confirmation.

In the meantime, Scheiblauber said a launch ramp attendant will warn each user of the conditions at the harbor-mouth.

"We'll have about seven feet of water in the harbor-mouth Saturday morning," he said, "which is enough for many kinds of boats."

Supervisor Moore makes appointments

SANTA CRUZ — Fourth (Pajaro Valley) District Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr. has reappointed Charles Barr Jr. to the Planning Commission and has named Raymond A. AmRhein to the Civil Service Commission.

Barr has served on the Planning Commission since December 1980 when Moore took office. Moore also reappointed Ed Banks as his alternate commissioner.

Barr is with Sun Bay Farms on Green Valley Road and is a UCSC graduate. Banks is a member of the firm of Martin and Friend Insurance of Watsonville and is a graduate of San Jose State.

AmRhein, who replaces Gaylord Noblitt whose term expired, is a south-county attorney who did his undergraduate work at Santa Clara University and earned his law degree at the University of San Francisco.

He is a member of the Central Water District board of directors, serving from 1966 to the present.