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Saturday, July 31, 2004

Beach watch

By LAYLAN CONNELLY

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The waves are expected to be moderate this weekend, but that doesn't mean it's safe to take off your Floaties.

San Clemente city lifeguards have pulled about 300 swimmers from the water since Monday. One reason for all the action is rip currents. How to spot a rip: Look for brownish water caused by churned sand and choppy water caused by the current going against the surf. Keep an eye out for foamy water.

If you get caught in a rip, don't panic; instead, swim parallel to the shore.

FISHING

A wave of fish moved into the Huntington Flats area last week, a sandy bottom area east of the Santa Ana River jetties and west of Port of Long Beach. Anglers brought in 1,387 sand bass and 161 barracuda Thursday on four boats, said Norris Tapp of Davey's Locker. A full-day boat went looking for kelp paddies, and 13 anglers brought in a dozen 16-25-pound yellowtails, and hooked double that number.

U.S. open tip

The south side of the Huntington Beach Pier will be closed from early morning until 6 p.m. through the weekend for the U.S. Open surf competition. Lifeguard Lt. Mike Baumgartner said 100,000 spectators are expected for Sunday's finals. Parking will be tough if you're not there by 8 a.m., he said. Better parking would be near Huntington Street and Beach Boulevard.

Things to do:

Today is the 42nd day of summer, and already kids in Dana Point are ready to pack their beach blankets away! The Summer's End Beach Bash, presented by the Dana Point Youth Board, will hit the sand from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday at Salt Creek Beach. Come for the music, free food, beach cleanup, and to figure out how the endless summer ended so quickly. Information: (949) 248-3522.

DYING BIRDS

Young brown pelicans are migrating here because of the lack of fish in the Sea of Cortez in Mexico. Many are suffering from starvation and are dying along the coast, the Pacific Wildlife Project reports. The nonprofit has rescued more than 60 pelicans since mid-June, way above average. Information: www.pacificwildlife.org or (949) 440-6247.

COASTAL WEATHER



EYE ON YOU: A curious gull checks out the Web camera in San Clemente. Image courtesy of Mike Chamberlin

MULTIMEDIA



[Check out the beach Web camera in San Clemente](#)