

**1. SHIP'S PAPERS**

- 1.1 Upon Entering Mexican waters, each vessel must have a packet of "Ship's Papers" containing the following:
  - 1.1.1 Valid passport for EVERY person on board, and for each passport, 6 copies of the page with name and photograph (please see item 2.2).
  - 1.1.2 Six copies of a Crew List showing full name (same as on passport), age, nationality and position of responsibility of everyone on board;
  - 1.1.3 The original (and 5 copies) of either your vessel documentation (with current stamp) or current state registration.
  - 1.1.4 Proof of Mexican liability insurance (please see item 4.1).
  - 1.1.5 Individual Fishing Permits if fishing gear is aboard (please see item 3.2).
  - 1.1.6 Letter of Authorization if a captain is to be left in charge of the boat.
  - 1.1.7 If the vessel is borrowed, chartered, or financed, you will need a notarized letter from the legal owner (i.e., bank, finance company, individual), authorizing the skipper to use the vessel in Mexican waters.
  - 1.1.8 Please refer to paragraph 9.6 regarding the U.S. Customs Decal requirement for all boats re-entering the U.S.
- 1.2 Each owner or charterer is responsible for preparing or acquiring his own "Ship's Papers". Assistance may be obtained from:

Marina del Rey:

Mexican Yacht Documentation Service  
Attn: Raul Martinez  
12421 Venice Boulevard, Suite #2  
Los Angeles, California 90066  
Ph (310) 398-5797 Fax (310) 398-2048

Newport Beach:

Romero's Mexico Service  
1600 West Coast Highway  
Newport Beach, CA 92663  
Ph (949) 548-8931  
Fax (949) 645-7901

**2. PERSONAL PAPERS**

- 2.1 All visitors to Mexico must possess a Tourist Visa. Due to worldwide security precautions, visitors entering by land or sea must obtain and complete Tourist Visas with Immigrations at their initial port of entry. This visa will be surrendered to Immigrations at their last port when processing out of Mexico.
  - 2.1.1 Tourist Visas are validated for 30, 60, 90 and upon request to 180 days maximum.
  - 2.1.2 Prior to final validation of tourist visa, Immigrations will direct you where to pay the tourist entry fee of approximately \$24.00 (depending on current peso value), and must be paid in U.S. cash or equivalent pesos before proceeding to Customs and Port Captain. [Please refer to Paragraph 7.2.]
- 2.2 All persons must carry with them a Passport as proof of Citizenship (Birth Certificate, or Military Discharge papers, Voter Registration, Hospital Certificates and expired Passports are no longer accepted). Please note that persons carrying a passport from a

country **other than** the United States, Mexico and Canada, must check with the Mexican Consulate for further requirements.

### **3. FIREARMS, PERSONAL FISHING LICENSES, BOAT FISHING PERMITS, AND OTHER PERMITS**

- 3.1 No firearms may be on board.
- 3.2 Boat fishing permits are no longer required, but Personal Fishing Licenses are required and can be obtained via mail prior to your departure through the Oficina de Pesca (Conapesca) in San Diego located at 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 15, San Diego, CA 92103. DRYC will have the required forms for obtaining these permits in San Diego. They may be obtained in Puerto Vallarta or any Oficina de Pesca in Mexico. You may also obtain the application and information for the Personal Fishing Licenses at their website [www.conapescasandiego.org](http://www.conapescasandiego.org). They may be reached by phone at 619-233-4324 or by Fax at 619-233-0344. Ask for the exact fees to be paid by cashier's check from a bank to Conapesca. Please note that, as of January 2008, Boat Fishing Permits are no longer required.
- 3.3 A temporary Boat Import Permit (TIP) may be obtained in advance at [www.banjercito.com.mx](http://www.banjercito.com.mx). This permit allows you to leave your boat in Mexico when you fly out and/or need to import parts for your boat duty free. If it is not obtained in advance, it can be obtained after you arrive in Mexico, usually at the first port of entry, but documentation will take longer to be processed. For this reason, you are encouraged to obtain the TIP in advance through the web site listed above. This permit is valid for 10 years. The fee is approximately \$55.
  - 3.3.1 If you wait until you arrive in Mexico, you will need to take your valid tourist card ("visa"), boat registration or document (including boat model, builder, and engine number) to the Customs Broker in your port of entry (e.g. Puerto Los Cabos or Puerto Vallarta).
  - 3.3.2 If a Port of Entry is visited prior to reaching Puerto Los Cabos in San Jose del Cabo or Puerto Vallarta, the port captain of that area will tell you where the permit is available. Several ports require permits before allowing purchase of fuel. You will be told at each port if you need a permit, where it is available and the cost, if any.

### **4. INSURANCE**

- 4.1 Check with your insurance broker regarding hull (yacht) insurance and Mexican liability insurance. Be sure it covers the time period of your trip and the destination of your farthest point South. Most policies end approximately 20 miles south of Ensenada, hence a rider must be added for extended coverage. A Mexican company must write liability insurance to be accepted by Mexican officials as proof of financial responsibility. Mexican Yacht Documentation Services can issue this coverage or direct you to other agencies if you desire.

### **5. SHIPPING GEAR TO PUERTO VALLARTA**

- 5.1 The escort vessels will not be able to carry any gear.
- 5.2 The owner or charterer should make his own shipping arrangements. Joe Neale (619-224-4495) operates a professional gear shipping business between Southern California

and Mexico. The name of the skipper, as well as the boat name must be prominently displayed on every package.

- 5.3 Be aware that a holder of a tourist card or visa can bring into Mexico only items “common to a tourist.” Items considered not common to a tourist are subject to duty. Delivery crew and spouses, carrying replacement boat parts, must clearly define them for their own boat, not for someone else’s.

## 6. ENTERING AND CLEARING MEXICAN PORTS

- 6.1 Ports of Entry—ports which have a port captain and an immigration official—must be entered and CLEARED officially. Failure to do this will subject you to a fine. The many small coves and anchorages along the coast, where there are no officials, do not have to be “entered” or “cleared”.
- 6.2 Along the rhumb line to Puerto Vallarta, the ports of entry are: Ensenada, Cedros, San Carlos (Magdalena Bay), Cabo San Lucas, and Puerto Vallarta.
- 6.3 The skippers will need to enter and clear port at the Marina at Puerto Los Cabos in San Jose del Cabo, if any of the crew goes on shore there, or the boat is anchored in the harbor or off the beach. The Customs Broker will be located at the office of the Marina in order to assist you, for a nominal fee, with all your customs and immigration needs.
- 6.4 **Note:** Normally the office at the Marina at Puerto Los Cabos is *closed Sundays for port clearance*; therefore, it is necessary to complete paperwork here either Saturday before noon or Monday and Tuesday before noon. Special arrangements will be made for the *PV Race Series* boats by the Race Committee and the Marina Manager. **Facilities** at the Marina include a fuel dock, potable water, ice, a mini-market, ship store and restrooms and showers. The nearby town of San Jose has a well stocked produce market and ATMs. The Marina office may be reached by phone at (624) 105-6028.
- 6.5 Upon arrival in Puerto Vallarta, all Ship’s Papers and Tourist Permits must be taken to a Customs Broker for proper entry. If arrival is after sundown, skippers and crews may go ashore, BUT the owner or charterer must present the proper documents to the Custom Broker the next morning BEFORE NOON. Failure to do this may result in many complications for the Race Committee and our Mexican hosts, and the stranding of crewmembers in Puerto Vallarta. The skippers must check in and advise the Port Captain of their arrival. He will require a copy of the Departure Notification document obtained in Puerto Los Cabos and a copy of the vessel documentation. The Port Captain can be reached on channel 16 and channel 13 or by phone at 011-52-322-224-0427.
- 6.5.1 If it becomes necessary for a vessel to terminate the race before arriving at Puerto Vallarta, and one of the above Ports of Entry is visited, the same procedure must be followed.
- 6.5.2 The Race Committee has arranged with the Customs Brokers office of Juan Pablo Arias to assist you with all your customs needs. A nominal fee is charged for their services. During this race, their office will be temporarily relocated to Marina Vallarta. A member of the Race Committee will meet you on board your boat at Marina Vallarta to assist you through the port entry procedures. (Please refer to the envelope of Port Papers in the back of your Skippers Instruction Book for “Arrival Procedure” instructions.) It is strongly suggested that skippers COMPLETE the necessary documents BEFORE leaving Los Angeles, so that there is no confusion at the end of race.

- 6.6 Before leaving Puerto Vallarta (or Puerto Los Cabos), it is necessary to obtain clearance from Immigrations and the Port Captain. (In Puerto Vallarta, the office of Juan Pablo Arias will expedite this procedure.) The designated boat captain will be asked to provide a list of ports to be entered and an updated crew list. (For additional information, contact Juan Pablo Arias at 011-52-322-224-3555.)

## **7. AFTER YOU CROSS THE FINISH LINE AT PUERTO VALLARTA**

- 7.1 When you cross the finish line, a well marked "Follow Me" boat will be waiting to escort you to a pre-assigned slip in Marina Vallarta where you will be officially welcomed and presented with refreshments.
- 7.2 Arrangements have been made with customs broker Juan Pablo Arias to handle your clearance with the port authorities. His very nominal service fee will relieve you of the necessity of having to go to a bank to pay the tourist tax for each crew member and to the Maritime Terminal in the main harbor to clear Customs and Immigration.
- 7.2.1 If you arrive between 0900 PVT and 1700 PVT, a member of the DRYC welcoming committee will assist you with your documents.
- 7.2.2 If you arrive between 1700 PVT and 0900 PVT, a member of the DRYC welcoming committee will make arrangements with you for a time to accompany you to the office of Sr. Juan Pablo Arias before the 1200 noon deadline. Your crew may leave the boat while awaiting clearance.
- 7.3 Marina Vallarta Facilities include:
- 7.3.1 Fuel Dock with all fuels, ice and water
- 7.3.2 Shipyard with travel lift
- 7.3.3 Ships store with parts inventory
- 7.3.4 ATMs, FAX service and Internet Access
- 7.3.5 Mini-market with delicatessen
- 7.3.6 Restrooms and showers

## **8. FUEL, WATER, ICE AND OTHER SUPPLIES ON THE RETURN TRIP**

*Vessels without water makers:* Buy enough bottled water in PV or Cabo. The water taken at the dock be it in PV or Cabo is good enough to wash with only. Make sure you have two in line water filters before you store the water. Thoroughly purge the water from the tank and rehabilitate the tank once back.

- 8.1 Cabo San Lucas:
- 8.1.1 Marina Cabo San Lucas, located inside the harbor adjacent to the town on Lote A de la Darsena #18, offers a full range of amenities and services including: cable TV, electric hookups, potable water from its own desalinization plant, restrooms, showers laundry facilities, and 24-hour security. Also available is a modern full service boat yard and a ships chandlery. For additional information and advance reservations for slip space, phone 011-52-624-1431251 and ask for Norma Flores. The Marina office hours are 0900 to 1700 weekdays and 1000 to 1500 on the weekend.

- 8.1.2 Near the Cabo Marina, in the office of Charters de Los Cabos on Plaza Bonita, Local 48, there are agents who will handle all paperwork for port entrance/clearance for a reasonable fee. Their hours are 0800 to 1700 weekdays and by appointment on the weekend. They can be reached by phone at 011-52-624-1434050. **Note:** *Port clearance papers are unavailable on Sundays.*
- 8.1.3 Diesel fuel is available from fuel docks inside the harbor. Water is available here too, but must be treated before drinking. Gasoline must be purchased, using Jerry Jugs, from the Pemex station in town. Smaller quantities of diesel fuel may be purchased at the Pemex station in town as well.
- 8.1.4 The town of Cabo San Lucas has most supplies, well stocked produce markets and excellent bakeries.
- 8.2 Magdalena Bay:
  - 8.2.1 At the town of San Carlos, fuel is available and drinking water and some other supplies may be obtained. Clearance by Port Authority, Immigration and the Port Captain (in this order) are required.
  - 8.2.2 Buoys in Magdalena Bay are frequently moved and are not as shown on the charts. Use extreme caution when approaching San Carlos.
- 8.3 Turtle Bay:
  - 8.3.1 Fuel may be available from a Fuel Barge and will be available from the Fuel Dock (med-moor and back down to pier). Water is available only during non-drought years. Although no entry papers need to be processed, the "Federales" are present, and Ship's Papers should be available for inspection.
  - 8.3.2 The town has some small markets, phones and restaurants. A small airport is nearby, but requires special flight arrangements.
- 8.4 Cedros Island: (This is not a recommended stop at this time.)
  - 8.4.1 A few supplies may be available here, including fresh water. Clearance with the Port Captain is necessary to go ashore.
  - 8.4.2 The anchorage is north of the pier. A landing strip is nearby for private planes.
- 8.5 It is recommended that each vessel carry two 5-gallon Jerry Jugs for fuel, one 5-gallon Jerry Jug for water, and a Baja fuel filter.

## 9. RE-ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

- 9.1 Upon re-entering the United States, proceed to Shelter Island (Harbor Police Dock), San Diego. The boat captain must check in with the authorities and then return to the boat; no one is permitted to leave the boat until released by Customs, and Immigration. U.S. Immigration Crew List forms for the return voyage are included in your Ship's Papers packet.
- 9.2 Each vessel will be required to pay a re-entry service fee, minimum \$25.00, payable to U.S. Customs. Be aware that an additional overtime fee may be required if clearance is needed on a holiday or after normal operating hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

- 9.3 It is forbidden to bring any narcotics into the United States even when prescribed by a physician. It is advisable to dispose of all narcotic drugs before entering United States waters.
- 9.4 Allowable amount of liquor is one (1) liter per person. It is permissible to bring back any amounts of unopened and sealed U.S. bottles, provided you have proof of purchase in the United States.
- 9.5 Potatoes, citrus fruit, fresh vegetables, meat, chicken, and eggs must be disposed of before entering California.
- 9.6 A U.S. Customs Decal is required on all boats entering the U.S. and should be obtained in advance from the Department of Homeland Security. They can be reached via e-mail at [dcals@dhs.gov](mailto:dcals@dhs.gov) or by phone at 317-298-1245.

#### 10. POST-RACE COMMUNICATIONS

- 10.1 The Del Rey Yacht Club office staff, Marina del Rey, will monitor SSB Channel 12A (12353.0 kHz) and SSB Channel 8A (8294.0 kHz) twice a day from March 5 through March 19, and thereafter, as requested. Skippers can call Station KHY, Del Rey Yacht Club at these scheduled times:

<u>TIME (PST)</u>	<u>SSB CHANNEL</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>
1000-1030	Channel 12A	12.353 MHz
1030-1100	Channel 8A	8.294 MHz
1500-1530	Channel 12A	12.353 MHz
1530-1600	Channel 8A	8.294 MHz

- 10.2 Amateur radio operators can make contact with other ham operators at any time, but in particular, during scheduled time periods on specified frequencies, or "net". Most of these nets meet daily, although some skip the weekends. 14.313 kHz (USB) is an unofficial international calling frequency that is generally active 24 hours a day.
- 10.3 No license is required to own or to monitor a ham radio. In a true emergency, ham operators will answer your distress call. (For a schedule of useful amateur radio nets, please refer to the Weather Section, paragraph 3.)

#### 11. WEATHER FORECASTS

- 11.1 Weather information may be obtained on SSB receivers by tuning to Radio Station "NMC", Point Reyes, California for both voice and weather fax transmissions. (Please refer to the Weather Section, paragraph 2, for schedules and additional details.)
- 11.2 The amateur radio operators' nets, mentioned in "Post-Race Communications", relay immediate weather and sea condition reports from vessels en route along the Mexican coast. (Please refer to their schedule in the Weather Section, paragraph 3.) The nets usually ask for weather reports near the start of their scheduled broadcast.

#### 12. COORDINATION WITH OTHER YACHTS

- 12.1 For the convenience of skippers and their crews, a bulletin board will be available at the Hospitality Desk at the Westin Regina Hotel for coordination return trip departures.
- 12.2 It is recommended that boats plan to return in convoy if at all possible.

**13. CHARTS FOR MEXICO**

13.1 International Charts:

502 Pacific Coast of the U.S. and Mexico

13.2 Coastal Charts:

18740 San Diego to Santa Rosa Island  
21003 Point Loma to Punta Colnett  
21005 Cabo San Quintin to Punta Eugenia  
21011 Punta Eugenia to Cabo San Lazaro  
21014 Cabo San Lazaro to Cabo San Lucas  
21017 Cabo San Lucas to Manzanillo

13.3 Recommended:

Boating Guide to Mexico, by Captains John Rains and Patricia Miller. Covers San Diego through Tehuantepec including the Sea of Cortez. This book includes recent, in-depth information with full color charts and GPS coordinates, color photos and background information.

Charlie's Charts of the Western Coast of Mexico (Including Baja), by Charles E. Wood. Contains comprehensive, detailed descriptions and sketches of the coves, bays and harbors along the race route and information needed for a safe and convenient return.

The Baja Bash II, by Captain Jim Elfers. Contains specific advice as to how to approach the return trip from Mexico to the U.S. It is available at [www.mexicoboating.com](http://www.mexicoboating.com).

**14. ACCESS TO AIRPORTS ENROUTE**

14.1 In the event of retirement from the race course and the need to reach a port with access to an airport, the following locations are listed North to South (Note that the airport may need to be reached by hiring a private car in the local village):

Enseñada  
San Quintín }  
Cedros |  
Turtle Bay } (Charter flights, bus and taxi service are available.)  
Ascension |  
Abreojos |  
San Juanito }  
San Carlos (Accessible from either Bahía Santa Maria or Magdalena Bay; taxi to  
La Paz.)  
Cabo San Lucas