

LAUNCHING YOUR VESSEL

GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK

PREPARING TO LAUNCH



Two people are required to launch a vessel: the Hoist Operator and the Control Line Attendant/Boat Operator.

Once your vessel is in position under the hoist, perform a short pre-launch inspection of the hoist components. Wave your User Proximity Card at the proximity reader to activate the hoist system. Once the hoist is activated, it remains on for 15 minutes. After 10 minutes, an alarm will sound to indicate that 5 minutes remain on the hoist timer.

The Hoist Operator should check all six hoist operating functions:

- Hoist up / Hoist down
- Jib right / Jib left
- Trolley in / Trolley out

Two hoist speeds are available with the hoist up/down control buttons: Partial Activation = slow speed, Full Activation = high speed.

CAUTION

Do not attempt to operate the hoist if it is not operating properly.

Report malfunctions to State Park staff.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



Activate the hoist electrical system by passing your Hoist User Card in front of the Proximity Card Reader as shown.

Once activated, the system will remain on for 15 minutes. A horn will sound after 10 minutes have elapsed. If you will not be able to complete the vessel launch or retrieval within the remaining 5 minutes, deactivate the system by pushing the black button below the rectangular card reader. Re-activate the system with your User Card.

When you have completed the launch, push the de-activation button so the warning horn does not sound.

REMINDER

Each Hoist User Card is assigned to one vessel and is only to be used with that vessel. In addition, only authorized Hoist Users may operate the Hoist. Use of the card by unauthorized users or to launch/retrieve a different vessel can result in the card and Hoist access privilege being revoked.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



The system light activates when the hoist system is energized for use.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



Once you have inspected the hoist and tested the hoist operating functions, lower the hoist hook and attach your vessel's sling to it. Attach your control line to your boat so that you can control it as it begins to lift up from the trailer.

Using the slow speed, slowly raise the hoist hook until your sling is tight and all of the slack is removed. Stop the hoist. Check to make sure that your sling legs are not twisted.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



Double-check your sling attachment/vessel lifting points. Make sure that your shackles are not inverted and that your sling is unimpeded as it rises up out of the vessel.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



Direct the Hoist Operator so that the hoist is vertically centered over the vessel/load and will lift the vessel straight up off the trailer. All control lines must be a continuous line attached at the bow and the stern and be a minimum of 50 ft in length.

Prior to lifting the vessel, observe weather conditions, swell height and direction, and wind speed and direction. Ensure that the vessel's motor or out drive is lowered as far as possible.

GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK

LAUNCHING THE VESSEL



Once the vessel is ready for hoisting but prior to hoisting it, the Hoist Operator will alert the Control Line Attendant that hoisting is about to begin. During hoist operation, the Hoist Operator will focus on crane/hoist operation only.

Lift the vessel no more than 6 inches off the trailer. Stop the hoist. At this time, check for the following:

- The load is level, secure and steady.
- The sling lifting rings are seated fully in the throat of the hooks (no point loading) and the sling legs are properly positioned.

As the Hoist Operator begins to lift the vessel, the Control Line Attendant will take charge of the control line. The line must be attached to the bow and stern of the vessel for efficient, maximum control.

Continue to raise the vessel using the slow hoist speed.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



The Control Line Attendant steadies and controls the vessel as it lifts off the trailer.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



The Control Line Attendant maintains the vessel in a “bow out” position.

The Hoist Operator ensures that the vessel has cleared the pier safety rail before starting to lower it to the water.

CAUTION

**The pier at Gaviota State Park often experiences excessive winds.
Maintain control over your vessel at all times.**

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



Once the vessel has cleared the safety rail, the Control Line Attendant/Boat Operator hands the control line to the Hoist Operator and moves to the bottom of the gangway. The Hoist Operator continues to control the vessel from the deck of the pier while lowering the vessel to the water.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



The Hoist Operator continues to maintain control of the vessel until it is low enough to transfer the control lines to the Boat Operator.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



The Boat Operator should stage on the lower gangway and wait for the boat to be lowered.

State Parks staff recommends that you wear a PFD while waiting to transfer to or from your vessel.

When the vessel is low enough, the Hoist Operator transfers the control lines to the Boat Operator.

CAUTION

During periods of larger swells, the final stairway is periodically submerged. Stand high enough up the stairs to avoid a dangerous situation.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



With the vessel positioned about 5 feet above the swell crest, observe the swells and wait for a calm period. As a swell crest passes under the vessel, begin lowering the vessel using the highest “hoist down” speed until the vessel settles into the swell trough. Do not stop hoisting down until sling(s) are slackened or the Boat Operator signals “Stop”.

Final lowering into the water should be performed at the highest “hoist down” speed only.

CAUTION

It is extremely important to time the lowering of the vessel to coincide with a swell trough in order to minimize shock or side loading to the hoist. Wave shock and side loading have been major causes of hoist failure in the past.

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**



As the vessel is being lowered, the Boat Operator should coil up excess line so that it does not foul the vessel's propeller. DO NOT have the Hoist Operator throw/toss the line out over the railing into the water. The control lines should be attended to at all times.

NEVER BOARD THE VESSEL WHILE IT IS SUSPENDED IN THE AIR.

When the vessel is safely in the water, pull it along side the landing stairs and make entry. Ensure that the engine starts before removing the sling(s) from the hoist hook. When moving the vessel away from the pier, use caution to avoid fishing lines.

When the Boat Operator has moved the vessel away from the pier, the Hoist Operator raises the hoist hook, pushes the Hoist Deactivation Button, and readies the hoist for the next user. He/she then returns the boat trailer to the vehicle, attaches it and moves to the Day Use parking lot. Overnighters should park in the overflow area east of the entrance station.

The Boat Operator should move the vessel to a position safely away from the pier until the Hoist Operator returns.