

Marina del Ray Navigation Hazard

In the middle of the channel between the North Jetty and the Breakwater, about 25 feet from the Jetty there is a new unmarked shoal. Looking at the water, you can't see the difference in the depth. The recent storms have washed the sand from Venice Beach, along the Jetty and it has settled at the MDR North entrance. In a matter of 10 days, the depth at the North entrance has gone from about 18-20 feet to about 16 inches or less at medium to low tide. At high tide, you might be in 2-3 feet of water but no one is exactly sure because the sand keeps shifting. The Shoal is around 30+ feet in length from the Jetty toward the Breakwater at this time. Fortunately, it's soft sand but it's very dense. No one is sure if the Shoal will continue to grow in length. L.A. County has failed to mark the area so it's an underwater hazard. Baywatch said the existing green channel markers can't be moved because the weights holding them in place are buried deep in the sand and can't be lifted. At the moment, the County doesn't have any other buoys that can be placed in the area. Baywatch & the Sheriff are anticipating major problems. They're suggesting if you depart via the North entrance try to hug the Breakwater and go slow. If not, use the South entrance but be careful and go slow.