

Gautho, Julia

From: Dean Cutter <dcutter@suesd.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:18 PM
To: City Council; Dean Cutter
Subject: Please read at City Council tonite

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Dear Capitola City Council,

Re: Wharf Plans and Fishing Ban

I was in attendance last month when the overflow crowd appeared at the city council meeting regarding the future of our wharf. A majority spoke in favor of recreating the fishing shop and the fishing boat rentals. It was very emotional and heartfelt. However, if the proposed fishing ban in our area is passed the bait shop and boats might be a moot point. Until it is determined whether fishing will be against the law here it seems like plans to rebuild our facilities are premature.

The purported purpose of the fishing ban is to protect our kelp forests, though the health of our local kelp beds is considered to be among the healthiest in the state. I've emailed the principals of this ban asking how fishing is affecting our kelp forests. Specifically, I asked if we should be releasing certain species of fish that preserve the kelp. I have not received a response other than, "We are a small but scrappy environmental group working hard in many areas..." I have devoted much of my life to environmental causes but I fail to see how fishing off your surfboard or rental boat will ruin the kelp. Unless I hear specific information demonstrating that our kelp needs saving and that a fishing ban is needed for its survival I am not in support of the ban.

I am a middle school teacher. Many of my students go to the ocean to fish regularly. Most of them release the fish they catch. For these kids the hundreds of hours spent intimately engaged with the sea will mold them to be lifetime advocates of the very resource the promoters of the fishing ban are attempting to support.

Please do whatever you can to prevent this misguided fishing ban. It will severely impact the reconstruction plans of our wharf and will bar the public from a vital way we explore and learn to appreciate the value of our coast.

Sincerely,

Dean Cutter
Capitola

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