

**CITY OF MORRO BAY**  
**HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD**  
**SYNOPSIS MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Present:           Members:     Bret Cunningham  
  Gene Doughty  
  Michele Leary  
  Bill Luffee  
  Lynn Meissen  
  Jim Phillips  
                          Staff:           Rick Algert, Harbor Director  
  Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

**II. MINUTES**

Mr. Luffee moved the November 5, 2009 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairman Phillips said the order of the first and second Presentations and Action Items will be changed. He said IV-2 will be presented before IV-1.

**IV. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**IV-1. Presentation by the Central Coast Groundfish Group**

Mr. Algert introduced Mr. Michael Bell, Project Director for The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Mr. Bell gave a detailed slide presentation to the Board on the history, current status, goals, and progress of the Central Coast Groundfish Project. He reviewed the project from viewpoints of the community, fishing industry, and conservation. He explained the effects of trawling and dredging on the sea floor and environmental habitat, and answered questions from the Board.

Mr. Bell continued the presentation, saying The Nature Conservancy saw the opportunity to reach an agreement with commercial fishermen on the Central Coast for "No Trawl Zones" and a program to buy out trawl fishing permits. TNC then redeployed those permits by reducing and zoning trawling, diversifying harvesting methods, and improving collaboration with the fishermen. He said the current project is working to create more demand for premium quality groundfish, setting the new model for Low Volume/Higher Quality Value.

Mr. Bell said various fishery experiments are continuing with hook and line for the remaining six permitted trawlers, zoned trawling, individual fishing quotas (IFQ) as well as with a precise, clean way to catch flatfish called Scottish seine, which is being used in Halfmoon Bay. He said this project is getting a lot of attention, including from Dr. Jane Lubchenco, the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (NOAA) who reports directly to President Obama. There have been several newspaper articles written about this TNC Groundfish Project, including in the New York Times, the UK Telegraph, and the Maine Sunday Telegram. Mr. Algert said the IFQs are catch rights sold to the highest bidder, and an important goal is to try and tie resources to the local community in an economical and sustainable way. He said we have to have groundfish landings in Morro Bay to support commercial fishing in the future.

Mr. Cunningham described the positive aspects of hook and line fishing, including the high quality of fish brought to market. He said that though there were skeptical fishermen here, and TNC and the local fishery are unlikely bedfellows, a lot has actually been accomplished. He said that of the 3.8 million acres closed to trawling, most is closed to all fisheries; so access is the key goal. What TNC has promised to help achieve is a viable fishing industry that we may even see new participants come into, along with what the state and federal governments will allow commercial fishermen to catch, this combination could result in enough fish to become a thriving fishing community once again, and that's very promising.

#### **IV-2. Liveboard Ordinance Update**

Mr. Eric Endersby reviewed the brief history of the Liveboard Ordinance status from spring through the present. He said the main changes to the Ordinance were the two-year cycle for the permit coinciding with the Fiscal Year, and requiring vessels to have a sanitation device on board. He reviewed the current numbers of valid permits and the status of renewals, cites, warnings, and pending inspections. The Board questioned Mr. Endersby on the total of liveboards in the bay, the citations given, cost of the fines, and the activity of the Liveboard Association.

#### **IV-3. Cancellation of the January 7, 2010 Meeting**

Mr. Cunningham moved to cancel the January 7, 2010 Harbor Advisory Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Luffee, and carried unanimously.

### **V. INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **V-1. Harbor Department Status Report**

Mr. Algert reviewed the following items for the Board:

**Derelict Vessel Abatement Project, AWAF Program, State Grants (Mr. Endersby's report)**  
**Dredging Project Update**  
**Lighted Boat Parade 12/05/09**  
**Holiday Tree Lighting 12/06/09**  
**Hunting Season**

### **VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

None.

### **VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**February: Boat Yard Development Project**  
**Sea Lion Deterrence**

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis  
Harbor Department