

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

Date: February 20, 2014
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Annual Fisheries Report

Last April, staff reported on a rising trend in landings and value for Santa Barbara's commercial fisheries through calendar year 2012. For the 60-80 boats fishing out of our harbor that trend continued in 2013, with preliminary landings and value reaching 6.1 million pounds worth \$10.2 million to fishermen, compared to 6.6 million pounds worth \$10.3 million in 2012. Figures for 2013 will likely rise when data entry is complete, making the past two years virtually identical.

The accepted multiplier for overall fisheries value is 4x, reflecting economic benefit to wholesalers, distributors, trucking firms, ice facilities, fuel docks, restaurants, retail fish markets and the like, making the (preliminary) overall 2013 value of the fisheries about \$40.8 million dollars. Catches of sea urchins, lobster, sablefish (black cod), rock crabs, and sea cucumbers again topped the list. Staff believes the stability of landings, plus the increase in value over landings during past few years reflects the sustainability of our fisheries, continued "value-added" trends in direct marketing of products like sea urchins and live halibut, the high price of lobster and the ongoing success of the sablefish (black cod) fishery.

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