

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 16, 2015
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Designated Fishing Zones on Stearns Wharf**

RECOMMENDATION: That Harbor Commission:

- A. Receive a staff report on the history and status of fishing from Stearns Wharf, and
- B. Recommend City Council approve an Ordinance designating Fishing Zones on Stearns Wharf.

BACKGROUND

In 1973, Stearns Wharf sustained one of the many fires that have marked its history, forcing closure of the Wharf until 1981. When it reopened, informally designated fishing zones were established on the Wharf's seaward finger ("Plank Park") and its shoreward finger, with fish-cleaning stations installed at each. By the mid-1980s, however, Waterfront staff noticed that fishing was taking place well outside those areas, including behind buildings, at the Passenger Loading Ramp, at the Harbor Restaurant's valet parking lot, at the Wye between the main roadway and the shoreward finger and along the pedestrian right-of-way adjacent to the main roadway.

As fishing proliferated beyond the informally designated areas, staff initiated a signage program, painting "no fishing" notices in areas throughout the Wharf (mostly on railings and on old piles used for sitting benches), to help ensure the safety of fishermen, pedestrians and vehicles.

DISCUSSION

While the "no fishing" signs have been generally effective educating the public about where and where not to fish from Stearns Wharf, Waterfront staff occasionally has difficulty redirecting fishermen who choose to disregard the signs because the Santa Barbara Municipal Code is silent on this issue. This matter has come into sharp focus in recent months, as a few fishermen have refused to vacate (informally designated) "no fishing" areas, stating there is no law designating official fishing zones. Harbor Patrol, in turn, has no authority to issue citations in these zones.

Staff has created a drawing (Attachment 1) that designates proposed fishing zones for Stearns Wharf. The drawing reflects traditional fishing zones on the seaward and

shoreward fingers, and would serve as a reference exhibit for a proposed Ordinance that codifies currently informal designations. Draft Ordinance language is included as Attachment 2 to this report.

Note: The proposed Ordinance includes discretionary language allowing the Waterfront Director to alter the fishing zones as needed. This would likely only be used during special events, but staff believes this authority is essential to providing flexibility, should it be needed. Staff has also contacted Frank Drew, operator of Stearns Wharf Bait and Tackle, who supports the recommended Ordinance.

CONCLUSION

With a million pedestrians and 250,000 vehicles visiting Stearns Wharf every year, staff believes it important to help enhance the safety of fishermen and the public by designating permitted fishing zones in areas of Stearns Wharf traditionally used for this purpose. This Ordinance will also help Harbor Patrol enforce these designations.

Attachments: 1. Drawing—Proposed Fishing Zones on Stearns Wharf
2. Proposed Changes to SBMC 17.13—Fishing from Stearns Wharf

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager

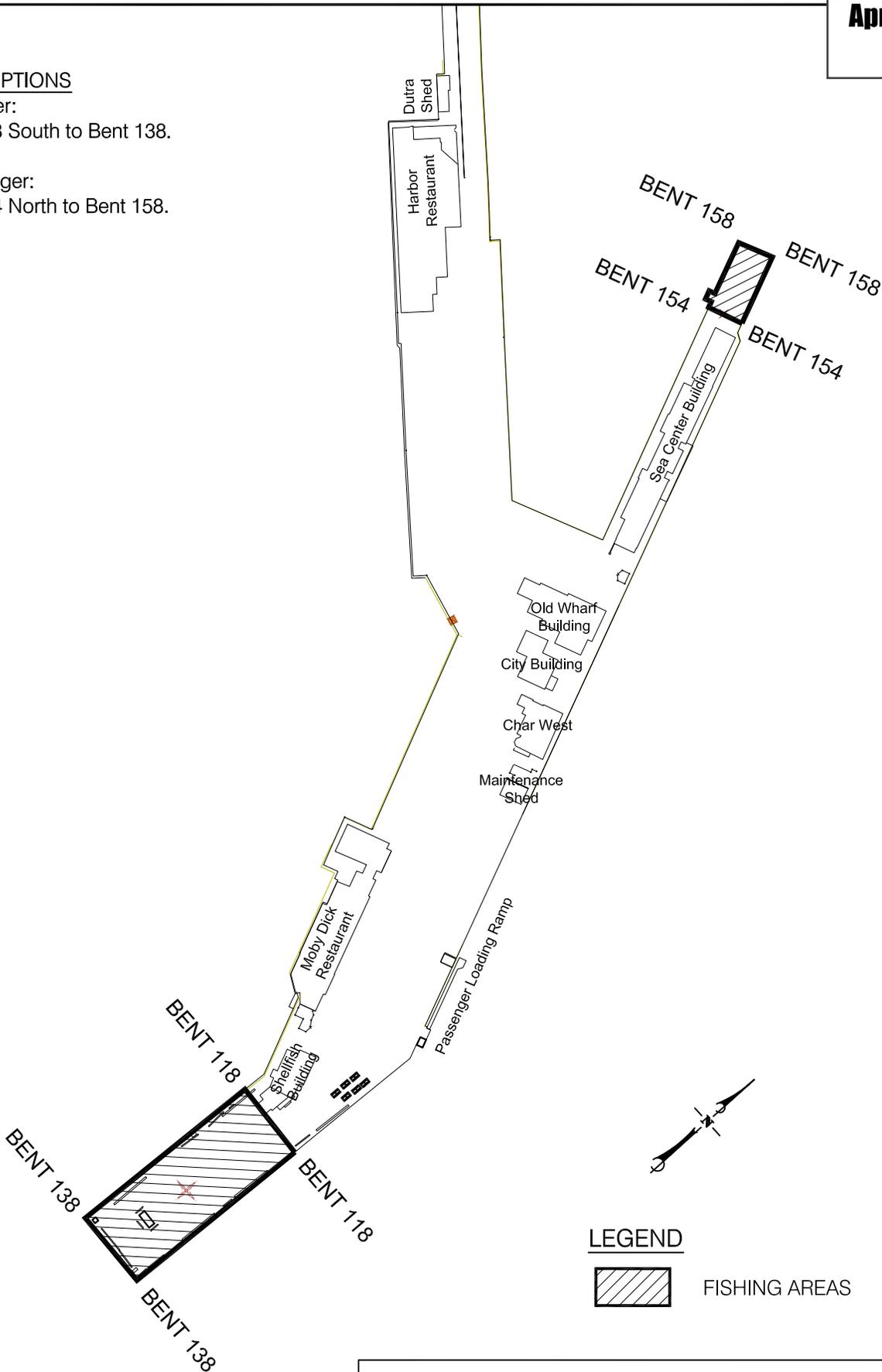
AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Seaward Finger:

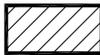
From Bent 118 South to Bent 138.

Shoreward Finger:

From Bent 154 North to Bent 158.



LEGEND

 FISHING AREAS

**FISHING ORDINANCE
STEARNS WHARF**

REVISIONS	DATE:	3/11/2015	SCALE:	NONE	APPROVED BY:	M. KRONMAN	DRAWN BY:	T. LAWLER
	ADDRESS:					SHEET NO.:	1 OF 1	
Attachment #1					City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department		DRAWING NAME: 2000-107	

17.13.010 Vessels Tied Up to Stearns Wharf.

A. It is unlawful for any person to leave or permit any vessel to be unattended or unoccupied at, or alongside of, Stearns Wharf without first obtaining the permission of the Waterfront Director.

B. The Waterfront Director may order any vessel to leave Stearns Wharf or to change its location alongside Stearns Wharf, if necessary for the health, safety or welfare of persons on or near the Wharf or for the operational efficiency of Stearns Wharf.

C. Fees, charges, and regulations may be established by City Council Resolution for tie up of vessels at the passenger loading ramp on Stearns Wharf for the primary purpose of embarking or debarking commercial passengers. (Ord. 4757, 1992; Ord. 4272, 1984.)

17.13.030 Commercial Photography.

Commercial, still, motion or sound photography is permitted on Stearns Wharf after doing the following:

A. Obtaining permission of the Waterfront Director; and,

B. Obtaining the appropriate permits from the City of Santa Barbara; and,

C. Paying appropriate fees as established by City Council resolution. (Ord. 4757, 1992.)

17.13.040 Diving From Stearns Wharf.

It is unlawful to dive or jump from Stearns Wharf without the express permission of the Waterfront Director. (Ord. 4757, 1992.)

17.13.050 Fishing From Stearns Wharf

It shall be unlawful to fish from Stearns Wharf in any areas other than those designated in Exhibit ***attached to Section 17.13, unless otherwise restricted or allowed by the Waterfront Director or his/her designee.

17.13.050060 Closure of Stearns Wharf.

The Waterfront Director may order the closure of Stearns Wharf to the general public when necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare or to maintain Stearns Wharf. When closure of Stearns Wharf is directed on a regular basis or at certain prescribed times during the day, notice of said closure shall be posted in a prominent manner at both the pedestrian and vehicle access entrances to Stearns Wharf. (Ord. 5420, 2007.)