

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 16, 2018
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Commercial Fishing Committee**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Harbor Commission form a Commercial Fishing Committee to investigate gear storage opportunities and other needs.

DISCUSSION:

Many of Santa Barbara Harbor's commercial fishermen store gear on a property located in the Funk Zone. The site occupies approximately 10,000 square feet and accommodates trailer-boat storage, containers, net gear, and open-space gear storage/repair essential to commercial fishing. Commercial fishermen rent the site on a month-to-month basis. Owners of the site have expressed interest in developing it, which may or may not include commercial fishing gear storage. Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of commercial fishermen. CFSB's greatest current concern is lack of an available location that can be committed to long-term gear storage.

Council recently heard an appeal of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) granted by the Planning Commission for 35 N. Calle Cesar Chavez. The appeal concerned the OM-1 (Ocean-Oriented Light Manufacturing) zoning for the parcel and questioned the Planning Commission's justification for granting the CUP for a use not considered Ocean-oriented. The property owners invested millions of dollars in the property and are seeking a tenant that can pay higher rents than would typically be paid by an Ocean-oriented tenant conforming to OM-1 zoning. Although the appeal was denied, Council directed Waterfront staff to discuss commercial fishing gear storage issues and opportunities with the Harbor Commission.

The Waterfront Department supports commercial fishing in many ways. A variety of commercial fishing products are offloaded at the City Pier with hoists provided by the Waterfront. An ice house has been supplying high quality flake ice for the fleet since 1995. Waterfront policies provide discounted slip fees for some fishermen with slip permits and all visiting fishermen.

Unfortunately, however, gear-storage space at the Waterfront is not available, as all landside areas are encumbered by long-term ground leases within granted lands operated by the Waterfront Department. With this lack of available space at the Waterfront for gear storage, Council would like the Harbor Commission to work with commercial fishermen and investigate opportunities to secure areas that could be dedicated to long-term gear storage. Staff believes forming a standing committee of the Commission would reflect this guidance and provide a platform for discussion of future issues related to commercial fishing and our working Waterfront.

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