

San Diego Fishermen's Working Group 8021 Lemon Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91941



Frank Urtasun

October 25, 2024

Chair

San Diego Board of Port Commissioners

Sent Electronically to: PublicRecords@portofsandiego.org.

RE Seaweed and Shellfish Aquaculture Program Discussion Draft Comments.

Dear Chair Urtasun and Commissioners,

Please accept the following comments from the San Diego Fishermen's Working Group (SDFWG) on the Seaweed and Shellfish Aquaculture Program Discussion Draft. The SDFWG is a non-profit organization representing all the major fisheries in the greater San Diego region, and includes representation from Tuna Harbor, Driscoll's Wharf, and commercial fishermen and women who utilize the area's launch ramps.

SDFWG members depend on access to fishing grounds spanning from the Southern border with Mexico all the way to our Northern border with Canada.

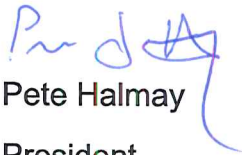
The SDFWG does not intend to voice overall opposition to Shellfish and Seaweed Aquaculture.

However, the proposed Zuniga and Imperial Beach locations would both cause unnecessary and untold harm to commercial fishing opportunities in San Diego, and result in an adverse economic impact to our fishing community. These areas are regularly used for lobster and bait fishes. In fact, fishermen believe that the near-shore area of the Zuniga location is a likely nursery area for lobster.

SDFWG wishes to express concerns, for the Port to examine, about the viability of in-bay shellfish and seaweed farming:

- It seems likely that the water temperature in the Bay—already high—will increase with global and ocean warming. We have already seen very limited success with the attempt to grow oysters in the “Flupsy” barge, in Tuna Harbor.
- While we understand that certain shellfish can filter out pollutants, we do wonder if the condition of Bay water will be conducive to the growth of these animals.
- Does the Port have the many acres of land that will be needed to dry seaweed?
- Has the Port researched the market value of the proposed products to assess the economic viability of this investment?
- Only California native species should be used.
- Will the Port provide subsidies to aquaculture developers?
- Overall, we remind the BPC that the SDFWG is working hard to provide fresh, sustainable seafood, which has a very low carbon footprint, to our community.

Thank you for considering the comments of the San Diego Fishermen’s Working Group.



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CC

SDFWG Board of Directors