

Jim Hurst Richard Shoemaker Dan Platt Grant Downie Domenick Weaver Anna Neumann
Chair Vice Chair Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Harbormaster

Noyo Harbor Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday January 9th 2025 6pm

Town Hall,

363 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA

Call to Order

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

The Noyo Harbor Commission welcomes input from the public. Please limit your comments to five minutes so that everyone may be heard. The Brown Act does not allow action to be taken on non-agenda items.

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes December 2024
2. Financial Report December 2024

Conduct of Business

1. Discussion and possible action on signage for docks
2. Discussion and possible action on Vessel Demolition Specialist
3. Discussion and possible action on letter to PMFC
4. Discussion and possible action on Vessel Acquisition Grants
5. Discussion and possible action on Fleet Stakeholder Report
6. Discussion and possible action on potential Grant Programs

Staff Reports and Recommendations

School Presentations CTE

Cheryll Rose Abatement

Captains Dinner at Noyo Harbor Inn

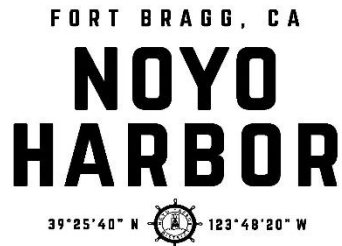
Matters from the Commissioners

Attorney Report

Adjournment to the next regular meeting



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Jim Hurst Richard Shoemaker Dan Platt Grant Downie Domenick Weaver Anna Neumann
Chair Vice Chair Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Harbormaster

Noyo Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 19th, 2024 6pm

Town Hall,

363 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA

Call to Order at 6:00 by Chair Hurst

Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Downie, Commissioner Weaver, Vice Chair Shoemaker, Chair Hurst

Staff Present: Anna Neumann, Nick Savedra, Jim Jackson

Absent: Commissioner Platt

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes November 2024
2. Financial Report November 2024

Motion to approve: 1st Commissioner Weaver, 2nd Vice Chair Shoemaker. Approved: 4-0-1

Conduct of Business

1. Discussion and possible action on FEMA project

The Harbormaster detailed the struggles the office has been having with the FEMA project and a discussion followed on the merits of continuing the project. Vice Chair Shoemaker suggested that the Harbormaster proceed with submitting appeals for all four projects to increase the odds that one project is obligated. A consensus was reached that all four projects should be appealed. Vice Chair Shoemaker also suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed to approach Congressman Huffman's office with the District's struggles.

Ad Hoc Committee created to reach out to Congressman Huffman's office. Vice Chair Shoemaker and Commissioner Downie will sit on the committee.

Motion to proceed with appealing project ineligibility determination for all four damages to FEMA. 1st Commissioner Downie, 2nd Vice Chair Shoemaker. Approved 4-0-1

2. Discussion and possible action on North Star Ice Payment

A discussion was held on the final stages of the icehouse installation project. On North Stars end they are almost complete with the project and have requested final payment. On the sale acknowledgement final payment is due two weeks prior to delivery, however the District and North Star have agreed that the equipment will remain on North Star property until the District has prepared their final slab.

Motion to authorize the Harbormaster to immediately allocate payment up to 90% of the balance due. 1st Vice Chair Shoemaker, 2nd Commissioner Weaver. Approved: 4-0-1

Commissioner Platt arrived at 6:45pm.

3. Discussion and possible action on Rate Increase

A discussion was held on rate increases. Commissioner Weaver was a strong proponent of not applying the increased rate to commercial fishermen due to struggles with their seasons. Chair Hurst agreed that increasing the commercial fleet disproportionately hurt the commercial fishermen while not creating a significant increase to District profits. There was overall consensus to increase rates for non-commercial fishermen and for the short term slip renters as having a slip in the harbor is a luxury expense. Vice Chair Shoemaker requested to round increases up or down to the nearest \$0.05.

Motion to approve rates rounded to the nearest \$0.05 as noted in the December packet with the exemption of commercial fishermen with an active fishing permit. 1st Vice Chair Shoemaker, 2nd Commissioner Downie. Approved 5-0-0

4. Discussion and possible action on potential partnership with The Nature Conservancy on funding projects

Commissioner Downie and the Harbormaster gave an update on The Nature Conservancy's Pacific Coast Ocean Restoration project and the project kick off they attended in Long Beach. A general discussion on the project and potential collaboration between TNC and the Harbor District was held. Overall Vice Chair Shoemaker and Chair Hurst felt the Harbor should be taking an active role in any property acquisition projects and having controlling interest in property in the Harbor will allow the District to support any upcoming workforce development, small business and economic development projects. While partnering with TNC and restoration projects is not listed in the Community Sustainability Plan, partnering with organization to support workforce develop aligns with the Districts mission to keep our waterfront working.

Ad Hoc Committee was created to work with TNC and potential partners on project development. Commissioner Downie and Commissioner Weaver will sit on the committee.

Staff Reports and Recommendations

Fish Cleaning Station

Earthquake and Tsunami

Coast Guard Engine Replacement Project

Matters from the Commissioners

Commissioner Downie would like to work with the Harbormaster next year to take a more active role in the lighted boat parade. It would be a great community event and the harbors participation could help drive momentum. Commissioner Downie also hid a Geo-Cache in the Harbor. Geo-Caches are a fun way to folks outdoors as it is a free family friendly activity.

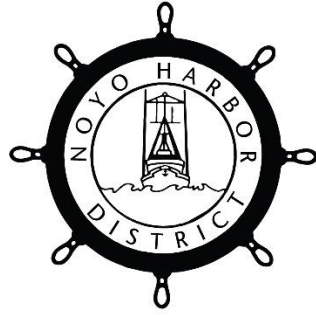
Commissioner Weaver requested that the Harbormaster agendize a potential grant from Department of Homeland Security for a new harbor boat. He also requested to agendize a letter to PFMC to support the opening of the 2025 salmon season.

Chair Hurst gave an update on sub-letting a portion of his dock to Wild Blue Aquaculture. Wild Blue Aquaculture is working to establish an urchin ranching program.

Attorney Report

None

Motion: Adjournment to the next regular meeting Jan 9th, 2025. 1st Commissioner Weaver, 2nd Commissioner Downie. Approved 5-0-0 Meeting adjourned at 7:32.



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NOYO HARBOR DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
30-Dec-24

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Chase Checking | \$209,158.04 |
| Chase Money Market | \$134,148.46 |
| LAIF | \$659,212.97 |
| Total of all accounts | \$1,002,519.47 |
| Funds Reserved for State Lands Commission Grant | \$105,308.99 |
| Unsecured funds | \$897,210.48 |

Noyo Harbor District Profit & Loss

December 2024

Dec 24

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| Electricity | 435.99 |
| Fish Markets | 2,831.12 |
| Ground Rent | 2,245.70 |
| Income / Mdco. County Taxes | 77,275.99 |
| Other Grant Proceeds | 11,900.00 |
| Park & Launch | 2,609.89 |
| Slip Rental Contract | 20,070.25 |
| Slip Rental Transient | 1,324.53 |
| Total Income | <u>118,693.47</u> |
| Gross Profit | 118,693.47 |
| Expense | |
| Communications Expense | 226.53 |
| Dues and Subscriptions Exp | 32.95 |
| Emp. Health & Dental Insurance | 3,314.16 |
| Fuel Expense | 277.45 |
| Insurance Property & Liability | 15.00 |
| Legal and Professional Fees | 931.50 |
| Office Expense | 338.07 |
| Payroll Tax Expense | 5,742.75 |
| Power | 7,907.18 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 3,044.98 |
| Salary Expense | 3,332.97 |
| Sep. Ira | 793.77 |
| Utilities Expense | 8,770.02 |
| Wages Expense (Hourly) | 12,908.93 |
| Total Expense | <u>47,636.26</u> |
| Net Ordinary Income | 71,057.21 |
| Other Income/Expense | |
| Other Expense | |
| EDD Project | <u>631,862.81</u> |
| Total Other Expense | <u>631,862.81</u> |
| Net Other Income | -631,862.81 |
| Net Income | <u><u>-560,805.60</u></u> |

| | FY Year to Date | Budget | \$ Over Budget | % of Budget |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Electricity | \$7,872.61 | \$15,000.00 | -7,127.39 | 52.48 |
| Encroachment Leases | \$0.00 | \$25,000.00 | -25,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Fish Markets | \$13,413.12 | \$2,000.00 | 11,413.12 | 670.66 |
| Ground Rent | \$12,494.24 | \$24,000.00 | -11,505.76 | 52.06 |
| Income / Mdco. County | | | | |
| Taxes | \$93,460.86 | \$131,000.00 | -37,539.14 | 71.34 |
| Interest Income | \$35,770.80 | \$45,000.00 | -9,229.20 | 79.49 |
| Late Fees | \$1,642.50 | \$2,500.00 | -857.50 | 65.70 |
| Other Grant Proceeds | \$41,445.10 | \$110,000.00 | -68,554.90 | 37.68 |
| Park & Launch | \$23,406.71 | \$35,000.00 | -11,593.29 | 66.88 |
| Slip Rental Contract | \$184,271.11 | \$445,000.00 | -260,728.89 | 41.41 |
| Slip Rental Transient | \$50,541.92 | \$45,000.00 | 5,541.92 | 112.32 |
| Total Income | \$464,318.97 | \$879,500.00 | -\$415,181.03 | 52.79 |
| Expense | | | | |
| Advertising Expense | \$637.53 | \$500.00 | 137.53 | 127.51 |
| Communications Expense | \$2,129.06 | \$4,500.00 | -2,370.94 | 47.31 |
| Deferred Maintenance | \$2,072.35 | \$10,000.00 | -7,927.65 | 20.72 |
| Dues and Subscriptions Exp | \$15,564.56 | \$18,000.00 | -2,435.44 | 86.47 |
| Emp. Health & Dental | | | | |
| Insurance | \$20,062.54 | \$30,000.00 | -9,937.46 | 66.88 |
| Fuel Expense | \$1,473.51 | \$5,000.00 | -3,526.49 | 29.47 |
| Insurance Property & Liability | \$259,868.06 | \$265,000.00 | -5,131.94 | 98.06 |
| Legal and Professional Fees | \$10,263.50 | \$44,500.00 | -34,236.50 | 23.06 |
| Office Expense | \$5,918.00 | \$10,800.00 | -4,882.00 | 54.80 |
| Operating Supplies | \$2,196.34 | \$6,000.00 | -3,803.66 | 36.61 |
| Payroll Tax Expense | \$8,200.18 | \$20,560.00 | -12,359.82 | 39.88 |
| Power | \$30,006.92 | \$57,000.00 | -26,993.08 | 52.64 |
| Refund | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 | -1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | \$23,367.84 | \$43,000.00 | -19,632.16 | 54.34 |
| Salary Expense | \$24,416.69 | \$70,000.00 | -45,583.31 | 34.88 |
| Sep. Ira | \$4,555.56 | \$16,000.00 | -11,444.44 | 28.47 |
| Taxes & Assessments | \$7,514.40 | \$7,500.00 | 14.40 | 100.19 |
| Travel and Conferences | \$258.96 | \$2,000.00 | -1,741.04 | 12.95 |
| Utilities Expense | \$33,771.83 | \$65,000.00 | -31,228.17 | 51.96 |
| Wages Expense (Hourly) | \$82,775.21 | \$187,000.00 | -104,224.79 | 44.26 |
| Total Expense | \$535,053.04 | \$863,360.00 | -328,306.96 | 61.97 |
| Net Income | -\$70,734.07 | \$16,140.00 | | -438.25 |

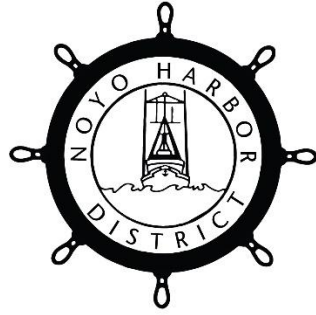
Noyo Harbor District

Payroll summary by employee report

From Dec 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024 for all employees from all locations

| Item | Total | Koski Bruce | Koski Jay | Neumann Anna T | Savedra Nicholas P | Scofield Robert |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Hours - total | 673.84 | 78 | 160 | 173.34 | 139 | 123.5 |
| Hours - Regular Pay | 465.5 | 78 | 133 | | 131 | 123.5 |
| Hours - Overtime Pay | 0 | | | | | 0 |
| Hours - Bonus | 0 | | | 0 | | |
| Hours - Vacation Pay | 27 | | 27 | 0 | | |
| Hours - Sick Pay | 8 | | 0 | 0 | 8 | |
| Hours - Holiday Pay | 0 | | 0 | | | |
| Hours - Salary | 173.34 | | | 173.34 | | |
| Gross pay - total | \$ 20,422.35 | \$ 1,521.00 | \$ 4,601.60 | \$ 7,721.50 | \$ 4,170.00 | \$ 2,408.25 |
| Gross pay - Regular Pay | \$ 11,684.33 | \$ 1,521.00 | \$ 3,825.08 | | \$ 3,930.00 | \$ 2,408.25 |
| Gross pay - Overtime Pay | \$ 0.00 | | | | | \$ 0.00 |
| Gross pay - Bonus | \$ 1,450.00 | | | \$ 1,450.00 | | |
| Gross pay - Vacation Pay | \$ 776.52 | | \$ 776.52 | \$ 0.00 | | |
| Gross pay - Sick Pay | \$ 240.00 | | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 240.00 | |
| Gross pay - Holiday Pay | \$ 0.00 | | \$ 0.00 | | | |
| Gross pay - Salary | \$ 6,271.50 | | | \$ 6,271.50 | | |
| Pretax deductions - total | | | | | | |
| Adjusted gross | \$ 20,422.35 | \$ 1,521.00 | \$ 4,601.60 | \$ 7,721.50 | \$ 4,170.00 | \$ 2,408.25 |
| Other pay - total | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Employee taxes & | -\$ 4,180.45 | -\$ 177.61 | -\$ 1,040.72 | -\$ 1,941.37 | -\$ 652.77 | -\$ 367.98 |
| Employee taxes - total | -\$ 4,180.45 | -\$ 177.61 | -\$ 1,040.72 | -\$ 1,941.37 | -\$ 652.77 | -\$ 367.98 |
| Employee taxes - Federal Income Tax | -\$ 1,831.41 | -\$ 30.44 | -\$ 490.10 | -\$ 1,018.82 | -\$ 168.40 | -\$ 123.65 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Employee taxes - Social Security | -\$ 1,266.18 | -\$ 94.30 | -\$ 285.30 | -\$ 478.73 | -\$ 258.54 | -\$ 149.31 |
| Employee taxes - Medicare | -\$ 296.12 | -\$ 22.06 | -\$ 66.72 | -\$ 111.96 | -\$ 60.46 | -\$ 34.92 |
| Employee taxes - CA Income Tax | -\$ 562.10 | -\$ 14.08 | -\$ 147.98 | -\$ 246.93 | -\$ 119.50 | -\$ 33.61 |
| Employee taxes - CA State Disability Ins | -\$ 224.64 | -\$ 16.73 | -\$ 50.62 | -\$ 84.93 | -\$ 45.87 | -\$ 26.49 |
| Employee Aftertax Net pay | \$ 16,241.90 | \$ 1,343.39 | \$ 3,560.88 | \$ 5,780.13 | \$ 3,517.23 | \$ 2,040.27 |
| Employer taxes & contributions - total | \$ 1,562.30 | \$ 116.36 | \$ 352.02 | \$ 590.69 | \$ 319.00 | \$ 184.23 |
| Employer taxes - total | \$ 1,562.30 | \$ 116.36 | \$ 352.02 | \$ 590.69 | \$ 319.00 | \$ 184.23 |
| Employer taxes - FUTA | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Employer taxes - Social Security Employer | \$ 1,266.18 | \$ 94.30 | \$ 285.30 | \$ 478.73 | \$ 258.54 | \$ 149.31 |
| Employer taxes - Medicare Employer | \$ 296.12 | \$ 22.06 | \$ 66.72 | \$ 111.96 | \$ 60.46 | \$ 34.92 |
| Employer taxes - CA ETT | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Employer taxes - CA SUI Employer | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Company contributions - Total payroll cost | \$ 21,984.65 | \$ 1,637.36 | \$ 4,953.62 | \$ 8,312.19 | \$ 4,489.00 | \$ 2,592.48 |



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Noyo Harbor District Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 1/9/2025
Item Number: 1
Title: Dock Signage
Recommended Action: Recommendations

Analysis

As a part of the EDD grant the Harbor Office and West Center have been working to support dockside sales. A major aspect of getting folks down to the boats is clear signage as to where they are going. Currently, our dock letters are small, wooden letters made by the maintenance staff located on sides of our electrical boxes. Member of the public un-aware of which dock is which or where to look can easily overlook our dock signs. West Center is requesting to spend a portion of their contracted amount of dock signage.

They have proposed the attached signs be located on the tops of each of the gates to allow for clear indications of which dock is which.

They have also proposed that we re-develop the side panel on each gate to incorporate the District logo and dock rules or expectations of tenants.

As part of the State Lands Commission grant, signposts were installed at the waters edge. West Center would like to develop this signage to be the “Caught in Noyo Harbor” concept that has been previously discussed. The Harbormaster would like to work on developing this concept out more and potentially get a wooden sign instead of aluminum to match the theme of the harbor. In general, we don’t have that much signage to let folks know that they are in the Harbor District, the year we were established or anything about us. This location could be optional for that.

Commissioners Downie and Platt have requested signage directing dockside sales. Perhaps a sign on the front of the Fish Clean Station itself could work to that affect.

Fiscal Impact

Signage would be covered in the West Center contract. Currently West in significantly underbudget.

Attachments

Signage Presentation from West Center

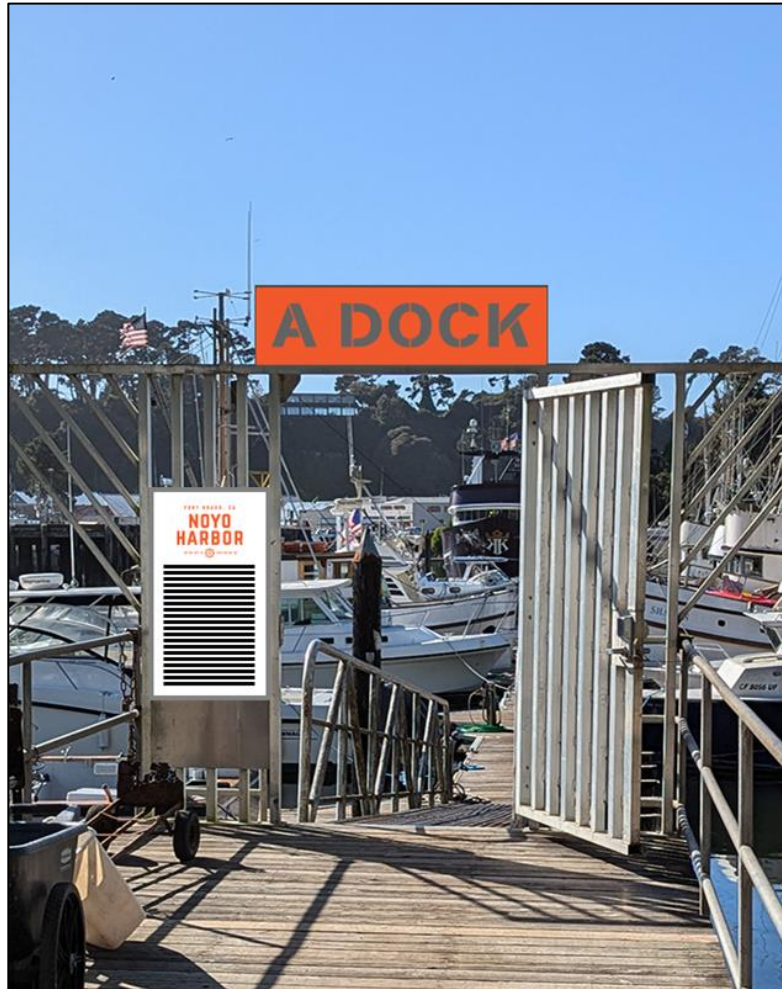


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DOCK SIGNAGE

Each dock gate will feature 2 new signs at each location.

1. A wayfinding sign above the gate highlighting the dock letter
2. A sign mounted next to the gate listing rules and regulations of the dock

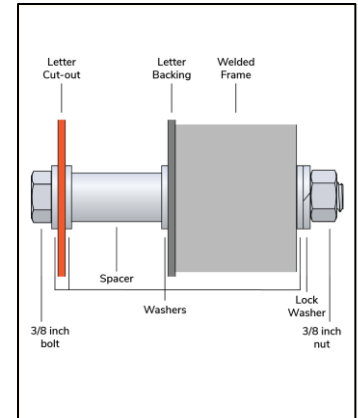
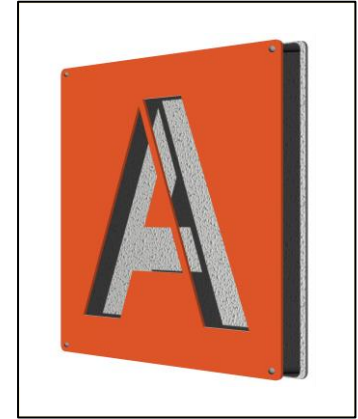
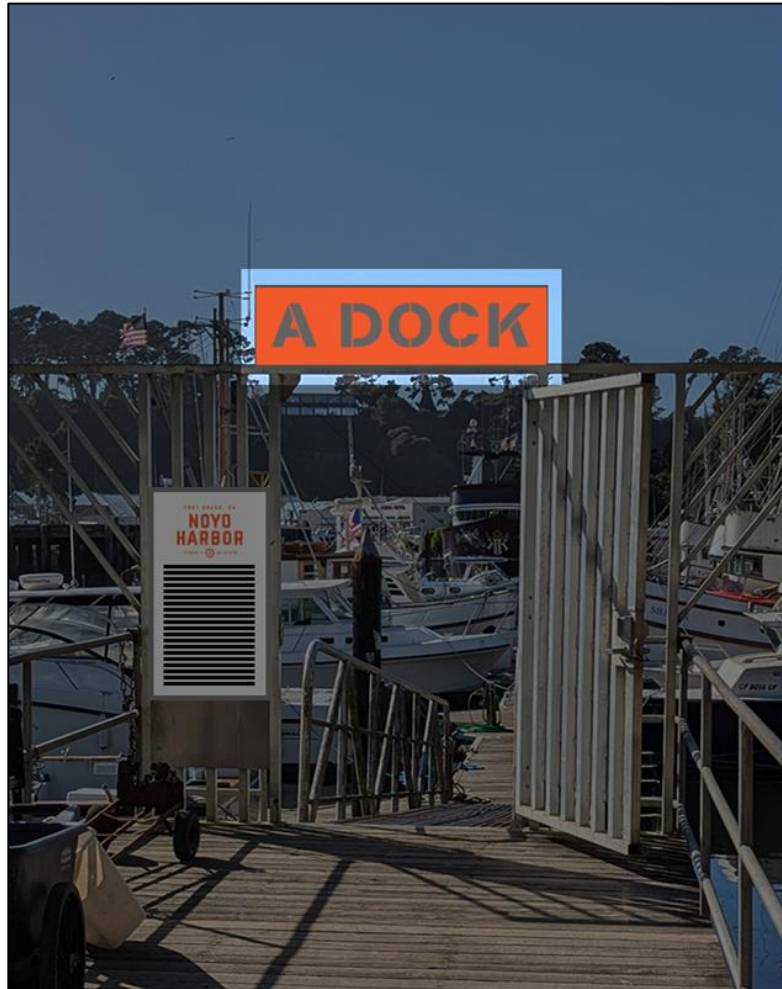


WAYFINDING SIGNS (X8)

Dock signs will be 16x60 inches and will consist of:

- One laser cut and powder coated sheet of 0.125", 6061 T6 Aluminum mounted to float 1 inch from
- A second "blank" sheet of unpainted 0.125", 6061 T6 Aluminum.
- Stainless steel hardware will be used for mounting and spacers.
- Frame to be welded to the top of the upper gate frame with mounting holes drilled in 6 locations to match the sign hardware.
- In addition to printing and laser cutting a separate design and fabrication fee not to exceed \$800.00 will be charged.

| Unit Price | Total |
|------------|------------|
| \$933.25 | \$7,466.00 |

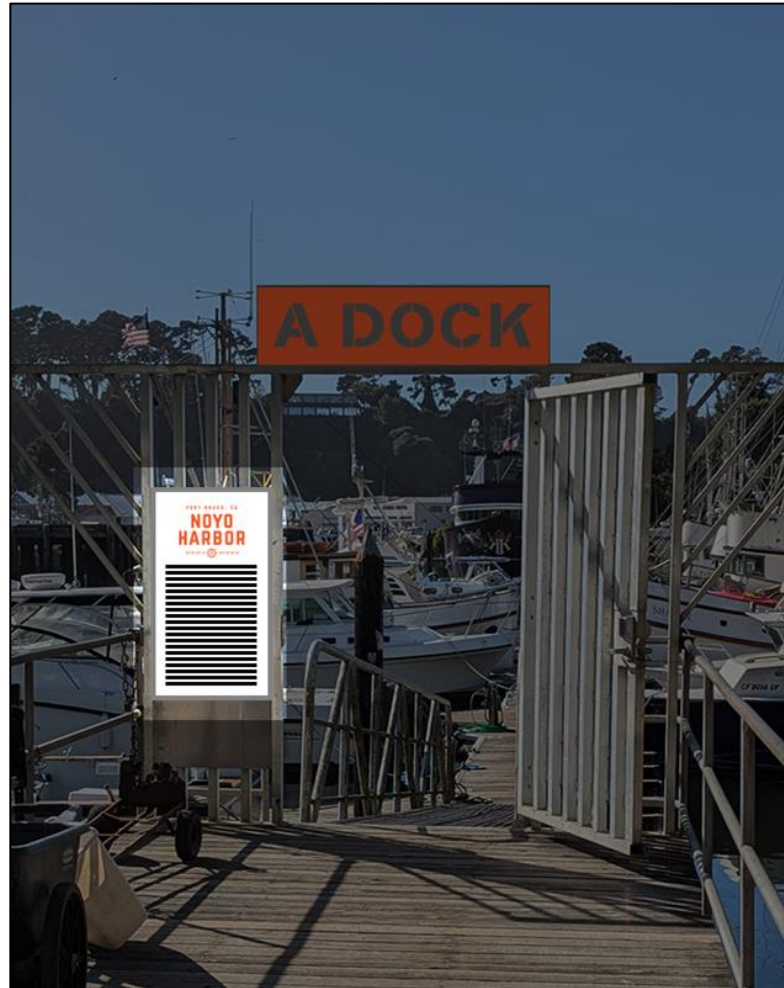


RULES SIGNS (X8)

24x48 inch aluminum signs

- 0.08 inch aluminum
- Printed in Full color on one side
- Corner rounding

| Unit Price | Total |
|------------|------------|
| \$168.75 | \$1,350.00 |



CAUGHT AT NOYO SIGN

48"x 78" Aluminum Sign

- 0.08 inch aluminum
- Printed in full color on one side
- Corner rounding

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Sign Printing | \$708.00 |
| Design Estimate | \$100.00 |



Visualization only. Not final design.





Noyo Harbor District Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 1/9/2025
Item Number: 2
Title: Vessel Demo Specialist
Recommended Action: Recommendations

Analysis

The Harbormaster would like to hire a specific Vessel Demo Specialist at a rate where the new hire would be required to provide their own equipment to complete the work. Hiring an employee to complete vessel demolition would alleviate the need to hire a contractor to complete the work which would reduce the overall cost of the programs. It would also ensure that anyone working on the project or at the project site has insurance coverage. The Harbormaster spoke to the District's insurance agent and the new hire would fall under our insurance for workers compensation and oil spill and pollution. The District is also able to write off staff hours to the SAVE grant if the vessel is eligible for SAVE funding.

Having an on -call staff would also hopefully streamline vessel demo projects as we would not have to wait on contractor quotes or work through the bid process.

Fiscal Impact

Minimal as staff hours would be reimbursed to various grants.

Attachments

Job Description



Jim Hurst
Chair

Richard Shoemaker
Vice Chair

Dan Platt
Commissioner

Grant Downie
Commissioner

Domenick Weaver
Commissioner

Anna Neumann
Harbormaster

Vessel Demolition Specialist

The Noyo Harbor District is seeking to hire Vessel Demolition Specialist to be on-call employees in the event an abandoned vessel requires abatement or a vessel is surrendered to the Harbor District by its owner. This position is strictly on-call, hours may be outside of normal working hours including nights, and weekends. No hours are guaranteed.

Pay: \$150-\$200 per hour DOE

Employees will need to provide their own tools for vessel removal and abatement.

Travel time is eligible within the hourly rate

Ideal employee should:

have experience in heavy equipment operations

have working knowledge of vessel abatement and/or vessel construction

have working knowledge of how to haul out vessel



Noyo Harbor District Agenda Item Summary

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Meeting Date: | 1/9/2025 |
| Item Number: | 3 |
| Title: | Letter to Pacific Marine Fisheries Council |
| Recommended Action: | Recommendations |

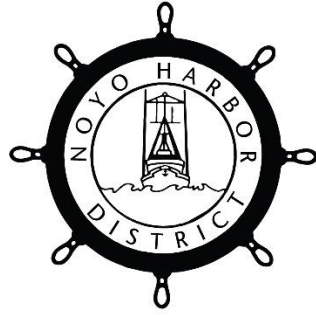
Analysis

Commissioner Weaver would like to develop a letter to the Pacific Marine Fisheries Council about opening the 2025 salmon seasons.

Fiscal Impact

While not directly related to the District's budget, Salmon season is a considerable source of income for many of the commercial fishermen that make up the Noyo Harbor fleet.

Attachments



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Noyo Harbor District Agenda Item Summary

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Meeting Date: | 1/9/2025 |
| Item Number: | 4 |
| Title: | Vessel Acquisition Grants |
| Recommended Action: | Recommendations |

Analysis

The Harbormaster was able to find a couple grants that would fund vessel acquisition. They are as follows.

Port Security Grant Program via FEMA

The Port Security Grant Program provides funding to state, local and private-sector partners to help protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, enhance maritime domain awareness, improve port-wide maritime security risk management, and maintain or reestablish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities. A Notice of Funds has not been released for 2025, the 2024 cycle was released in April so the office will check back in.

Boating Safety and Enforcement Equipment Grant via Department of Boating and Waterways

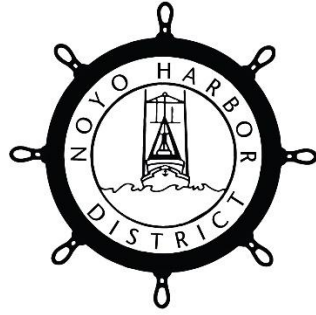
This program focuses on the purchase of equipment to increase enforcement activities in California's waterways. While the District has been successful with several grants through the Department of Boating and Waterways this specific program seems to have a heavy enforcement angle. This funding cycle also opens in April.

Fiscal Impact

Both the Port Security Grant Program and Department of Boating and Waterways programs have 25% matches. While a specific vessel the District would look to purchase has not been determined, price is a consideration.

Attachments

None



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Noyo Harbor District Agenda Item Summary

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Meeting Date: | 1/9/2025 |
| Item Number: | 5 |
| Title: | Fleet Stakeholder Report |
| Recommended Action: | Acceptance of Report Findings or Recommendations |

Analysis

As part of the EDD grant the West Center undertook a significant amount of stakeholder engagement from the commercial fishing fleet looking to understand barriers to increasing capital within the industry and provide recommendations for the Harbor District.

While the majority of those interviewed felt the industry had little opportunities to succeed given the strict regulatory frameworks it is imperative that the Harbor District continue to act as the backbone for the industry. Opportunities like developing a fishing processing facility that incorporates a smoker, canner or packaging could be the key to survival for many of our smaller fishing businesses.

This report can hopefully be used as a supporting document on grant applications in conjunction with the Community Sustainability Plan.

Fiscal Impact

None

Attachments

Fishermens Stakeholder Report



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FORT BRAGG, CA

NOYO HARBOR

39°25'40" N  123°48'20" W



Fisherman Stakeholder Report November 2024

Prepared for the Noyo Harbor Revitalization Pilot

Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a study conducted between July and November 2024 to assess the challenges and opportunities facing the Noyo Harbor fishing fleet in Fort Bragg, California. The study engaged directly with stakeholders, including fishermen, and community members, to develop actionable recommendations aimed at ensuring the sustainability and economic vitality of this critical sector.

Data collection included in-depth interviews, document reviews, and community engagement, providing a thorough analysis of the fleet's operational environment and broader industry context. The study also fostered collaboration between the fishing fleet, the Harbor District, the West Business Development Center, to promote informed decision-making and coordinated solutions.

The findings emphasize the urgent need for targeted investments, sustainable practices, and strengthened partnerships to support the resilience and growth of the Noyo Harbor fishing fleet. By acting on these recommendations, stakeholders can secure the long-term viability and economic prosperity of this vital industry in Fort Bragg, California

Key Findings

1. **Capacity and Infrastructure:** The fleet operates with aging infrastructure that requires significant investment to maintain competitiveness and efficiency.
2. **Market Access:** Fishermen face limited access to diverse markets, with low prices affecting their ability to sustain livelihoods.
3. **Sustainability:** Emphasizing sustainable fishing practices is critical for preserving both the fishery and the environment over the long term.
4. **Community Engagement:** Greater collaboration among fishermen, local businesses, and government agencies is needed to address shared challenges and capitalize on opportunities.

Recommendations

1. **Infrastructure Investment:**
Prioritize modernization of harbor infrastructure, including the development of accessible docks and processing facilities. These improvements will enable fishermen to efficiently store and process their catch, improving market readiness.
2. **Market Development:**
Support initiatives that expand distribution channels and diversify seafood products. This includes fostering direct sales opportunities, such as dockside sales, and building connections with institutional and restaurant buyers.
3. **Sustainability Programs:**
Promote sustainable fishing practices and implement localized eco-labeling

initiatives to enhance market value and appeal to environmentally conscious consumers.

4. **Community Partnerships:**

Strengthen partnerships between fishermen, local businesses, government agencies, and organizations like the West Business Development Center to address shared concerns and promote unified solutions.

Stakeholder Engagement Methodology

Purpose and Scope: The purpose of this engagement was to identify actionable insights into the challenges faced by the Noyo Harbor fishing fleet and explore opportunities for economic diversification and community development. The methodology was designed to:

- Capture a comprehensive understanding of the experiences, needs, and aspirations of fishermen and related stakeholders.
- Align stakeholder recommendations with available resources and practical priorities.
- Support the development of targeted strategies and actionable next steps to strengthen the fishing community’s resilience and sustainability.

Data Collection Overview: Data for this engagement was collected through a combination of semi-structured interviews, participation in industry gatherings, and a thorough review of relevant documents. A total of 21 individuals were interviewed, including fishermen, industry experts, and community stakeholders.

Methods of Data Collection

a. Semi-Structured Interviews

In-depth, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 21 fishermen to gather insights into their experiences, challenges, and aspirations. These interviews provided qualitative data, allowing participants to share their perspectives on critical issues facing the industry.

Topics Covered:

- Regulatory challenges, permitting requirements, and responsible agencies
- Business operations of fishing fleets and identification of operational gaps
- Market expansion needs, challenges, and concerns
- Fleet capacity for dockside sales and market growth
- Workforce challenges and potential solutions
- Specific concerns within the Hispanic fishing community
- Financial and environmental concerns impacting the industry

- Interest in support services, training, and loan opportunities
- Feedback on learning sessions offered to the fleet
- Development of tools and programs to expand market access

b. Attendance at Industry Gatherings

Engagement with professional industry gatherings was a key component of the methodology. These meetings provided additional context and highlighted broader stakeholder priorities and resources available to support the fishing community.

Key Gatherings Attended:

- Meetings with the Harbormaster
- West Business Development Center stakeholder consultations
- Discussions with the Noyo Collective
- City of Fort Bragg Strategic Planning meetings
- Events hosted by Noyo Women for Fisheries
- Planning meetings for the Noyo Harbor Inn Local Fish Dinner

c. Document Review

A review of relevant documents was undertaken to contextualize stakeholder feedback within the broader historical and regulatory framework. Sources included government reports, historical records, and industry publications. This review provided a foundational understanding of the industry's evolution and its current challenges.

Stakeholder Insights

Challenges for Fishermen

Fishermen in Noyo Harbor face significant challenges in sustaining their livelihoods, primarily due to regulatory restrictions that limit access to high-value target species. One fisherman summarized the situation:

"The biggest problem the fleet faces is they don't have access to fish. We need to maximize what little we have."

These restrictions are further compounded by market dynamics, where trawlers with permits for large-volume catches flood the market with low-priced fish, creating a difficult competitive environment for smaller-scale fishermen. As a result, smaller operations are forced to maximize their limited time at sea to ensure sufficient returns.

Opportunities for Diversification

Despite these challenges, many fishermen express interest in exploring alternative market opportunities. Potential avenues include:

- Dockside sales
- Direct sales to restaurants and institutions
- Establishing processing, smoking, and canning facilities
- Improving harbor infrastructure

These initiatives, alongside efforts to develop unique branding for local seafood products, could provide critical economic diversification and sustainability for the fleet.

By addressing key bottlenecks and exploring new opportunities for economic diversification, these initiatives aim to support the resilience and sustainability of the Noyo Harbor fishing community. Ongoing collaboration between stakeholders, government agencies, and local businesses will be essential to achieving these goals.

Stakeholder Recommendations: Advancing Economic Gains for the Local Industry

1. Processing Plant

A dedicated seafood processing facility for commercial fishermen is widely supported by stakeholders as a solution to the current bottleneck. Existing private processing facilities do not provide direct access to local fishermen, limiting their ability to enter new markets or diversify offerings. A community-accessible facility could support activities such as filleting, canning, smoking, packaging, and freezing, enabling fishermen to enhance their profitability and compete more effectively.

Next Steps:

- **Feasibility Study:** Identify essential features (e.g., cold storage, flash freezing, packaging).
- **Cost-Benefit Analysis:** Assess the economic viability of such a facility.
- **Business Plan Development:** Outline operational, financial, and strategic aspects.
- **Funding and Partnerships:** Explore grants, loans, and private investment opportunities.

2. Dockside Sales

Dockside sales allow fishermen to sell directly to consumers, bypassing intermediaries. While this approach fosters community engagement and higher income potential, challenges include time-intensive logistics and limited guarantees of sales success.

Next Steps:

- **Logistics Plan:** Define sales locations, hours, and marketing strategies.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Engage fishermen, local businesses, and government agencies.
- **Infrastructure Investment:** Develop designated sales areas with refrigeration and waste disposal.

3. Restaurant Sales

Selling to local restaurants offers an opportunity for fishermen to establish long-term partnerships, though challenges include maintaining consistent supply and navigating regulatory hurdles. Local restaurateurs have shown interest in featuring local seafood on menus, creating a win-win opportunity.

Next Steps:

- **Facilitate Connections:** Create directories and networking events for fishermen and restaurants.
- **Regulatory Support:** Simplify permits for restaurant sales.
- **Market Analysis:** Identify demand and preferred species among local establishments.

4. Establishing a Unique Local Brand

A distinct brand for Noyo Harbor seafood can elevate its market visibility. For instance, targeting underutilized species like purple urchin and black cod aligns with sustainability while tapping into untapped markets.

Next Steps:

- **Culinary Promotion:** Collaborate with restaurants to highlight local seafood.
- **Events and Campaigns:** Host festivals and education initiatives to build consumer interest.
- **Brand Development:** Incorporate signature dishes into regional branding efforts.

5. Institutional Sales

Institutions such as schools and assisted living facilities provide a stable market for local seafood but require compliance with strict processing standards. Collaborative efforts among fishermen could overcome volume and consistency challenges.

Next Steps:

- **Processing Support:** Establish shared processing facilities for institutional standards.
- **Cooperative Formation:** Encourage fishermen to pool resources and negotiate collectively.
- **Market Research:** Identify institutional buyers and their needs.

6. Canning Facility

A canning facility could enable fishermen to preserve and add value to their catches, expanding their market reach. Stakeholders support this initiative, particularly for species like tuna and salmon.

Next Steps:

- **Feasibility Study:** Assess economic and logistical requirements.
- **Funding and Partnerships:** Seek financial support for construction and operations.
- **Community Collaboration:** Engage local stakeholders for development and management.

7. Smoking Facility

Repairing or replacing the harbor's defunct smoking facility could unlock new opportunities, particularly for premium products like smoked black cod.

Next Steps:

- **Facility Assessment:** Evaluate options for upgrading existing infrastructure.
- **Market Research:** Explore demand for smoked products.
- **Feasibility Study:** Analyze economic viability and funding options.

Auxiliary Support Initiatives to ensure economic equity

Scale Verification Event

Hosting an annual on-site scale verification event in Noyo Harbor would save fishermen time and money while ensuring compliance with trade standards.

Next Steps:

- **Event Planning:** Partner with Mendocino County Weights and Measures Division to organize the event.
- **Community Engagement:** Inform fishermen and coordinate participation.

Subsidized Emergency Equipment

Providing free or subsidized emergency equipment (e.g., life raft repacks, flares, life jackets) would alleviate financial burdens and enhance safety.

Next Steps:

- **Funding:** Secure grants or partnerships to subsidize costs.
- **Distribution:** Establish a system for equitable distribution of safety equipment.

Subsidized Slip Fees

Introducing temporary fee subsidies during fishery closures could prevent vessel loss and support fishermen in maintaining readiness.

Next Steps:

- **Policy Development:** Coordinate with harbor authorities to assess ways to implement fee reductions.
- **Financial Planning:** Secure funding to offset revenue losses from reduced slip fees.

Appendices

Fishing professionals and proxy fishing professionals Interviewed:

| Name | Fishing Vessel Name | Gear Type* | Target Species* |
|---|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Tom Trumper | F/V Autumn Wind | Dive | Urchin |
| Cosmo Knoebber | N/A | Troller | Tuna, Salmon |
| Robbie Bruce | F/V Advavit | Troller | Tuna, Salmon |
| Lou Ferrari, Anthony Ferrari | F/V Pioneer, FV Pioneer II, FV Julie Ann | Longline | Rockfish, Tuna |
| Dan Yoakum | F/V Casey III | Trawler | Rockfish, Tuna, Crab |
| Heather Sears | F/V Princess | Troller, Trap | Black cod, Rockfish, Salmon, Crab |
| Laura Miller, Richard Holmes | F/V Animal Fair | Troller | Salmon, Black cod, Rockfish |
| Mickey Kitahara | N/A | Dive | Urchin |
| Dan Platt | F/V Zhivago | Longline, troller | Rockfish, Ling cod |
| Grant Downie | F/V Crazy Horse | Dive | Urchin, Rockfish |
| Tyler Imgram | F/V Haru | Troller | Rockfish, Salmon, Ling cod |
| Kevin Browning | F/V Viking | Charter Boat (Sportfishing) | Salmon, Tuna, Rockfish, Crab |
| Richard Thorton | F/V Kraken | Charter Boat (Sportfishing) | Salmon, Tuna, Rockfish, Crab |
| Wilton Cruz | F/V Abe | Troller, trap | Black cod, Rock cod, Salmon, Tuna, Crab |
| Julie Wood (on behalf of Tom Estes) | F/V Noyo Dawn | Trawler, line, trap | Tuna, Salmon, Crab, Rockfish, Ling cod |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Julee Estes (on behalf of Tim Estes) | F/V Jess An | Trawler, line, trap | Tuna, Salmon, Crab, Rockfish, Ling cod |
| Joelle Bradley (on behalf of Steve Bradley) | F/V Sound Adventure | Trawler, line, trap | Tuna, Salmon, Crab, Rockfish, Ling cod |
| David Juenke | F/V Claire H, F/V Aurora | Troller | Salmon, Tuna |
| Andrew Schlafer | F/V KIII | Troller, Trap | Crab, Salmon, Tuna, Black cod, Ling cod |

Industry experts and related community members interviewed:

| Name | Affiliation |
|-------------------|--|
| Andy Walker | Mendocino County Weights and Measures Division |
| Julie Apostolu | Fort Bragg Farmer's Market Manager |
| Brian Langseth | NOAA Fisheries |
| Sheila Semans | Noyo Center for Marine Science |
| Sarah Grimes | Noyo Center for Marine Science |
| Sarah Sundberg | Noyo Center for Marine Science |
| Jami Miller | California Sea Grant |
| Joshua Mims | Fisherman, Del Norte District |
| Anna Neumann | Harbormaster, Noyo Harbor |
| Aspen Logan | West Business Development Center |
| Mary Ann Petrillo | West Business Development Center |

Glossary of Technical Terms

Fishing Gear Types

Line Gear

- **Longline:** A long line with baited hooks attached at intervals. Used to catch a variety of fish, including cod, halibut, and tuna.
- **Troller/Troll Line:** A line with multiple hooks trolled behind a moving vessel to catch fish such as salmon and tuna.

Trawl Gear

- **Bottom Trawl:** A large net dragged along the seafloor to catch bottom-dwelling fish such as sablefish (black cod), Dover sole and other flatfish species.
- **Midwater Trawl:** A net dragged through the water column to catch fish like rockfish such as widow and yellowtail rockfish.

Diving Gear

- Divers use either **hookahs** - a petrol or battery-powered air compressor that delivers air, through a long hose to the diver under the water or **self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA)** to harvest fish and invertebrates such as urchins.

Pot Gear

- **Crab Pot:** A cage-like trap used to catch crabs and other crustaceans.
- **Fish Pot:** A similar trap used to catch fish like eel and cod.

Target Species

The following are some of the main fish species historically targeted by fishermen operating off the coast of Fort Bragg. Note that not all of the fish mentioned are currently available for commercial fishing due to restrictions established to manage long term stock availability:

- **Salmon:** Salmon are a popular target for trollers and are highly valued for their meat.
- **Tuna:** Tuna, including albacore and bluefin, are targeted using trolling methods and are prized for their use in sushi and other dishes.
- **Black Cod:** Black cod, also known as sablefish, are caught using midwater and deepwater trolling methods. They are a popular choice for smoking and have a rich, buttery flavor.
- **Rockfish:** There are many species of rockfish found in Northern California waters, including quillback, yellowtail, and bocaccio. They are caught using various methods, including hook and line, traps, and trawls.
- **Ling Cod:** Ling cod are a large, predatory fish that are caught using hook and line and traps. They are known for their firm, white meat.

- **Dungeness Crab:** Dungeness crab is a popular target for fishermen using crab pots. It is a highly sought-after delicacy, especially during the winter months.
- **Purple Urchin:** Purple urchins are a type of sea urchin harvested for their gonads, known as uni, which are considered a delicacy in Japanese cuisine. Divers with specialized equipment collect them.

Citations and References

Fish Processors

Sea Roamer Charters Fish Processing in Sitka

<https://searoamercharters.com/fish-processing/>

Coops and Associations

Half Moon Bay Groundfish Association

<https://www.halfmoonbaygroundfish.org/>

Seafood Producers Cooperative

<https://www.spcsales.com/co-op>

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

<https://www.psmfc.org/program/california-cooperative-fish-and-habitat-data-program-calfish>

San Francisco Community Fishing Association

<https://www.sfcfa.com/who-we-are>

California Groundfish Collective

<https://www.cagroundfish.org/collaborative-projects>

Sustainable Seafood Marketing Models (Dock Boxes, CSAs, Seafood Delivery, Local Seafood Sales)

Wulf's Fish

https://wulfsfish.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoq59lhiHZB7vcxJmAziiY8tuiaVcLWRKhwtEloGXhv92_D5q8W

Sea Forager

<https://www.seaforager.com/>

Local Ocean

<https://www.localocean.net/>

Blue Economy Models

DNATL Community Food Council

<https://www.dnatlfood.com/seatomarket.html>

Gloucester Massachusetts Blue Economy

<https://www.umass.edu/gloucester-marine-station/focus-areas/blue-economy>

North Shore Blue Economy Initiative

<https://www.eccf.org/blue-economy/>

North Shore Alliance

<https://northshorealliance.org/what-is-the-blue-economy-initiative/>

Fish stock assessments

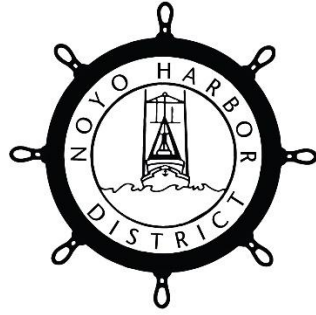
2023 Quillback Rebuilding Analysis

https://pam.pcouncil.org/documents/quillback_mopup_presentation_rebuilder_2023_sep_t26-pdf/

Misc

Sea Urchin Uni Butter from Strip House Recipe

<https://www.seriousseats.com/sea-urchin-uni-recipe-butter-strip-house-steak-new-york>



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Noyo Harbor District Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 1/9/2025
Item Number: 6
Title: Grant Programs
Recommended Action: Recommendations

Analysis

Economic Development Department Catalyst Fund

This program is run via the State EDD and is a part of the same funds that the current Noyo Harbor Revitalization Project was funded by. The program seeks the fund 9-10 projects in the Redwood Region (Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Lake County) for a total of \$9 million in funds. Projects should advance the applicant toward implementation phases funds and have a focus on economic development and job creation.

For this application the Noyo Harbor office would like to submit an application to begin the development of a fuel dock and Blue Economy Business Center which would include a fish processing location. As discussed in the Fleet Stakeholder Report, fish processing was a limited factor for the commercial fleet as they look to expand their business. At the same time, establishing a processing facility is costly and requires numerous permits. The District can help remove this barrier to accessing capital by establishing a location where the fleet can process and package their catches. Significant community input would be required before the development of Blue Economy Business Center would take shape but the Harbormaster envisions remodeling the office/shop area into a single large two story building. The bottom story could be the maintenance shop and fish processing location and the second story could be District Offices, meeting spaces and offices available for rent to other interested in establishing their ocean based businesses.

Current estimated budget \$790,000

The City of Fort Bragg is also looking to submit an application to this fund focused on the Blue Economy and establishing a sea water in-take. Sea water in-take is the limiting factor for establishing on shore blue economies.

Economic Development Agency's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

This program is run via the federal Economic Development Agency and is slated to fund implementation grants that support the execution of activities identified in a CEDS

(or equivalent), such as infrastructure improvements, including site acquisition, site preparation, construction, rehabilitation and equipping of facilities.

For this application the Noyo Harbor office would like to apply for funds for the construction of new docks. This is a rolling application and the District would look to start an application for this project as soon as the Catalyst application is complete.

Our last marina development grant was roughly \$11 million in total. A similar budget will likely be used for this project. The Harbormaster will bring this item back before submitting the application.

Fiscal Impact

The Catalyst fund is 100% funded.

The EDA program would require a 20% if funded. To meet the match the District should consider applying for USDA funds for economic development programs. In the past USDA was happy to act as a match given a project was allocated funding by another agency.

Attachments

None

Staff Reports

School Presentations Career and Technical Education

In the District's outreach to establish a Seafood in School program the Career and Technical Education teachers have gotten very interested in incorporating the fishing industry into their classrooms. Ideas have ranged from bringing vessel mechanics into the classrooms to talk about how boat engines function to tours of commercial fishing vessels. The Harbormaster will be going to the Fort Bragg High School and Noyo Continuation School in January to talk about careers in the marine industry from fishing to enforcement to science.

Cheryll Rose Abatement

The Cheryll Rose, which has been on its side in the District parking lot since her removal is slated for abatement. The owner of the vessel does have insurance to cover the abatement process and the District already submitted a bill to the insurance company for removal and abatement.

Captains Dinner

The Noyo Harbor Inn is hosting another Captains Dinner in conjunction with the Noyo Harbor District and Heaven Hill Whiskey Distillery. The Dinner is the night of Jan 23rd and will be featuring locally catch Crab from the FV Condor. These dinners serve as a great outreach event for the District and also help establish relationships between the restaurants and the fishermen. This work falls under the expanding marketplaces aspect of the Economic Development grant.