



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** May 13, 2014

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Harbor Operations Division, Waterfront Department

**SUBJECT:** Berthing Policy – Designated Commercial Fishing Slips

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Establishing a Slip Occupancy Policy for Designated Commercial Fishing Slips in Santa Barbara Harbor and Repealing Resolution 11-022.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2001, the Harbor Commission recommended that City Council approve policy guidelines governing specially designated commercial fishing berths in Santa Barbara Harbor. Council adopted the policy by Resolution, designating certain berths as “commercial fishing only” and establishing performance standards for maintaining permits for those berths, to support commercial fishing and help protect the future of the City’s working waterfront. The Resolution required City review of the policy every five years. Along with other amendments, the review period was ultimately changed to three years. In April, 2014, the Harbor Commission voted unanimously to forward staff-recommended amendments to Resolution 11-022, as part of its triennial review.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Berthing Policy for Designated Commercial Fishing Slips identifies and designates 42 historic fishing slips in Fish Float North, Fish Float South and Marina 1A. It also includes three slips—two in Marina 1 and one in Marina 4—preferentially assigned to fishermen during expansion of those marinas in 1999.

The heart of the policy is an earnings requirement of \$15,000 every two years. It applies to vessel owners in Marina 1-A who, instead of accepting a “rollback” to slip rates equal to those in the Fish Floats, must demonstrate earnings. It also applies to vessels transferring into any designated commercial fishing slip. At this time, 31 of 45 vessels berthed in these designated slips must demonstrate fisheries earnings. All are “current” on this requirement.

Staff recommends two amendments to the existing Resolution. Both are in Section 4:

1. Eliminate one of the two required methods to prove earnings. Staff has learned over time that requiring fishermen to compile the landing receipts can be bothersome and time consuming. Experience has shown that earnings can be very simply and easily verified through landing records provided by CDFW's Custodian of Records. This method has proven accurate and more efficient for fishermen and staff alike and is all that is required.
2. Add language requiring all proof of earnings to be submitted by April 15th of any given year, beginning with the first April 15th following fishermen's current earnings period. This will help fishermen know exactly when proof of earnings is due and will help staff administer the program efficiently, without having to repeatedly check its database to determine when each fisherman's proof-of-earnings is due.

On April 11, 2014 staff mailed a copy of the April 17, 2014 Harbor Commission report, including attachments, to all slip permittees occupying designated commercial fishing berths, and invited them to attend the Commission meeting. No fishermen responded or attended the meeting, likely because proposed amendments liberalize the policy without adding constraints on individuals in designated commercial fishing berths.

## **CONCLUSION**

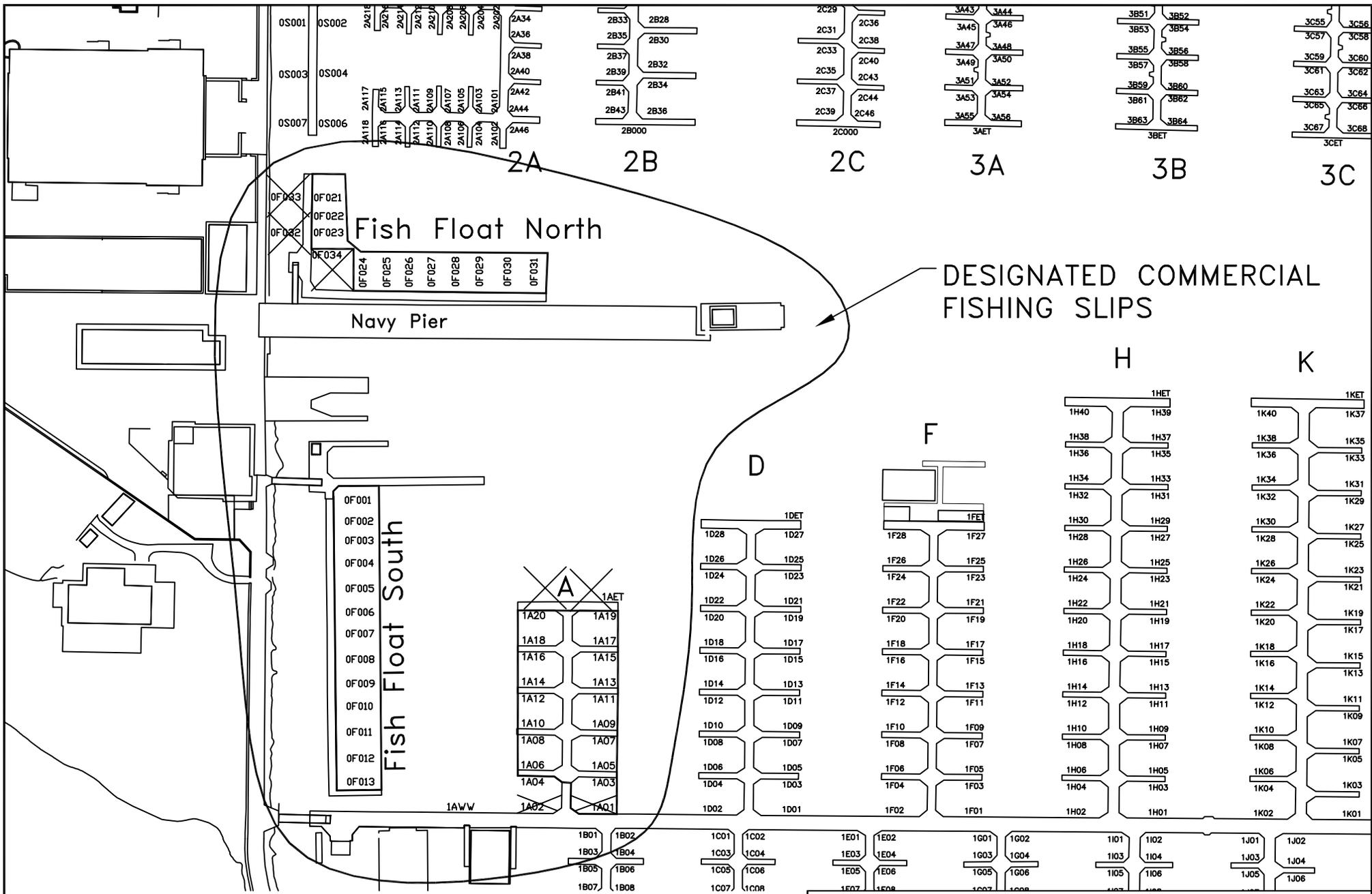
Proposed amendments to the berthing policy for designated commercial fishing slips will help ensure the integrity of the policy, providing fishermen reasonable opportunities to make (and prove) required earnings without diluting the intention of the policy: to ensure that boats berthed in designated commercial fishing slips continue fishing.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Designated Commercial Fishing Berths – Marina 1 A, Fish Floats North and South

**PREPARED BY:** Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager

**SUBMITTED BY:** Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office

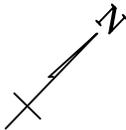
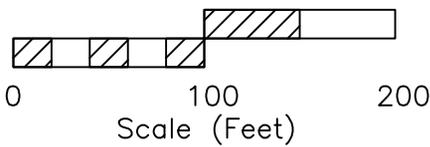


DESIGNATED COMMERCIAL FISHING SLIPS

Fish Float North

Navy Pier

Fish Float South



### Site Plan Designated Commercial Fishing Slips

<b>REVISIONS</b> 12/22/2006	DATE: 10/03/00	APPROVED BY:	DRAWN BY: A.W. Pryor
	ADDRESS: Santa Barbara Harbor		SHEET NO. 1 of 4
	City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department		DRAWING NO. 1000-039