

General Meeting Minutes of Oct 12th, 2010,

Meeting held at La Jolla Brew House. Called to order at 7 pm by Scott Anderson.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

The November 9th General Meeting will be 7:00 pm at La Jolla Brew house.

GUEST SPEAKER: Our guest was Doug Nielson, a biologist from Dept of Fish and Game. He had been invited to update us on the lobster report cards that now must accompany every fishing license and ocean stamp. The price is now over \$8 and the request was he tell us what the results have been for this money.

He reported that the \$8.40 goes into the General Fund, so he sees no particular increase in funding, but he does get his time allotted to work on the data. Data return is a problem as the low return gives the data less certainty. 2008 was a short year, with 27,500 cards sold. 2009 saw 33,500 cards sold, but the rate of returned cards went down. In 2008, 21% of the cards came back, and in 2009, 13% of cards returned.

Lobster cards are sold to hoopnetters and divers about in equal quantity, though divers tend to be better about mailing them in. "Divers" are about 50-50 scuba or freediving. Probably hoopnetters are more suspicious the data might be used against them. The origin of the report cards came out of the change to a new kind of rigid hoopnet, which seemed to be more effective than the old kind, and it forced DFG to define what a hoopnet was or was not, as differentiated from a trap. Hence research to determine what the lobster fishery could withstand. The good news is, no reason to believe lobsters are becoming any more scarce. Despite how you did this season.

A lot of facts and data were presented, about how far lobster travel, what they eat, who eats them, (besides us) and the current annual take = 459,000 bugs, sport and commercial. He clarified a couple things: You may not have more than 7 in your possession, including in your freezer, but nobody checks your freezer. If you hoop net off a pier, not needing a license, you still need a card. If you look for bugs in one spot and don't change gear, even if your venture spans midnight, that is just one line on the card.

OCEAN ACCESS: No Coastal Permit will be sought to rope off Children's Pool this season. The City measure to cordon off that beach every day forever was appealed by the La Jolla Community Planning Association which had voted against it 10-1 in public hearing. There must be an appeal hearing before the Planning Commission which has not yet even been scheduled. The other measure the City has approved, to replace the Winter and Spring advisory rope barrier with a legal closure of the beach from Dec 15 to May 15 is dormant.

Check some remarkable videos of seal and snorkeler interaction at Children's Pool.

<http://www.sddivers.com/Seal%20Videos.html>

The Council of Divers continues to work with groups putting up information tables and signs on the sidewalk to force the City to take control of the sidewalk back from the activists. Current City plans are to have the area under permit control by December. There was a lottery on 11/2 for 2 small table spaces at Children's Pool, just like t-shirt vendors in any park can get. We and another pro-beach access group won. Nobody else can set up a table on Children's Pool sidewalk this December.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION MEETING FOR OCTOBER: The groups that stage the information tables on the sidewalk at CP went to the Oceanside CCC meeting on the 13th, 14th and 15th taking advantage of the 3 minute speaker times to advise the CCC of the problems with allowing a year round rope barrier on a public beach.

Submitted 10/31/2010

John Leek, Secretary

