



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission
Post Office Box 922
Ferndale, CA 95536

[REDACTED]
Email: nkaytis4@gmail.com

May 7, 2024

Supervisor Rex Bohb, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Subject: Fish Cleaning Stations in Humboldt County

Dear Chairman Rex Bohn:

The Humboldt County Fish and Game Advisory Commission has been discussing an issue that we believe is important. Humboldt Bay along with other coastal bays along the Pacific Northwest are important commercial and sport fishing centers of activity. Historically there have been fish cleaning stations on private property adjacent to or near Humboldt Bay.

Currently, there is no open to the public fish cleaning station in operation. Other fishing centers similar to Humboldt Bay have access to fish cleaning stations. These include Crescent City, Coos Bay, Brookings, and others. Commission members have visited these locations and believe Humboldt Bay would benefit greatly if a similar facility was made available here. Having a facility available to the public is an attraction to sport fishing enthusiasts. This would not only benefit local fishermen, but outsiders as well. Sport fishing is and will continue to be a tourist draw that brings in revenue from outside the County.

The Commission believes that Humboldt County should be the lead agency in development and maintenance of such a fish cleaning station. This is due to two primary reasons. First is location. The Field's Landing "Jimmy Smith" boat launch area is well suited for such a facility. There is a large parking area, boat ramp, bathroom facilities, and nearby utilities. It is also the nearest facility to the bay entrance. Second is funding. The California State Department of Boating and Waterways has funding available to government agencies for such an endeavor. Humboldt County has historically utilized funding from this source in development of related facilities. The potential increase in tax revenue from and increase in fishing tourism would mitigate maintenance costs of a facility.



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission
Post Office Box 922
Ferndale, CA 95536

[REDACTED]
Email: nkaytis4@gmail.com

A potential issue noted by commission members is what to do with the waste material from cleaning fish. This may include “fish guts” from various species of fish and “shells” from various crustaceans. There are several methods to handle the waste material noted. Some facilities simply return the waste through direct transmission without treatment via pipes or similar mechanism back into the environment. This method could be mitigated through maturation (garbage disposal) prior to transmission. Another method is to haul the waste to a disposal facility. Contracting with nearby commercial fishing processing plants for transmission is a potential.

The Commission hereby asks the Board of Supervisors to place this issue on the Board of Supervisors’ agenda and to direct staff to pursue the concept of installation and maintenance of a “fish cleaning station” or facility in the “Jimmy Smith” Fields Landing boat launch property.

Sincerely

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION

/s/ John Clark

John Clark, Chairman

File: Correspondence