

California's Fishing Communities: Changes, Challenges and Opportunities



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Marine Resources Committee
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Overview

- Background: Changes in fishing opportunity and management in past 15 years
- Fishing communities – legislative guidance
- Current efforts and resources
- Discussion –sustainable-community goals and potential opportunities to support them

Changes in Fishing Opportunity and Management

Coastal communities with economic reliance on fisheries

Destabilizing Events:

- Overfishing and population crashes
- Overcapitalization and excess capacity
- Fishing habitat impacts
- Market/economic changes
- Climate change

Changes in Fishing Opportunity and Management

Management Responses:

- Endangered Species Act listings, Federal rebuild plans
- Fishery closures or severe reduction
- Closure of fishing grounds
- Federal and state restricted access programs
- California sardine fishery losses



Effect of Changes

- Species recoveries underway
- Progress toward fishery capacity targets
- Destabilizing effect on some fishing communities
- Focus on fishing communities
- Preparing for future changes



Fishing Communities – Legislative Guidance

- Federal Law: Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) defines fishing communities
- California State Law: Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) goals include fishing communities



Federal Law: Magnuson-Stevens Act

A fishing community is defined as:

“a community which is **substantially dependent on or substantially engaged in** the harvest or processing of fishery resources, **to meet** social and economic **needs**, and **includes** fishing vessel owners, operators, and crew and United States fish processors that are based in such community.”

MSFCMA Section 104-297 (17)



State Law: MLMA

Fishing communities identified within goals

- Conserves Entire Systems
- Non-Consumptive Values
- Sustainability
- Habitat Conservation
- Fishery Restoration
- Bycatch limitation
- **Fishing Communities:** *Fisheries management should recognize the long-term interests of people dependent on fishing, and adverse impacts of management measures on fishing communities are to be minimized.*



Current Efforts, Opportunities, Resources

- Legislation - AB 226 Retail food safety: fishermen's markets" chaptered 10/8/15
- Fishing Community Sustainability Plans e.g. Monterey
- Environmental Defense Fund - California Fisheries Fund
- National Working Waterfronts Network
- OPC Science Advisory Team Workshop – “Readying CA Fisheries for Climate Change”

California Sea Grant



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Fisheries and Working Waterfronts

Commercial fisheries continue to be an important component of the California economy, with fisheries of the Santa Barbara Channel region ranked third out of the nine marine regions of California in terms of production and value. However, significant challenges have arisen in association with dramatic changes in the management and perceptions of fisheries. SGEP Advisor [Carrie Culver](#) has been addressing challenges facing local fishing communities, working waterfronts and resource managers as they try to maintain fisheries that are sustainable both in terms of the resources and the communities that rely on them. Her recent work includes:



Source: California Sea Grant

National Working Waterfront Network

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying www.wateraccessus.com/index.html. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, History, Bookmarks, Tools, and Help. The page content features the NWWN logo and a navigation menu with categories: Community, Financing, Law & Policy, Economics, Tools in Action, and Historic Trends. A large blue banner reads "National Working Waterfront Network". Below this, the date "Wed November 4, 2015" is shown. On the left, there is a section for "Information for..." with links for "Decision & Policy Makers", "Waterfront Landowners", and "Waterfront Users", followed by a "Working Waterfronts Newsletter" sign-up link. The main content area includes the heading "The National Working Waterfront Network increases the capacity of coastal communities..." and a sub-heading "What are working waterfronts?". On the right, there is a "Google Custom Search" box and a "News and Announcements" section with two entries: "2015 National Working Waterfronts & Waterways Symposium, Nov 16-19, 2015, Tampa, FL" and "NWWN's July e-News Now Available!".

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www.wateraccessus.com/index.html

California AB 226 status 2015

NWWN National Working Waterfront Network

Community Financing Law & Policy Economics Tools in Action Historic Trends

SUSTAINABLE WORKING WATERFRONTS TOOLKIT

National Working Waterfront Network

Wed November 4, 2015

Information for...

- Decision & Policy Makers
- Waterfront Landowners
- Waterfront Users

Working Waterfronts Newsletter

Click here to sign up for the National Working Waterfront Network's Newsletter.

The National Working Waterfront Network increases the capacity of coastal communities and stakeholders to make informed decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access, and plan for the future of working waterfronts and waterways.

What are working waterfronts?

Working waterfronts are waterfront lands, waterfront infrastructure, and waterways that are used for a water-dependent activity, such as ports, small recreational boat

Google™ Custom Search

News and Announcements

2015 National Working Waterfronts & Waterways Symposium, Nov 16-19, 2015, Tampa, FL
Dec 3, 2014 3:00:00 PM

NWWN's July e-News Now Available!
Jul 15, 2014 7:03:19 PM

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Initiatives in Other States

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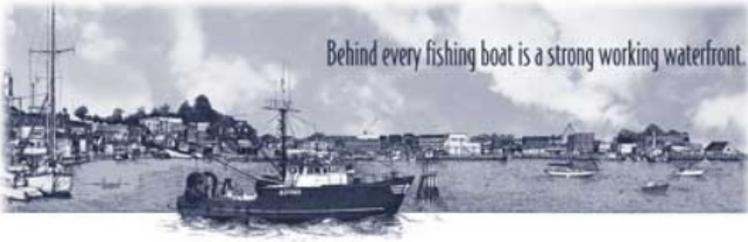
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Behind every fishing boat is a strong working waterfront.

Working waterfronts cover a mere 25 miles along Maine's 5,300-mile coastline yet they supply the lifeblood of many coastal communities, enriching the regional economy and sustaining cherished cultural traditions. A diverse array of businesses—including seafood harvesters and processors, freight and fuel companies, boat builders and ship chandleries, ferries, cruise boats, kayak outfitters, and marinas—all depend upon access to the water and shorefront infrastructure to flourish.

Working waterfronts provide a link between land and sea that is critical to sustaining a diverse and thriving coastal economy. Commercial fishing and marine trades in Maine contribute more than \$800 million annually to the state's economy and employ about 30,000 people, giving fishermen and others both a livelihood and a valued way of life.

Only 175 miles of Maine's long coastline are sufficiently deep and sheltered to support water-dependent uses. More than half of these prime shorefront miles are already occupied by residential, commercial





Discussion

Fishing community interests and goals;
and

Potential opportunities to support them