

Greetings,

The Dana Cove Commercial Fishermen's Association DCCFA is looking for your support in our request to the Department of Fish and Wildlife DFW that would move the current "no commercial trapping" Navigational Channel from a 180 degree heading to a 200 degree heading exiting the harbor.

The DFW is currently working on the final portions of a compressive Lobster Fishery Management Plan FMP. The plan is designed to ensure the health and sustainability of the lobster resource. The regulatory portion of this plan is scheduled for DFW Commission approval in June. This regulatory package includes new proposed regulations and rewording or retooling of existing regulations.

The previous regulation defining the no commercial trapping navigational channel was put into place over 30 years ago prior to GPS and other more sophisticated electronic equipment. Through my conversations with retired Lobster Fisherman and the DFW it seems that the original channel was designed by the use of only maps. The concept was negotiated between local veteran lobster fishermen and the DFW to allow for a navigational entry and exit from Dana Pt. Harbor that was free of lobster traps/buoys and to avoid capturing any viable rocky lobster habitat that would negatively impact the local commercial lobster fishing fleet. Unfortunately the maps used to originally design the channel DO NOT show the true location of the San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall Pipeline. The DFW wants to amend the existing antiquated regulations that were confusing and unplottable with current GPS coordinates. The use of GPS waypoints greatly increases the accuracy and understanding of where the navigational boundaries lie. I took it upon myself to plot and run the proposed GPS Waypoints and found that although they seem to properly reflect the existing regulations they unfortunately transect the outfall pipeline on the easterly channel line. The pipeline is very valuable and important lobster habitat, which is fished by vitally all the commercial lobster men out of Dana Pt. Harbor. We have all fished this pipeline since its construction and the adoption of the navigational channel unaware that it was technically off limits.

Although boats entering and exiting Dana Pt. Harbor come from every direction, the majority are usually headed west. The current navigation channel is pointed 180 degrees due south. The course to the most popular boating locations out of Dana Pt., I.E. San Clemente Is., Catalina Is., 14/209/277 banks and the coastline of Laguna Beach and Newport Harbor, are all significantly more westerly. Any negative boat/ lobster gear interactions generally take place on the edge of the westerly navigational channel boundary line.

By shifting the channels two outside GPS waypoints further west to allow for a 200 degree exit out of Dana Point Harbor we will retain our ability to legally fish the San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall. Commercial Lobster Fishermen would lose some fishing grounds on the westerly Channel line along

the jetty, but boaters would have a clearer approach in and out of the harbor from Catalina Is. and Newport Harbor. This compromise seems like a responsible solution that properly reflects the needs of all individuals out of Dana Pt. Harbor commercial and recreational.

Previously proposed GPS points;

(B) Dana Point Harbor entrance:

33 27.262'N - 117 41.492'W

33 26.289'N - 117 41.721'W

33 26.254'N - 117 41.509'W

33 27.201'N - 117 41.286'W

33 27.409'N - 117 41.522'W

33 27.262'N - 117 41.492'W

DCCFA proposed GPS points reflecting a 20 degree westerly shift in the outer two waypoints:

(B) Dana Point Harbor entrance:

33 27.262'N - 117 41.492'W

33 26.511'N - 117 42.061'W

33 26.477'N - 117 41.850'W

33 27.201'N - 117 41.286'W

33 27.409'N - 117 41.522'W

33 27.262'N - 117 41.492'W

Thank you for your time, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Rodger Healy

President DCCFA

President California Lobster and Trap Fishermen's Assoc.

949-494-9449

To Sonke and Susan on May 16, 2016

Rodger and whom ever else this may concern:

Thanks for the update on the Nav Channel and the issues concerning our commercial fishermen. Your analysis and suggestions to change the channel heading to 200 degrees make perfect sense to me and I am in total support of your suggested changes. Please let me know how I can help to ensure the changes are actually made.

Best regards,

Brad Gross, Director
OC Dana Point Harbor

To whom it may concern,

My name is Eric Smith and I am a commercial lobster permit holder out of Dana Point. I would like to make it fully known that I support the movement of the navigational channel from 180 degrees to 200 degrees for entering and exiting the harbor. I feel that this is a fair heading and compromise for all concerned parties.

Thank you,
Eric F Smith

Rodger,

After speaking with you and hearing your proposed changes to the Navigational Channel from its current placement towards the West , I must agree that it makes more sense. This would align it with the majority of boating traffic coming and going from Dana Point Harbor. The current Navigation Channel does not represent the current traffic patterns coming into or leaving Dana Point Harbor. Your proposed change is spot on and even lines up with the Catalina Express's daily route.

Thanks for keeping us in the loop,

Sergeant Mike Scalise
Dana Point Harbor Patrol
714 514 3040