

## PLEASE SIGN THIS PETITION TO KEEP HALF MOON BAY, PILLAR POINT HARBOR, WITH ITS INTEGRITY AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

The San Mateo County Harbor District Commission has a meeting on Thursday, March 26 to decide whether or not to allow boats from other home ports to simply rent a berth at a resident vessel price, not a transient vessel fee, and approve authorization to take recreational customers here at Pillar Point Harbor while the recreational salmon season is restricted to fishing south of Pigeon Point. All that would be required for them to do is pay a commercial activity permit fee of \$326 and a per person fee of less than \$4 per person.

This basically means these boats can come in for a short time that are not a part of the harbor, load up with passengers that might have done business with Half Moon Bay boats, and then leave after a short while, potentially taking away business from locals and boats that have been harbored here for years. The businesses in Pillar Point Harbor have been hanging on by a thread, and allowing passenger-carrying boats from other ports could be extremely detrimental to their continued survival. This is not about competition; this is not a level playing field and could be the final nail in the coffin for recreational passenger boats who have been working from this Harbor for years.

The Harbor Ordinance allowing vessels to work from this Harbor is over 40 years old. It should be carefully reviewed and updated before allowing this proposal. Once the door is kicked wide open, it may never be able to be closed.

**Re: Activities permit**

3/21/26 7:20 PM

From:

To: [REDACTED]

All good we're just going to run from .

We're a couple short for the first day so far, \$300 per person!!! 25 man load for \$7500! Hope you and Bob are doing well.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 21, 2026, at 3:15 PM, Sherry [REDACTED] wrote:

Sorry I couldn't get back to you sooner. Unfortunately we were in the emergency room for 9 hours on Wednesday with our daughter who ended up being admitted and we were at the hospital just about all day Thursday. Just getting a chance to check my emails here at my desk computer.

Unfortunately, due to the past history and interactions, we do not believe it would be a good fit and respectfully cannot accept your proposal. I don't know the requirements, but if you haven't already tried, you might want to contact Santa Cruz to see their availability and terms.

Sherry Ingles  
Half Moon Bay Sportfishing

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**From:**

**Sent:** 3/18/26 10:21 PM

**To:** Sherry Ingles [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Activities permit

Sherry,

I heard you have some activity permits for the shop.

I'd like to bring the [REDACTED] down to fish below Pigeon. Could I book through you or lease the permit? Looks like we're going to miss the only commission meeting tomorrow.

Either way appreciate your consideration.

Capt.

Sent from my iPhone

**Extremely disappointed...received no contact whatsoever, by phone or email, by ANYONE between last meeting and now. But the Applicant was contacted. Commission is only receiving one side of story. We had never met, spoke with or contacted by Christian. Meanwhile, I do not believe the Commissioners have ever seen the inside of our shop or have an idea what we bring to this Harbor and the respect we have among most of the Community. The General Manager told me he was very surprised and impressed when he came in.**

**Boats in the SF Bay have many opportunities we do not...Bay Tours, Fireworks Cruises, Halibut/Striper trips, Sturgeon, Party Cruises among others. The Bay is higher end...their passengers pay whatever price the boats ask. Boats are going to run salmon trips from the East Bay down to below Pigeon Point at \$300 per person, so operating out of this Harbor is not a necessity but a preference.**

**We presented a petition on Sunday to other vessel owners, crews, live-aboards and customers to see if others agreed. Sunday was a slow day, but almost 60 people signed it, several said they agreed but couldn't sign for confidentiality reasons, and only one person approached didn't sign for personal reasons. The off-the-dock sales boats themselves said they had to fight to ensure sales were limited to local vessels only, transient or short term vessels not allowed.**

**We were contacted by only ONE charterboat from the Bay. Due to knowledge of the way he operates, we declined. Obviously this was**

not about us making money. It was about operating by the rules. We could have solicited boats to come work for our shop if it was about making money, but we did not because we still believe it could be detrimental to the boats here who have been hanging on by a thread.

Charterboats HAD to work out of one of the baitshops before Huck Finn's successor went under; no CAPS were issued by the Harbor. That ensured boats working from either shop followed the rules of the Harbor and the shop. If they don't follow the rules, their CAP could be terminated by the shop (which happened to at least one boat out of Huck Finn and two out of HMB Sportfishing). Sales through the shops ensure payment of percentage sales. Onboard sales are all cash...no way to ensure payment to the Harbor.

Outside charter vessels, if allowed, should be considered transient until it is proven they plan to make Pillar Point their home port. To prevent undercutting baitshop, make fee equal...10% of gross sales for full service operation through the shop, or 10% of gross sales to Harbor with no services provided until home port established.

Through end of year...why??? Should have a probationary period.

Shop only currently using 1 permit due to current status of industry over the last six years: COVID, rockcod restrictions, 6 days of salmon fishing in 3 years, restaurant changes, boats coming and going.