



January 27, 2022

Michael Arredondo
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane St Suite #100
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Michael Arredondo,

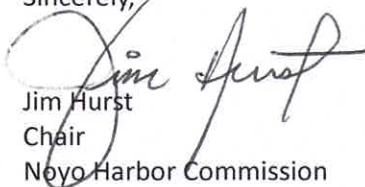
I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support for the proposal titled, **Defend the Bull Kelp**, submitted by Dave Rudie, owner of Catalina Offshore Products and Chairman of the California Sea Urchin Commission Chairman, David Goldenburg Executive director of the California Sea urchin Commission, Jan Freiwald PhD Executive Director ReefCheck Foundation, Norah Eddy, associate director CA Oceans Program for the Nature Conservancy and Tristin McHugh, Kelp Project Director for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) California Oceans Program.

Bull kelp creates a floating canopy that serves as shelter for fish and food for valuable species, including red sea urchin. A federal fishery disaster (2016-17) due to back-to-back occurrences of a marine heat wave and El Nino contributed to lack of Bull Kelp an overabundance of purple sea urchins **Defend the Bull Kelp** seeks to help recover the naturally returning bull kelp in this region and improve resilience in the Northern California sea urchin dive fishery.

The Noyo Harbor District prides itself on being the home to many commercial and recreational fishermen. We have witnessed firsthand the struggles of the urchin divers in our harbor as their fishery collapsed. The men and women who fish urchin in our community are the epitome of kind, honest, hardworking folks and it is devastating to watch. They are not only tenants in our marina but our friends, neighbors, and an important part of our community.

We fully support any efforts by Dave Rudie, David Goldenburg, Jan Freiwald, Norah Eddy and Tristin McHugh. Our Harbormaster personally knows each of these individuals and insures me of their integrity, as not only scientists and managers, but as people. We are confident that these individuals and the organizations they represent will work hard to help recover the bull kelp ecosystem and the fisheries that depend on it.

Sincerely,


Jim Hurst
Chair
Noyo Harbor Commission