



City of Encinitas

Office of
The Mayor

June 11, 2018

The Honorable Robert M. Hertzberg, Chair
Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

Catherine S. Blakespear
Mayor

**SUBJECT: AB 2369 (Gonzalez Fletcher): Fishing: marine protected areas: violations
Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

Joe Mosca
Deputy Mayor

On behalf of the City of Encinitas, I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 2369 to create more stringent penalties for commercial and party boat poaching in marine protected areas, or MPAs. The bill will set the appropriate penalties for illegal commercial fishing and harvest in our MPAs, which is as much a crime against our residents as it is against the environment. Under current law, penalties for poaching in an MPA for commercial entities, including commercial passenger fishing vessels or "party boats", are not an effective deterrent.

Tasha Boerner Horvath
Council Member

The City of Encinitas is home to over 12.5 square miles of MPAs that include some of our greatest natural assets. Our beaches, reefs, kelp forests and estuary are critical for endangered and endemic wildlife, birds, fisheries and even mega-fauna like whales and sharks. They are also important for residents and tourists, sustaining some of our biggest economic drivers and providing open space for favorite pastimes like surfing, hiking and diving. Fortunately, many of the city's natural ecosystems are protected as MPAs.

Tony Kranz
Council Member

California's MPA network was established to protect and conserve marine life and habitat. Unfortunately, some individuals and entities undermine the protections established by MPAs with illegal poaching. Illegal poaching threatens the delicate balance of marine life inside these MPAs. When violations are committed by commercial entities, the poaching is typically on a much greater scale and thus poses an even greater threat to these ecosystems. Illegal poaching by commercial entities negatively impacts law-abiding businesses and individuals.

Mark Muir
Council Member

Assembly Bill 2369 is an effective step to reduce illegal poaching in California's MPAs and to help conserve some of the state's greatest coastal treasures. For these reasons, the City of Encinitas supports this bill.

Sincerely,

Karen P. Brust
City Manager

Joe Mosca
Deputy Mayor

cc: Senator Patricia Bates
City Council
JGC Government Relations
Catherine Hill, League of California Cities
Erin Evans-Fudem, League of California Cities