



*City of  
Encinitas*

Office of  
The Mayor

March 13, 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 2369 (Gonzalez Fletcher): Preventing Poaching in Marine Protected Areas-SUPPORT**

*Catherine S. Blakespear*  
Mayor

Dear Assemblywoman Gonzalez Fletcher:

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.

*Tony Kranz*  
Deputy Mayor

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.

*Tasha Boerner Horvath*  
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 done 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 can negatively impact those businesses which are playing by the rules.

*Joe Mosca*  
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. Thank you for helping us protect our critical natural resources.

*Mark Muir*  
Council Member

Sincerely,

Catherine S. Blakespear  
Mayor

*Karen P. Brust*  
City Manager

cc: City Council