

From: Patricia OBrien
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 11:56 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: SB 60 Bounty on Sea Otters
Importance: High

Dear Senator Giessel,

This is to oppose SB 60 and request that this e-mail be shared with the senate resources committee, if possible this afternoon. The rhetoric on this issue has been vehement and one sided, including the scientific information from DF&G. At my age (72) it is discouraging to see only selective biological information provided, especially from a state agency.

Yes, sea otters eat shell fish. But there has been no mention that after the sea otter was nearly wiped out, sea urchins mowed down the kelp forests, depriving us of the healthy ocean ecosystem that previously existed and is now being restored. The value of the kelp forests is not yet fully understood, but it is known that kelp forests are a nursery for many fin fish including salmon and rock fish. Kelp absorbs an amazing amount of carbon from the atmosphere. Sea otters also are a lucrative tourism draw in California with interest by SE guides to build a sea otter tourism business. Following is a web site with succinct information on the resource benefits and conflicts related to sea otters: <http://seaotters.com/2012/03/24/resource-benefits-and-conflicts-of-sharing-a-coast-with-sea-otters/>

Here also is balanced scientific information from the recent UAS-SE symposium on sea otters: http://www.uas.alaska.edu/arts_sciences/naturalsciences/biology/sea_otter_symposium/index.html

Thank you for considering my comments.

Patricia O'Brien

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