Governor Wilson Urges Larger Marine Sanctuary

Alternate 5 Plan Would Offer Best Protection to Region

In a strongly worded letter to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Robert A. Mosbacher, California Governor Pete Wilson last month urged adoption of the Alternate 5 boundary for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Plan. Alternate 5 - featured in the Autumn, 1990 Tides - would afford the greatest protection for the region, extending north from Simeon Creek to the Gulf of the Farallones (which would include Fitzgerald Marine Reserve). In his letter, the governor said, "We are concerned with the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration's (NOAA) intended selection of Alternate 2 as the preferred boundary for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary." This boundary (Alternate 2) does not provide adequate protection of some of the area's most fragile marine resources, including those found in the Año Nuevo State Reserve, the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, the Big Sur coastline, and the range of

(please turn to page 3).

12 New Docents in Training at Coyote Point

Twelve tidepool docent volunteers reported to Coyote Point Museum on September 19 for a three-month course in Intertidal Interpretation. This is the twentieth class of tidepool docents since the program began in 1972, and brings the total of current tidepool volunteers to 91 who have completed the training. The tidepool docents who are active number about 35. Naturalist Bob Breen has been the instructor for all twenty classes.

This year's graduating students will be: David Abeyta, Carlos Davidson, Marcie Ingraham, Gregory Klatt, Donna Marelich, Debbie Mayer-Rosenquist, Donna Morgan, Pamela Patek, Carole Skinner, Art Buhs, Mary Ragan and Jean Lamaitre.
“They Will Throw Off Their Arms if Disturbed.”

Highly Mobile Serpent, Brittle Stars Roam from Intertidal to Ocean Depths

By Bob Breen, Supervising Naturalist

Serpent stars and brittle stars describe a large group of spiny-skin animals that can be found in the intertidal at Moss Beach. Such names describe not only their body form but also their behavioral tendency to throw their arms off when disturbed.

The two thousand species found worldwide is testimony to the success of this group with its highly flexible and mobile body. Although varying little from a basic body design, they can be found in many habitats from the intertidal to ocean depths. Never very large locally, they range in size from the one-inch from arm tip to arm tip, dwarf brittle star, to the eight and one-half inch Esmarks' brittle star found under low tide zone rocks. Tropical species (also found underneath rocks) are much larger, with central disks as large as five inches in diameter and arm lengths of 20 inches or more.

Brittle star diet is a basic one of bottom material such as protozoans, detritus and occasional unlucky larger prey which are captured by mucus nets erected between the spines. (Fig. 1) Food is conducted to the mouth by ciliary action. Larger prey such as small worms, snails and crustaceans may also be caught in this sticky web. Diets between individual species can vary greatly. Some may eat vegetable material, others bottom detritus and still others may depend upon carrion as the important part of their diet.

Serpent stars can be among the most active of all the echinoderms (others are seastars, sea urchins and sea cucumbers), moving along the ocean floor at speeds up to one and one-half inches

(please turn to page 3).
Governor Vetoes Abalone Fishing Bill

Governor Pete Wilson presented San Mateo County with a victory when he vetoed AB 1695 last month. This bill would have repealed the discretionary authority of the Department of Fish and Game to prohibit the taking of abalone off our San Mateo County coast.

In vetoing the bill, the governor said: "This bill would modify current law relating to the commercial taking of abalone. Moreover," he added, "there is no apparent reason provided for in AB 1695 to remove this power from the Department. Although at this time the Department is not utilizing the authority, there may come a time in the future when this resource could be in need of stronger protection."

The bill was introduced last March by Assemblyman Hauser, and related to commercial abalone fishing in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Shortly before the bill was voted on in September it was amended by Hauser to include San Mateo County.

BRITTLE STARS (Cont. from page 2)

Per second. The most common means of locomotion is to move (there is no preferred arm direction) with leading and trailing arms lifting the central disk and propelling themselves forward by a series of leaps. (Fig. 2)

Brittle stars are bottom dwellers and can be found underneath intertidal rocks. They can be found partly buried in the sand with just the tips of their arms protruding above the surface. They'll be so small and well hidden that you'll have to get down on your hands and knees to search for them!

ALTERNATE 5 (Cont. from page 1)

the Southern sea otter, Wilson said. He added: "Boundary Alternate 2 leaves areas north of Pescadero Creek and south of the Gulf of Farallones, such as the diverse intertidal community and bird colonies of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, vulnerable to offshore oil and gas development."

Wilson also requested modifications to the administration's proposed water quality regulations, and that the Sanctuary designation provide for a potential ocean disposal site.

In closing his letter, the Governor said, "Let me reiterate that California is committed to the protection of its precious coastal and marine resources. Our requested modifications will ensure that the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary will stand as a stellar example of this commitment."

PROPOSED SANCTUARY ALTERNATE 5, shown in this drawing is favored by Gov. Wilson as the most comprehensive sanctuary which would offer the greatest protection for the region, including Fitzgerald Marine Refuge.
A Cockfight Raid Embarrassed the Mayor

Coastside Author Traces Colorful Career of Moss Beach Founder

JUNE MORRALL

(Ed. Note: Our guest writer this issue is June Morrall, author of numerous essays on the coastside, and a regular contributor to the Half Moon Bay Review where she writes a column - "Coastside Memories." Ms. Morrall has written a book, "Half Moon Bay Memories," and is currently working on two others.)

Reprinted with permission of the Half Moon Bay Review.

The police raid on an illegal cockfight in Moss Beach might have been an attempt to embarrass the "Mayor of Moss Beach" in 1913. The Mayor and 32 other bettors, shouting and sweating while watching the cockfights, were caught by surprise.

After firing eight warning shots, half-a-dozen policemen burst into the weatherbeaten barn behind the famous Moss Beach Hotel. Confiscated by San Mateo County Undersheriff Shields were 35 "game" birds and one dead rooster whose wounds had been inflicted during the single combat of the day. Such raids were often initiated on information received from the vigilant Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, but this one came after an anonymous tip.

The entire affair was reported in the next day's edition of the San Francisco Call. At the top of the list of those arrested was the well known name of J. F. Wienke, identified as the "Mayor of Moss Beach." This caused great embarrassment for the 69-year old capitalist who had served on grand juries and was held in high public esteem.

The entire Wienke family was renown in Moss Beach. His daughter, Lizzie, a teacher at the Montara School, was so congenial that in 1906 the people of San Mateo County voted her the most popular teacher in the entire county. Her prize was a lot in Redwood City. Later in her career Lizzie Wienke became a widely respected San Mateo County Clerk.

Who Made The Anonymous Call That Led to The Raids?

Besides the Mayor of Moss Beach, 32 other "red blooded sporting gentry" from San Mateo and San Francisco Counties were apprehended. One was Charles B. Smith, a realtor and the postmaster of Moss Beach. Other familiar names were Francis Kyne, brother of Peter, the noted author, and Louis Paulson, soon to marry the eccentric Coastside sculptress Sybil Easterday.

All 33 men appeared before Half Moon Bay's 87-year old Justice of the Peace John Picher. "Old Man" Picher, known as the "sage of the county," released each on $10 bail.

Who made the anonymous call that led to the raid? Were any of the regular spectators missing that day? The likely culprit was George Rich. Why had he done it? We can only surmise. A year earlier, in 1912, George Rich and Charles Smith became enemies over a failed real estate deal involving Wienke's land.

Born in Germany about 1844, Jurgen F. Wienke came to America when he was 25. In 1881 he was living in San Francisco and legend has it that he walked into the Kearny Street real estate office of Quinn and Muller, agents for the Halfmoon Bay Colony. The next day he looked at 3,000 acres of land owned by Vic Guerrero, son of Francisco, the original grantee to the northern portion of the Corral de Tierra, which stretched from Miramar to Montara.

Wienke was smitten with the grandeur of the Coastside. He stood at Moss Beach, noted a reporter, and "saw worldwide waves rushing to surrender on her shore...The mountain, hill and valley in panoramic splendor held his eye as he gazed landward."

When Wienke learned about plans to build a railroad linking San Francisco with Santa Cruz, he made his decision to return to the place where "his eyes feasted upon the magnificent distances seaward."

First he married Meta Paulson of San Francisco, a relative of Claus Spreckles, the "Sugar King," then he realized his dream and purchased Moss Beach, becoming its "Mayor."

(Please turn to page 5).
In anticipation of the railroad, Wienke built the Moss Beach Hotel as a health resort for San Franciscans. The guests, some of them Peninsula luminaries such as Stanford University President David Starr Jordan, suffered through a "circuitous and tiresome mountain journey" to reach the spa. It was worth it. After being invigorated by the fresh ocean breezes, guests looked forward to the delicious fried chicken, eel and abalone dinners prepared by Mrs. Wienke.

Wienke also distinguished himself as a "great tree planter." He planted thousands of cypress trees, carefully arranging them in an "artistic design...He made them (the cypress trees) the ornament they are today," gushed one writer in the early 1900's, "and placed Moss Beach 30 years in advance of any other point on the coast." Wienke Way, once an avenue bordered by a thick, tall wall of cypress trees, was the handiwork of the Mayor. As a board member of the school district, he planted beautiful flowers at Montara School, which was admired for its grounds.

In 1906 Wienke sold 40 acres of improved land near the ocean to realtors Charles Smith and George Rich. They plowed $20,000 down and Wienke financed the mortgage of $40,000. Some years later Smith and Rich dissolved their partnership and further payments to Wienke ceased. The Mayor brought foreclosure proceedings in April 1912. Relations between Wienke and George Rich began to disintegrate. A year later, the infamous cockpit raid on the barn behind Wienke's hotel took place.

The litigation between Wienke, Smith and Rich turned into a long and bitter contest. In 1915 the court awarded Wienke a judgement of $43,000, but Smith appealed. Finally in 1918 the higher court returned the property to Wienke. That was two years before J. F. Wienke, the "Mayor of Moss Beach," died at his daughter's home in the Redwood Highlands.

Hundreds of friends and relatives from all over the county paid their final respects to the man. The obituaries were glowing in their praise of J. F. Wienke. Not a word was mentioned of the raid.

Roving Interpreter Program Expands

The roving interpreter program at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, organized two years ago under the sponsorship of FFMLR and Chairperson Jan Urioste, is now represented by ten tidepool docents who have undergone orientation briefing at the ranger station at Moss Beach.

Roving interpreters volunteer their time in addition to tidepool tours for school children - to walk the beaches on weekends and holidays, assisting visitors in identifying marine animals and plant life. Each interpreter wears a dark green jacket with county identification on the shoulder. They are also equipped with radios that can contact emergency patrol if needed. The primary function of the roving interpreter, however, is to help people become more aware of the value of the resources at the reserve as they visit the tidepools.

Roving interpreters also occupy the visitors' center during peak hours, enable visitors the opportunity to visit our micro-museum while the park ranger is busy elsewhere.

People interested in becoming a roving interpreter may contact 728-3584. It is requested that volunteers be available at least once a month for a two-hour period.

Current roving interpreters are Art Buhs, Ed Erdyli, Dona Juergens, Arpi Halebian, Kelly Huber, Elaine Eisenberg, Doris Newbery, Virginia Welch, Kumi Ishida and Debbie Rogers.
Governor Vetoes Abalone Fishing Bill

Governor Pete Wilson presented San Mateo County with a victory when he vetoed AB 1685 last month. This bill would have repealed the discretionary authority of the Department of Fish and Game to prohibit the taking of abalone off our San Mateo County coast.

In vetoing the bill, the governor said: "This bill would modify current law relating to the commercial taking of abalone. Moreover," he added, "there is no apparent reason provided for in AB 1685 to remove this power from the Department. Although at this time the Department is not utilizing the authority, there may come a time in the future when this resource could be in need of stronger protection."

The bill was introduced last March by Assemblyman Hauser, and related to commercial abalone fishing in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Shortly before the bill was voted on in September it was amended by Hauser to include San Mateo County.

ALTERNATE 5 (Cont. from page 1)

the Southern sea otter, Wilson said. He added: "Boundary Alternate 2 leaves areas north of Pescadero Creek and south of the Gulf of Farallones, such as the diverse intertidal community and bird colonies of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, vulnerable to offshore oil and gas development."

Wilson also requested modifications to the administration's proposed water quality regulations, and that the Sanctuary designation provide for a potential ocean disposal site.

In closing his letter, the Governor said, "Let me reiterate that California is committed to the protection of its precious coastal and marine resources. Our requested modifications will ensure that the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary will stand as a stellar example of this commitment."

Brittle stars are bottom dwellers and can be found underneat intertidal rocks. They can be found partly buried in the sand with just the tips of their arms protruding above the surface. They'll be so small and well hidden that you'll have to get down on your hands and knees to search for them!

PROPOSED SANCTUARY ALTERNATE 5, shown in this drawing is favored by Gov. Wilson as the most comprehensive sanctuary which would offer the greatest protection for the region, including Fitzgerald Marine Refuge.
In the last newsletter I reported on a public hearing July 24 on the protection of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve called by the Board of Supervisors. At this meeting the board requested the Parks & Recreation Department to establish parameters for an environmental assessment of the Marine Reserve. Staff and volunteers have been working on this and it is to be presented to the P&R Commission at its November 7 meeting. Also, a Summary Report of the July 24 meeting is to be made at a Board of Supervisors meeting sometime in November. Watch for it and plan to be there.

On October 9 Governor Pete Wilson wrote the Secretary of Commerce supporting the extension of the proposed Monterey Bay Sanctuary north to include the Año Nuevo State Reserve and the James Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. This is the feature story in this issue of the Tides, and I should add that the proposed management plan would prohibit the taking of marine mammals or seabirds except as permitted by existing federal law. We eagerly await the recommendation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and final action by Congress.

Another story in this issue refers to Governor Wilson’s veto of AB 1695. The Board of Supervisors, Park & Recreation Commission, and individuals wrote to the Governor urging this veto because of its provision and the timing of the amendment made to the bill (no notice to the county of changes and no time for input). Our thanks to all those who wrote the Governor urging his veto and a special thanks to Supervisor Eshoo for her timely news release October 3.

A big welcome to Kumi Ishida as chairperson of the roving interpreters. As pressures on the reserve increase, this group becomes increasingly important. Janet Urioste, former chair of the roving interpreters will continue to write Tidepool Tidbits and chair our speakers bureau. Thanks to Janet for a great job of scheduling.
Tidepool Tidbits

By Jan Urioste

Nudibranchs are mollusks which have lost their ancestral shells, thus, the name nudibranch, which means *naked gill*. Their occurrence in the tidepools is unpredictable as they can be seen in diverse quantities on some days and hardly visible at all on others.

As the nudibranchs lost their ancestral shells, they developed new ways to breathe through their gills, either as plumed clusters at the rear of their bodies, or in others as branched "fringe" along their backs, called cerata.

Nudibranchs mainly eat coelenterates, such as hydroids and sea anemones. Some nudibranchs (called eolid) pack their cerata with unexploded nematocysts from the food they eat, isolating the nematocysts passing through their gut. No one is quite sure how they do this.

Nudibranchs have brilliant and conspicuous markings and can generally be extremely toxic and foul tasting to their predators. Nudibranchs are preyed upon by few animals.

Give a Membership Gift This Christmas

With the holiday season approaching, now is a good time to be thinking of presenting an FFMLR membership certificate to a friend or family member this Christmas. Share your love of the natural resources and marine life at the Fitzgerald Marine Life Reserve with a friend or relative this Holiday Season. Give them the opportunity to be a part of the Friends’ team and feel the pride that comes from helping others experience the wonders of marine life at the tidepools.

Your membership donation will help us with our educational services for teachers, students, and the general public. Your gift is fully tax deductible for you, and the recipient of your membership gift will receive the quarterly issues of the *Between The Tides* newsletter as well as a membership card which entitles them to attend special festivities sponsored by FFMLR at reduced rates. A coupon for this purpose appears with this issue on page 7. Just fill it out and mail with your remittance to the address listed. This will be a cherished gift for a member of your family, or for a friend.