From: Nancy Slavin
To: TSP comments
Subject: Letter to Rocky Habitat Working Group
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 1:05:13 PM

April 14, 2021

Dear Rocky Habitat Working Group,

Thank you for recommending the proposals for Ecola Point and Chapman Point on restricting intertidal invertebrate harvest. As a longtime coastal resident, I saw firsthand the damage harvesting caused communities of mollusks and other invertebrates. The bare spots on the host rocks were painful reminders of the delicacy of our coastal ecosystems, which are our responsibility to protect.

For that above named reason, I also ask you to reconsider the request about off-leash dog restrictions and human interaction of walking and climbing intertidal rocks at Ecola and Chapman points. Human and canine feet cause the same kinds of damage to invertebrates as done by harvest, with additional likelihood of unrestricted dog activity to stress, maim, or kill birds and other marine mammals.

The solution to enforcement concerns begins with the tone that you, as a working group, could set by retaining the recommended restrictions. I was a long-time dog-owner and dog-walker at the beach, and it wasn't hard to allow my dog to run free at less vulnerable or critical sites. Signs helped, as did other people who cared about our environment. But if the leaders of the community like you are clearly supportive of these important restrictions, more citizens will help enforce them, recognizing stewardship for our coastal communities is all our responsibility. Social influence is a real motivator, and so if you do not support those restrictions, more damage will be done to Ecola and Chapman Points, but if you do support them, more people will feel empowered to jump in and hold each other (and our dogs) accountable.

Again, I appreciate your work up to this point. I know there are a lot of voices calling out, so I appreciate the time you've taken to consider mine.

Sincerely,

Nancy Slavin

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