

2025 Bodega Bay Marina Temporary Fee Waiver Program

Purpose

The County operates three marinas in Bodega Bay that provide berthing and other services that support the commercial fishing fleet. The commercial fishing fleet has been dealt a significant economic blow due to cancellation of the salmon season and shortened crab seasons this year. As a result, on May 14, 2025, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors authorized a temporary waiver of berthing fees at County of Sonoma Marinas for commercial fishing vessels experiencing financial hardship. Berthing fee waivers can be applied for an initial 3 months (July-September, 2025, and then monthly, and will be prioritized to Owners who can demonstrate significant financial hardships, meaningful contributions to economic vitality of the local fishing economy, and circumstances where this fee waiver will decrease the likelihood of the boat being abandoned and likely requiring removal and disposal.

Fee Waiver Policy and Procedure

The Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks, or his designee, may, at their sole discretion, approve or disapprove monthly fee waiver requests. Effective July 1, 2025, the following general guidelines will be used to assist in the determination of whether a requested fee waiver is eligible or ineligible.

- Owner of the vessel ("Owner") seeking a temporary fee waiver must fill out and sign the below Fee Waiver Request Form ("Fee Waiver"). The Fee Waiver must be signed by all Owners.
- Fee Waivers may only be provided to active Commercial Fisherman and Charter Fishing Vessels who can provide evidence of 6 commercial landings between 2021 and 2024.
- Fee waivers will not be applied retroactively.
- Fee Waiver requests must be fully completed and submitted to Noah Wagner no later than the 5th day of the month for which the fee waiver is being request via email at noah.wagner@sonoma-county.org or hard copies can be dropped off at:

Spud Point Marina
1818 Westshore Rd
Bodega Bay Ca. 94923

- Fee Waiver will be issued for an initial 3-month period (July 1st, 2025-September 1st, 2025), and then one month at a time until the funds are exhausted. Owners must submit a new Fee Waiver request for each month in which a waiver is requested beginning October 1st, 2025.
- Failure to provide the information required by Sonoma County Regional Parks for the Fee Waiver Program may result in the application being delayed or denied.
- Although all fee waiver determinations made by the Director of the Sonoma County Regional Parks are final, if the fee waiver request is denied, the Owner may seek the Spud Point Advisory Committee review of the denial. Such request to the Spud Point

Advisory Committee must be made within 30 days of the Fee Waiver determination.

Initial Application Deadline: To be considered for the first waiver period, Owners must submit their initial application by July 5th, 2025.

Initial Waiver Period: Fee waivers will be issued for an initial three-month period covering July 1 through September 30, 2025. After that, waivers will be granted one month at a time, contingent on available funds.

Beginning October 1, 2025, Owners must submit a new waiver request each month, by the 5th, to continue receiving the waiver or for new applicants.

Application Requirements: All required information and documentation must be submitted with the application. Incomplete or missing information may result in delays or denial of the application.

Determinations and Appeals:

All fee waiver determinations will be made by the Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks and are considered final.

If a waiver is denied, the Owner may request a review of the denial by the Spud Point Marina Advisory Committee.

This request must be submitted within 30 days of the fee waiver determination.

- Temporary fee waivers may be requested monthly until funds are exhausted and subject to the availability of funding provided by authorization of the Board of Supervisors on May 13, 2025 for commercial berthing credits at County of Sonoma Marinas.

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Fee Waiver Request Application

		Response	Comments (if applicable)
1.	Owner(s):		
2.	Commercial Fisherman Commercial Passenger	Yes or No	
3.	Boat Name		
4.	Marina and Slip Number		
5.	F&G Number		
6.	Documentation number or DMV registration		
7.	Did your vessel actively fish commercially and did you provide 6 landings tickets between the years 2021 and 2024?	Yes or No	
	If not why:		
8.	Reasons for hardship: (please attach any relevant information)		

Sonoma County Regional Parks reserves the right to seek additional information or documentation from the Owner regarding the fee waiver request. Sonoma County Regional Parks will make best efforts to preserve confidential information, but Owner should construe the application as a public record.

Acknowledgement

I/we acknowledge the Fee Waiver Request shall not be construed as waiving any other rights and obligations under my Berthing License or applicable law. I/We understand that Sonoma County Regional Parks is relying on the information presented in this application and I/We assure the information is accurate. If the Fee Waiver is denied, I/We understand that all fees will continue to be

owed. Any non-compliance of the Fee Waiver requirements may disqualify me/us for any future fee waivers. If it is later determined the Fee Waiver was not properly applied for and/or any information presented is inaccurate then the County of Sonoma reserves the right to seek a recoupment of all fees and costs waived including any attorneys fees.

Date: _____

Owner:

Title (if applicable): _____

Filled out by Regional Parks

Received on _____

By: _____

Approved _____

Denied _____