

SB Bill 437 will undermine any cooperation we have made amongst all stakeholders. What happened with the consensus process that led us to achieve cooperation in the Eastern Bay project? The aquaculture industry already has its own committee, the Aquaculture Coordinating Council. Looks to me that this is an agenda to undermine the public fisheries by removing their seat at the table. Everything is going well for the public fishery because this year we have a complete fishery; thanks to the abundance of oysters everyone catches their daily limit. Maybe the Aquaculture Coordinating Council needs more public fishery people on it?

As for the pre-approved lease bottom, I agree that it would help to speed up the leasing process. However, this process only works when those whose livelihood or land value that are directly affected are involved in the decision making. In addition, this bill also takes away these stakeholders First Amendment right to protest.

For these reasons I would ask for an unfavorable vote on this bill.

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