Meeting of the Port Fisherman's Wharf Advisory Committee (FWAC)

September 3, 2025 (9:00 to 11:00 AM)

Virtual Public Meeting via Teams

Meeting Notes

FWAC Attendees
Joe Burgard (Excursion Operations)
Mariann Costello (Restaurants)
Taryn Hoppe (Retail)
Darlene Plumtree (Museums), Co-Chair
Sina von Reitzenstein (Pier 39)
Frank Rescino (Charter Fishing)
Sarah Bates (Fishers), Co-Chair
Dante Serafini (Restaurants)

FWAC Members Absent
Mike LaRocca (Fish Processing)
Mike Rescino (Charter Fishing)
John Barnett (Crab Boat Owners)
Jenn Brokaw (Swimmers)

Announcements and Introductions

1. **FWAC Ground Rules for Meetings**

2. **Approval of Draft July 9, 2025, Meeting Notes**

3. **Announcements and Project Updates**

    a. SkyStar Wheel Extension – Don Kavanagh, Port Real Estate
    b. Tarantino's and Fisherman's Grotto #9 near-term activation update – Don Kavanagh, Port Real Estate
    c. Update on activities by the Fisherman's Wharf CBD – Amy Cohen, Port Real Estate

d. Update on PG&E Beach Street Remediation – Kathryn Purcell, Port Environmental
e. Maritime update- Dominic Moreno, Port Maritime

4. **Fisherman's Wharf Forward:** Update on the Fisherman's Wharf Forward project, near-term inner lagoon improvements, and design plan for new public plaza replacing Alioto's restaurant at Taylor Street – Fisherman's Wharf Forward Port staff

5. Agenda Setting for Future Meetings

Item #1 - FWAC Ground Rules for Meetings

Ming Yeung of the Port provided ground rules and other information to start the meeting. This included the introduction of a rule that limits speakers to two minutes for comments or to ask questions. This is consistent with Port Commission policy for public comment.

Item #2 - Approval of Draft Meeting Notes

July 9, 2025, Meeting Notes were accepted by the FWAC without comment.

Item #3 – Quick Project Updates

A. SkyStar Wheel Extension

The Port Commission approved an 18-month extension for Extension for Sky Star Wheel with (1) 18-month additional option. This will now go before the Board of supervisors for approval either in September or October.

Questions/Comments:

- No questions or comments noted

B. Tarantino's and Fisherman's Grotto #9 Near-Term Activation Update

The Port of San Francisco is working to develop plans and scope of work to activate both Tarantino's and Grotto #9. The activation for Tarantino's would be for the ground floor, and the roll up-door area next to Guardino's Gift Shop. The activation area for Grotto's would be for the ground floor, Venetian room/ Café area. The port is investigating items such as if there are any hazardous materials present, and fire alarm systems. The goal is to activate both areas by summer 2026.

Questions/Comments:

- Question: Has there been any consideration to have a fish market?
- Answer: There was some consideration for doing something similar to this last summer. However, at the time it would have been a heavy lift to meet the DPH code requirements. There has been some consideration for activating a farmers' market, similar to the one

you see in front of The Ferry Building. But at this location people can possibly sell processed fish out of a cooler.

- Comment: The Port of San Francisco is trying to activate the stated areas in the update. However, there is a desire to activate the top floor of Grotto #9. This would include possibly for an intermediate basis. The goal is to activate as many areas as possible by summer 2026 so that there is no longer a vacant feeling on Taylor Street.
- Question: Has the Port of San Francisco considered using the spaces as event spaces?
- Answer: Intermediate activations such as event usage is being explored.

C. Update on activities by the Fisherman's Wharf CBD

Currently there is work being done to install at Pier 45 Plaza a sculpture called Desert Shark by an artist known for large-scale sculptures. (A rendering of the piece was shown on screen). The installation is planned for the 3rd week of October. Work is being done to gain an exact date and, being fully permitted. The Sijbrandij Foundation is paying for the art to be borrowed from the artist. The goal is to have it lit up at night.

There are two Pier Party events left. One on the 13th, and the other on the 27th. Headlining the evet on the 13th is the all-female salsa band Aqua Pura. On the 27th, Momo Tombo will be headlining. During Fleet week there will be various activations such as the US. Airforce Rock Band. Scrap Workshops will take place on October 18th and 19th. Scraps organization was founded in 1976 by an arts community leader and Mary Thielen and the celebrated artist Ruth Asawa. Scrap's mission is to inspire creativity and environmental stewardship in children and adults through promoting the creative reuse of materials. October 19th there will be a Dia de Los Muertos celebration.

Questions/Comments:

- Comment: There was a comment that there should be an inclusion of the Madonna del Lume Festival.
- Response: The FWCBD report was only on items that they are directly involved with. However, the FWCBD is willing to explore how this can be incorporated in future activations.

D. Update on PG&E Beach Street Remediation:

The remediation project to address environmental impacts from a historic manufactured gas plant continues to progress well in Areas A and B, located offshore near Pier 43 ½ and Pier 43. Since the last update in March 2025, temporary relocations of tenants were completed to make way for remediation activities, which began in June and are on track to finish by November. Key work included dredging contaminated sediment, capping the dredged areas with clean sand and rock, and installing 25-foot wooden slope stability pin piles to protect against seismic activity. As of August 8, 2025, approximately 22,000 tons of contaminated material have been removed and transported to a specially built handling facility in Montezuma for treatment and disposal.

Throughout the process, environmental safeguards such as turbidity curtains, debris booms, and on-site marine mammal monitoring were implemented to protect local wildlife and water quality.

Communication and coordination with stakeholders and regulators have been strong, featuring daily outreach staffing and biweekly project updates. Looking ahead, final sediment capping and post-remediation monitoring equipment installation are scheduled to be complete by November 2025, along with site restoration. Tenant relocations will be reversed by early December, with the Red and White Fleet and Pampanito returning to their original berths. Monitoring of air and water quality continues.

Questions/Comments:

- Comment: There was gratitude given to the presenter for helping to make the project smooth.
- Response: There is appreciation for the success thus far. The plan is for the project to move to Area C (Pier 41 ½ the Blue & Gold area) in spring 2026. There will be an update given at that time.

E. Maritime Update

With strong support from the Executive Director and Port Commission, the salmon fishing community received rent relief, including a six-month waiver of berth fees for commercial salmon fishers and three months of rent relief for salmon processors at Pier 45. Those interested in participating are encouraged to connect with the Hyde Street Harbor office or the Pier 45 property manager. Unfortunately, the fishing vessel Mandy, which had been derelict, sank on August 4th but was quickly salvaged within 48 hours by the Harbor office and partners, with minimal environmental impact and no harm to adjacent waterways. Fuel recovery efforts prevented significant contamination.

Looking ahead, the waterfront will be bustling with activity. A cruise ship will be in town daily starting September 24th through the end of October, leading into Fleet Week in October. Fleet Week will feature up to four Navy ships, Coast Guard presence, and the Colombian Navy's tall ship, with hopes to offer public tours and a major activation at Pier 30-32, including Fleet fest. On the capital projects front, the Pier 35 Bollard project is expected to finish before early October. Additionally, the Portola Music Festival will return to Pier 80 on September 20-21, attracting increasing statewide and national interest, which could bring more visitors to the waterfront and its ongoing successes.

Questions/Comments:

- No questions/comments noted.

Item #4. Fisherman's Wharf Forward

The Fisherman's Wharf Forward project includes both near-term improvements targeted for completion by summer 2026 and a longer-term seismic and resiliency strategy for Taylor Street

and Jefferson Street. The near-term work includes demolishing the Alioto building and replacing it with a new, flexible public plaza designed to activate the space with seating, dining, and interactive elements that highlight the area's history and waterfront views. The project team is actively working to re-tenant the Grotto building and other nearby spaces to create a vibrant atmosphere. Outreach efforts have been extensive, including public meetings, online surveys, and collaboration with urban design consultants, which helped shape two plaza design options—one with a tenant in Grotto and a backup plan featuring pop-up activations if tenancy isn't secured in time.

In addition to the plaza, the project addresses inner lagoon improvements focused on better lighting, security, trash management, boat signage, and operational needs such as ice machines and maintenance. Feedback from waterside tenants and stakeholders emphasized priorities like cleanliness, safety, public seating, family-friendly activities, and opportunities for outdoor dining. Upcoming steps include demolishing the Alioto building by late 2025, advertising construction contracts, and starting plaza construction early next year. The team plans to continue engaging with tenants and stakeholders, providing updates, and preparing for outreach on the long-term resiliency strategy at future meetings.

Questions/Comments:

- Comment: There were questions regarding the activation of Castagnola's Restaurant.
- Response: The Port is working with the current owner. The goal is to open the restaurant with a new concept next year. Additional information will be shared with FWAC and other groups as more information is gathered.
- Comment: There were concerns about the access to the boats utilizing the J4 and similar finger docks.
- Response: There was thanks for keeping this in the forefront for planning. Access for the fishers and the public is an important part of moving forward with the upcoming projects. Plans for construction staging and relocation will be shared with tenants in advance.
- Comments: There is great anticipation and excitement about the future of the area.

Item #5 - Agenda Setting for Future Meetings

The next FWAC meeting will be held on November 5, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 AM