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From: stripcapt@aol.com

To: richard.bourre@state.ma.us

Sent: Fri, Aug 6, 2010 3:02 pm

Subject: Proposed fishing pier, Oak Bluffs, Ma.

Dear Mr. Bourre,

My name is Harvey Russell, or Denny as known by the "islanders" who have known me since the early sixties. I live at 20 Sea View Ave, at the home my Father bought in 1966. I grew up fishing the local waters every Summer and Fall since i could hold a rod. I am self employed as a charter boat captain, and fill in on the the Party Boat Skipper. I fish almost every day in these local waters, and beyond. As a child/teen I used to fish off the Steamship dock. The primary fish was bonito as they would school the bait in. We would live line menhaden on small treble hooks, and were able to watch the hook up many times. We had a long gaff to bring them up the 10 feet or so to the dock. This lasted for several years, but the folks at the SSA were getting tired of the blood, bait and the influx of seagulls cleaning up. The fishing was ultimately banned.

I do not think that the proposed location is the ideal place for a fishing pier. This location is in the middle of a beach frequented by many swimmers, beachcombers, and shore fisherman during certain seasons. There are juvenile Stripers cruising along the beach, close into shore. Many fishermen cast from shore, mainly fly fishermen. These are rarely keeper size. Other than these Stripers that hang out under the SSA dock, there are rarely any fish caught of legal size to keep for the table. I have fished all around the SSA dock, which has been established for many years, and the same holds true for that dock, very few fish of legal size. The proposed pier will never provide the amount of shade or structure that the SSA dock has, as it lacks the size and rocks that are under the SSA dock. Also depth is a factor as during low tide you could easily wade out 3/4's to the end. it is not very deep. There would be a definite problem of people keeping under size fish, if caught. There would be additional costs to the State to enforce the rules of legal limit fish.

There are currently handicapped accessible fishing areas in our area. The bulk head where the Island Queen comes in, holds fish, as does the small and large bridges along State beach. The Memorial wharf in Edgartown also provides handicapped access for fishing. There are other locations, more ideal for a fishing pier. Approximately 200 yards South of "the Inkwell beach" the seawall slopes up from street level. A sidewalk, with handicapped access is already present. This is the ideal location as the water gets deeper faster, there is a lot of structure present over the bottom, not just sand as at the proposed location. People are seen frequently fishing off the seawall at that location due to these facts. There are legal size fish in this area.

In closing I wish to list the negatives:

1. No structure under proposed pier to attract fish.
2. Too shallow/ sandy. This is a beautiful beach in a residential neighborhood used by many to swim and enjoy the peace and quiet.
3. Will become a haven for gulls and comerants due to bait, blood and fish remains.
4. Will become a haven for rats that live in the tall grass and rocks along beach due to bait, blood and fish remains.
5. Will attract skunks due to bait, blood and fish remains
6. Will be costly for additional enforcement of fishing regs.
7. No lighting could be a problem to mariners.
8. Potential to become a "hangout" for local revelers
9. Potential for tackle to injurer beach goers/swimmers.

I am all for a fishing pier that will get one out into deeper water, with structure, and allow the catch of legal size fish. I would gladly take you out on my boat to test fish these areas at any time!

Capt. Harvey Russell
My Brother Charters
Oak Bluffs, Ma
774-836-7465