

Amazin' stuff! C.]

----- Original Message ----- From:

To:

Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2003 2:23 PM

Subject: Re: Children's Pool

Carl,

NMFS defines a rookery as any land area in the wild where pinnipeds breed, give birth, and care for their young. NMFS defines a haulout as any land area in the wild routinely used by pinnipeds as a rest area. You will not find these definitions in the MMPA. They are NMFS definitions and are not found anywhere in writing except for in correspondence like this.

Natural haulout and rookery refers to the fact that the site has been colonized by pinnipeds and is now being utilized as a natural habitat (a habitat in nature). Any site colonized by pinnipeds is considered to be a natural site. There is no such thing as an unnatural site.

Our management policies for rookeries/haulouts are just that; management policies. Again, they are not written down anywhere except in correspondence like this. The management policies need to be consistent from site to site.

No formal designation means, as the letter states, that we are not designating Children's Pool as a reserve or preserve or sanctuary or anything else. We are managing it as a rookery/haulout. The "must manage the site biologically" phrase in the letter simply means that because pups are now being born at Children's Pool we must now manage the site as a rookery in a manner consistent with how we manage other rookeries in the state, namely not allowing human interference with natural events, such as pinnipeds fending for themselves in these areas.

I hope this clears it up for you.

Joe

Carl Lind wrote:

Joe, Thank you for your quick and courteous response. Several questions follow. Re: "We are 'managing' Children's Pool Beach as a rookery/haulout. There is no formal designation. What that means is that SeaWorld is not allowed to remove any sick harbor sealsUnder this policy..." Where do these specific rules for handling a rookery/haulout come from, and where might I find them in writing? When you say there is no formal designation, please clarify. Why does James Lecky, in his (undated) letter to La Jolla Friends of the Seals, say, "We must manage the site biologically as a natural habitat for harbor seals"? (What is the directive that makes this a "must" situation?) What is the official definition of "rookery" (in my quick read of the MMPA, I couldn't find it)? Also, in the (undated) letter from James Lecky to LJFS, the term "natural haulout and

rookery" is used. According to NOAA/NMFS, can there be an unnatural haulout or rookery? Carl ----- Original Message -----

From: To: Cc: Sent: Friday, September 05, 2003 2:59 PM Subject: Re: Children's Pool Carl,

We are "managing" Children's Pool Beach as a rookery/haulout. There is no formal designation. What that means is that SeaWorld is not allowed to remove any sick harbor seals or abandoned harbor seal pups from the beach or surrounding waters. Also, no dead harbor seals may be removed from the beach or surrounding waters. Under this policy, we would prefer that no human access be allowed at this site. However, we cannot force the City to close the beach to human access. All we can do is enforce the "no harassment" clause under the MMPA. Our authority to manage this site or any other as a rookery/haulout comes under the general provisions of the MMPA. The only website link I can refer you to is the one for our Watchable Wildlife Program.

It is: <www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/MMWatch/MMViewing.html>.

I am also attaching a letter we sent to La Jolla Friends of the Seals regarding this issue.

Joe

Carl Lind wrote:

Joe,I'm trying to research the status of La Jolla's Children's Pool. Specifically, has it been designated a "rookery" by NOAA? If so, what does that mean and what additional restrictions are placed on such a rookery? What statute(s) apply? Also, if you have some website addresses on this subject, I'd appreciate knowing of them. Any help will be appreciated.Cheers,C.