

# Capitola Wharf back in business

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CAPITOLA — Two Capitola Wharf businesses will reopen Saturday after being closed for seven months.

The City Council Thursday night OK'd the reopening in anticipation of approving a proposed new lease between the city — the new wharf concession leaseholder — and Capitola Bay Marina.

The operations will include a bait and tackle shop, as well as a boat-mooring and boat-rental business.

"I'm looking forward and not back," said Karen Nevis, co-owner of Capitola Bay Marina. "We want to reopen and make the wharf an asset to the city of Capitola."

Nevis said they will have 15 boats, 15½ feet long, for rent, as well as a 33-foot sailboat. More than 30 boat-mooring spaces will also be available for visiting boaters.

The new lease is expected to officially be signed next week. However, details of the lease were not complete by meeting time.

It is proposed to be for two years, with an option to renew. The city will receive \$1,000 a month for rental of the bait and tackle shop, and another \$1,000 per season or 5 percent of gross receipts for the boat-mooring and rental operation.

The businesses were forced to close last November after the former wharf concession leaseholders fell into debt.

The city recently purchased the concession lease for \$290,000. The city now has complete leeway over the century-old wharf, owning both the wharf and the concessions.

The city's purchase of the concession lease, however, did not go smoothly.

A lawsuit was brought against the city by former Councilman Dennis Beltram, who maintained the buyback was a "waste of taxpayers' money" when the city could simply foreclose on the leaseholders.

Beltram eventually dropped the suit after the former leaseholders paid the city \$48,000 in back rent. However, the city will have to pay nearly \$10,000 in attorney fees and court costs stemming from the litigation.