



Chip Scheuer

Mooring area off Capitola Wharf which new ordinance, approved by the city last night, is designed to protect.

Capitola adopts mooring ordinance

A mooring ordinance that will require boaters to show proof of insurance passed last night on a 4-1 Capitola City Council vote.

Councilwoman Stephanie Harlan voted against the ordinance. She had indicated last month she favored a return to the original ordinance, which would have prohibited mooring outside the 500-square-yard Capitola Bay Marina.

That ordinance was diluted partly because council members could not agree on the definition of a mooring versus an anchor. The council sidestepped the issue by dropping a clause which prohibited private moorings.

The final ordinance is a far cry from the original, which was proposed to protect the interests of marina operator Karen Nevis, who

objected to private moorings competing with her mooring-rental business.

Nevis said private boaters under the revised ordinance will essentially be able to do whatever they please outside the marina. She also questioned enforcement and warned the council last night the ocean floor might eventually become cluttered with moorings.

The council tentatively approved the ordinance anyway, with two additions — all moorings are prohibited in the off-season, Oct. 1 through April 30, and boating lanes were included with the marina and the swimming area as off-limits to private moorings.

The ordinance will return Sept. 10 for final approval.

— Jennifer Koss