

-- wrote:

On multiple occasions I've been harassed and threatened by the "pro-seal" (yeahRITE) activists at the Children's Pool.

In one instance they turned on a video camera, no doubt with the sound off, when I went down to the beach to take some photos. As I was very quietly and carefully photographing the seals and other features, and no seals were bothered in any way, they began to make very loud and annoying noises. Pretty soon the seals were starting to get bothered and began to flush into the water because of their noise. I'm sure if they remove the soundtrack, and I'm sure they will, their tape will make it appear that I was scaring the seals and they will try to accuse me of violating the marine mammal protective act even though I did no such thing, **THEY DID!**

Or did they? Is it "abnormal" or "unnatural" behavior for a harbor seal to flush into the water when a potentially dangerous possible predator is present? I think the whole question of calling this a violation of the act should be revisited, because I suggest that when the seals flush they are merely "doing what comes natural" and, if we could get a ruling to that effect, it would prevent the activists from falsely accusing so many as a form of harassment and intimidation.

Anyway, on another instance, when there weren't even any harbor seals on the beach, I went down to the children's pool and as soon as I did several of the activists started cursing, taunting, yelling, harassing and threatening me. It appeared they were trying to incite a riot and at one point one guy did come down -he attempted to provoke me into a physical confrontation but I did not fall for it.