

chris wrote:

I visited the Childrens pool yesterday and was continually harassed by 3 advocates. I was threatened with arrest, and told I was trespassing on protected property. I spoke with a patrol officer briefly, and he stated there are no grounds for arrest, and to ignore the people. I continued back to the area of the seal haul out and was again told I would be arrested. I spoke with an advocate and was told they would use other charges than trespassing to have me arrested. I asked one person what they could possibly dream up to charge me with, and he stated "assault", and that "you are assaulting the us and the seals", by disturbing them. All I was doing was photographing them and the seals, about 40' from the seals. Another person that was there told me to watch my car as the advocates would do damage to it if they could find out which car was mine. He went on to tell me that his belongings he had on the beach nearby were stolen and later found in the trash can. I turned around to check on my belongings that were lieing on the beach, and there were two people going through my things and starting to remove them. I stopped the people and was told to leave "if I knew what was good for you".

I then proceeded to the wall and was speaking with a few tourists about what they like about the seals. Five people all agreed that it was such a shame the area stunk, and that the seals were taking over. A few of the people had studied up on the seal issue and stated to me that they did not come to see the seals in particular, but while they were in La Jolla, they wanted to see what the big deal was about. They all agreed as well, that it was "crazy" that the seal advocates were taking such ignorant stances on the issue, and that they would not support, if it were their town, the seals remaining there, adding that it would deplete the marine resources and draw predators to the area that people use.

So much for tourists coming to support the seals and the non existent income La Jolla seal advocates claim exists. Not one business group or business owner has made any claim that the seals increase the revenue. Nor has anyone else offered any data in an attempt to prove it so.

While I respect all animals right to exist and live undisturbed, this is insane. There are hundreds, if not thousands of areas already inhabited by seals, away from human interference and harassment. There is a natural order that nature tries to keep in balance, that zealous humans are tampering with.

Chris  
La Jolla