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### **Not buying scare tactics of environmentalist**

Regarding "Growing the Seaweed Revolution" (Opinion, June 6):

Richard Louv writes glowingly of David Helvarg, a "rare environmentalist who can exude despair and hope at exactly the same time." The usually cogent columnist then repeats alarmist incantations such as "the human race may soon be up to its neck in dead ocean water" and "we're quickly turning much of the coastal ocean into a watery desert."

Fortunately for my peace of mind, I've had the opportunity to attend a lecture by Helvarg and was much less impressed by his scare tactics. As with so many crisis-based activists, emotion, money-raising and politics took precedence over science.

The displayed logo for his movement showed the archetypical leftist raised fist – grasping a clump of seaweed. It accurately foretold the speaker's forays into Bush-bashing.

More disturbing is Louv's repetition of dubious environmental propaganda such as the need for no-take zones and the claim that our kelp forests have become "ghost forests." As a longtime sport fisherman and diver, I know both of these assertions to be wrong. Interestingly, what is perhaps our greatest coastal threat – the increasing destruction of our local sea life by seals and sea lions – is rarely mentioned by environmental activists. Their "solution" of no-take reserves would only exacerbate the predation problem because regulations of no-take reserves prohibit control of all ocean predators – except man.

That might be good politics, but it's irrational marine management.

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