

Observation of the natural marine fishery, now among the most productive in the world, developing beneath the offshore oil platforms inspired visionaries to use the structure as a base for sea farming.



In 1978, Atlantic Richfield Company and California Marine Associates conducted a feasibility study to culture Red Abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*) beneath Platform Holly.



Marine life established itself on Platform Holly beginning with her installation in 1966. That makes it a more than 50-year old, multi-generational marine community.

← Diver reveals 3' Cabezon. Masters of camouflage are one of my favorites to find and photograph.

← Cabezon on left is about the size of a dime

65' beneath Platform Holly



Earth Capital: ↑ Eggs, 70' beneath Platform Holly. ↑ The Marine Ecosystem is immense when looking up from 210' beneath Platform Holly at a 50' in diameter ball of schooling fish.



Inspired by the Chumash who harvested California mussels  
 Middens at Pt. Bennet, San Miguel Island, we formed The Mussel Company in 1981.

Just as we now can secure what changes in laws are necessary to make the right

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decisions here, in 1981, we worked with California Fish & Game and Department of Health to change the regulations to allow California mussels to be harvested for human consumption. Every California mussel you eat in restaurants today, those by Bernard at Hope Ranch Mussels or Catalina Sea Ranch, are possible because of our actions.

We received a Federal Grant to conduct a feasibility study to can mussels harvested from Platform Hilda, removed in 1997. When the "H" Platforms, Hilda, Hope, Heidi and Hazel, were removed, I was too busy with my businesses to participate in the decision-making process. With the removal of their jackets, the steel structure, around 4,000 tons of marine life, a 40-year old, multi-generational marine community was dumped in a land fill in Long Beach.



Our first mussel harvest

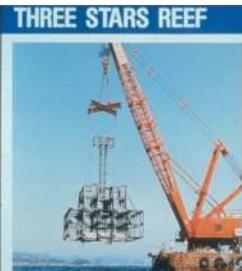
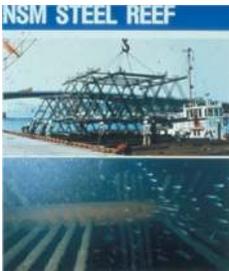


Canning mussels in Oxnard,



California Can from

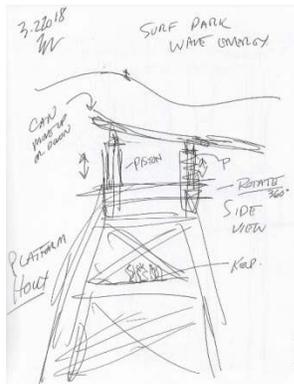
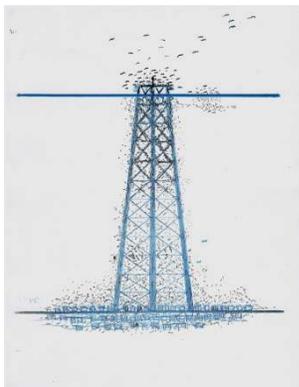
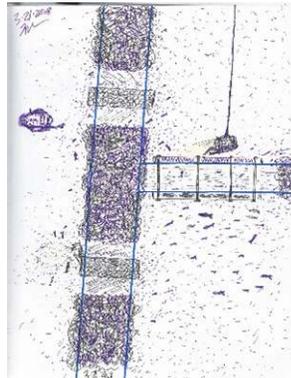
first canning



In the South China Sea and elsewhere, major economic investment is being made to install artificial reefs to enhance fisheries and feed growing populations. Artificial reefs installed by the Japanese, circa 1985.

Consider the fossil fuel consumption / carbon footprint of importing our seafood from Asia vs. nurturing our fisheries here.

**From Fisheries to the Future:** Research, Marine Biospheres, Undersea Exploration, Astronaut Training, Technology Test Site, Tourism, Recreation, etc. Not one of these alternative purposes alone can support the cost of maintaining the Jacket. The “Jacket” is the steel structure, what remains after the wells are plugged and the oil drilling apparatus are removed. Looked at together, a combination of projects, maintaining the Jacket, and preserving the marine life may be not only feasible, but I think if properly administered can be profitable. Particularly if you take into consideration, not remove and instead use the multi-million dollar, 16,000 volt electrical cable running between shore and Platform Holly.



Deepworker submarine research vessels, underwater habitat, research, tourist submarine operating in Curacao images are provided by and copyright of Phil Nuytten, Nuytco Research, Canada. These are concept drawings for existing programs. A concept for wave energy producing, recreational surf park and what you might see from shore. Add to these current or wave generation fields like those in San Luis Obispo or off the coast of Maine, just a few ideas to consider.

My name is Bob Evans. I am an underwater photographer, designer and visionary. In 1997, I was granted an honorary Master of Science from my alma mater Brooks Institute of Photography. I am a former President and Executive Director of the Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences. I am an Ocean professional. I am here of my own accord and have received no funding, nor am I here on behalf of any company or organization. I am here on behalf of the marine life that has propagated below Platform Holly.

I have logged over 850 dives photo-documenting the life and projects below the offshore oil platforms of the Santa Barbara Channel. My deepest dive, 211 feet was filming the Bocaccio Rockfish beneath Platform Holly. My first 2-page spread in National Geographic was a picture of the California Marine Associates red abalone aquaculture habitat, also beneath Platform Holly. I believe this was the first fishery project conducted on any offshore oil platform.

Platform Holly was an asset when delivering oil, and royalties to the County of Santa Barbara and State of California (\$160 million in royalties and rents to the State of California since 1997). Isn't that pretty close to what we will ultimately spend for complete removal? No wonder she is now perceived as a liability. I'm here to inspire you as our decision makers, to look at how we might spend less in transforming her back into an asset, preserve the marine ecosystem, and to put into perspective the precedent she sets. Just as removal of the "H" Platforms, Hilda, Hope, Heidi and Hazel, in 1997 set the precedent for how we are now looking at proceeding with Holly.

When the "H" Platforms in 1997, 4,000 tons of marine life were taken to a land fill to rot. That's the equivalent of let's say 53,000 human bodies. I understand that hazmat protocol was required for protection against the decaying marine life at the landfill where they were taken. I expect there will be surveys to tell us the volume of marine life to be uprooted and killed should the jacket of Platform Holly be removed. But let's say its 1,000 tons of a multi-generational marine community, or the equivalent of, let's say 13,000 human bodies. They'll be taken to a land fill, and left to rot in the Sun, the detritus from which drip down into the ground water and flow into the Ocean.

Cast in concrete on the wall of my Junior High School and etched into my being are the words, "Where there is no vision, people perish." When the marine life perishes so do we. When the leases were drafted and signed, we thought the Oceans were limitless. Since that time, the Oceans worldwide have become stressed. It is incumbent upon us to protect and act as stewards for that life where ever it thrives. I'm doing my best to help you, our decision makers, to find a way to justify doing what is right. I trust you'll do the same and the issues raised here will be thoroughly, openly and specifically considered throughout the process.

I do trust we'll be getting together to discuss more at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum to see the Exhibit that was held open an extra week to accommodate your schedule, and in the interest of transparency invite everyone here to do the same. When are we getting together?

Bob Evans