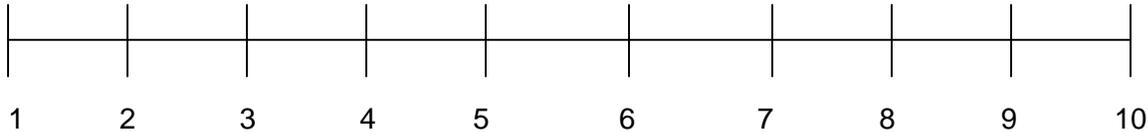


Student Activity: Economic Development of Kelp Forests- What is Your Opinion?

You've researched data on kelp forests. Your congressional representative wants your opinion on a proposal to open the nation's kelp forests to industrial development. Take a stand on this issue. Circle the number that most closely represents your opinion along the continuum from 1 ("no kelp extraction") to 10 ("open kelp forests to extraction").

The nation's kelp forests should be protected against any and all extraction.

The nation's kelp forests should be opened to economic extraction despite protections currently in place.



1 Cite the reasons for your position.

2. Participate in a class discussion in which you share and defend your opinion. Then, consider the continuum again. Did the classroom debate affect your opinion? Yes/No? If yes, how has it changed? Put an X on the number that represents your opinion now. In the space below, state your position and the facts that support that opinion.

3. Participate in a class poll. What was the majority opinion on developing kelp forests? Write a news article on the proposal, research and debate on kelp forest development. You can write as one of the following: op/ed editor; political reporter covering the U.S. Congress; reporter for the business section of your local newspaper; lobbyist for or against the development of kelp forests; or, as a member of an organization that is against the proposal or that supports the proposal.