

Limited Abalone Fishery idea for consideration in discussions

Super rough draft idea though I believe similar ideas have already been broached.

IF a limited fishery option is viable, my idea is to make it a win-win. Opportunity for some divers/rock pickers to harvest abalone and the Department to benefit with some income and data.

Concept: tag draw for X divers/rock pickers for X designated locations on specified dates determined by CDFW – like deer tags. Diver/rock picker can apply and pay for all location tag draws at cost TBD, however, the drawn diver/rock picker can only be awarded one location tag per year to allow other divers/rock pickers opportunity. If name is drawn, diver/rock picker would pay tag cost (TBD – see previous surveys for suggested cost ideas?) for two/four abalone (diver/rock picker tag quota TBD once annual limited fishery quota is determined) - one/two for the person whose tag was drawn and one/two for their dive buddy and they can only dive/rock pick at the site and date/dates specified and must only harvest abalone of specified size or larger. Abalone shell size TBD. Tag would reflect date/dates and location info which would need to be attached to shells as noted in regulations pre closure OR TBD method of transport receptacle if Department gathers data if abalone is removed from shells. Diver/rock picker would be able to retain meat and shell. Fishing license required 16 years and older. OR In lieu of CDFW coordinated data collection days, mandatory reporting information by either online reporting and/or noting on report card. Information to report TBD. Data collected to be available for public review.

Other considerations: Safety - if designated days are weathered out/unsafe to dive/rock pick, CDFW can provide optional dates if a season is not specified. If diver/rock picker unable to dive, they do not get tag cost reimbursed (just like if a deer hunter does not get a deer). Revenues generated by draw and tags will only apply to abalone related research and abalone enforcement. No replacement tags offered. If a season for all of north coast, season would season be pre-closure April – Nov, closed July? 8am start continuing? Would Ft Ross closure continue?