

## ***De Minimis Recreational Red Abalone Fishery - Strawman Proposal***

At the direction of the [Ocean Science Trust-facilitated peer review panel](#) and the Fish and Game Commission, the Project Team will explore the design of a *de minimis* fishery for the North Coast recreational red abalone fishery. A *de minimis* fishery is 'a fishery with a level of catch that is anticipated to have little to no effect on the health or recovery of a fishery resource'. Modeling work being conducted as part of the red abalone fishery management plan (FMP) development process will help to inform the appropriate level of take (if possible without impacting the resource) of such a fishery.

**Based on discussions and consensus-based decisions at previous Project Team meetings, as well as email submissions from Project Team members<sup>1</sup>, this document has been streamlined for consideration by the Project Team.** This proposal is still in draft form and should not be considered final.

### **De Minimis Fishery Proposal**

*The purpose of this proposed fishery is to provide limited access based on TACs established for each management zone while generating important biological and environmental data.*

- **Season Length:** July to October
- **Bag Limit:** 1 to 2 abalone per permit each season
- **Number of permits:** (*TBD, results from MSE will inform selection of TAC*)
- **Size Limit:** 7"
- **Management Zones:** (*TBD, between 2 to 4 fishing zones*)

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<sup>1</sup> All proposals submitted by the Project Team were reviewed and considered by the Administrative Team:

- Jack Likins- Submitted May 22, 2019 Project Team meeting
- Steven Rebeck- Submitted May 22, 2019 Project Team meeting
- Brandi Easter- Submitted May 22, 2019 Project Team meeting
- Don Thompson- Submitted May 22, 2019 Project Team meeting
- Steven Rebeck- Submitted June 12, 2019
- Edward Schulze- Submitted June 19, 2019
- Ken Morrill - Submitted June 27, 2019
- Brandi Easter - Submitted July 10, 2019
- Doug Jung - Submitted August 11, 2019
- Steve Rebeck - Submitted August 12, 2019
- Scott Taylor - Submitted September 10, 2019
- Ed Schulze - Submitted September 16, 2019
- Jack Likins - Submitted September 24, 2019
- Jan Freiwald – Submitted October 3, 2019
- Ken Morrill – Submitted October 9, 2019

- **Data Collection Scheme:**
  - Prioritize collecting length and density data (as primary data streams feeding into harvest control rule)
  - CDFW to coordinate data collection with pre-determined governmental and non-governmental entities to inform collection of length [sources: Reef Check, harvesters] and density data [source: CDFW], as well as other data streams under consideration for Part A of decision tree [sources: *TBD*]
    - Can align data needs with permit conditions to have harvesters assist with collecting data that isn't as easily attainable (e.g. body condition or gonad index)
- **Permit Allocation Scheme: Preference Point Lottery**
  - A random drawing would pick the permit recipients out of the pool of applicants for each opportunity
    - The first year that *de minimis* fishing opportunities are offered, licensed fishermen may apply for at least one of the opportunities
    - Those applicants not selected would receive a point
    - Selected applicants must purchase the applicable report card (permit) to fish
    - Failure to report the required data by the prescribed date would prohibit the person from applying for permits the following year
  - The second year that opportunities are offered, applicants would be separated into two groups: those with one point and those without any points
    - A random drawing for opportunities would be conducted using the group with one point
    - Any remaining fishing opportunities would be distributed using a second random draw using the group with no points.
    - All applicants not selected would receive one point.
  - Process repeated annually as/if resources allows
- **Special Conditions:**
  - Permit holders must submit their completed report cards (permits) or enter required data online by October 31.
  - Permit holders must provide length data (manually or using machine learning applications) and report on underwater observations
  - Potential subsistence fishing allocation for Tribes and Tribal communities<sup>2</sup>

*This proposal incorporates feedback from the Project Team in the following ways –*

- Avoids slot limits
- Limits season lengths to increase enforceability
- Uses size limits

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<sup>2</sup> During September 19, 2019 Project Team meeting, it was highlighted that the preference point lottery allocation scheme would not meet subsistence needs of Tribes and Tribal communities. California Fish and Game Commission will need to explore whether they have the authority to allocate a portion of the overall TAC to subsistence only harvest by Tribes and Tribal communities.

- Conservative daily bag limits and spreads take across multiple dates to encourage multiple trips to North Coast
- Balances the priorities of supporting the recovery of red abalone while allowing fishing opportunities
- Involves fishermen in data collection efforts
- Provides a precautionary fishing opportunity by limiting access and spreading fishing pressure over a larger area
- Provides an opportunity to gather and provide data in a large region where very little data currently exists

**Outstanding Details to Resolve:**

- Do we need a permit allocation scheme that rotates fishing effort and data collection among sites?
  - Option #1: Harvester preference - may harvest at any site within a fishing zones based.
  - Option #2: Rotational harvest - abalone can only be harvested from a subset of the sites within a zone, and the sites change annually
- Do we allow party applications?
  - Party applications would allow two or more fishermen to apply together, and if their number came up, all members of the party would receive a permit
- How many fishing zones will the fishery be managed under?
  - Option #1: 1) Marin and Sonoma Counties and 2) Mendocino, Del Norte, Humboldt Counties [currently under evaluation by MSE]
  - Option #2: 1) Southern Sonoma (below Salt Point), 2) Northern Sonoma (above Salt Point) 3) Southern Mendocino (Salt Point to Caspar), 4) Northern Mendocino (north of Caspar)
  - Option #3: 1) Marin and Sonoma Counties, 2) Mendocino County, and 3) Del Norte and Humboldt Counties
    - Given limited data from Humboldt and Del Norte, TAC in Zone 3 may be informed by different data (e.g. length data only) or sources than the other fishing zones or set as percentage of historic catch. A precautionary TAC level may also be defined by managers in alignment with understanding of state of the stock and the state's desired level of risk.