

Proposal from Doug Jung
Received August 11, 2019

My focus for the past 5 years has been to “wake” the scientific and regulatory industry to the impending ecological disaster which is now here. We all saw this coming and did nothing till now the vast majority of kelp and abalone are dead. And it gets a lot worse. All on the food and nursery chain are affected. We the little people do not understand the lack of response to this emergency. The exponential death to the resource is worse than a 100 oil spills. It is worse than the fire that burned down my home and the 6000 others in Sonoma alone. Unless we can stabilize the exponential death spiral, the fishery is doomed. How is it working for us?

So we are looking at a de minimis Fishery and that is good to keep hope alive for the 40,000 divers and 10+ times more of the families and friends interconnected. The people are sad, confused and worse angry at what has happen to the people’s resource. What is worse, to let the Resource die from so called “natural causes” or let people harvest some of what will be dead anyway? Pacify the natives...

My preference is if we allow the harvesting of abalone, it should be predicated on public service giving preferential treatment to those helping to smash or bag urchins in saving the surviving seed stock. I’m not saying to give it all to volunteers but at least half should be reserved for those who come out to help. We need motivation for a good deed to bring out hope for volunteers. I am not so concern about me, I am concern about saving the seed stock for the next generation and that means we must encourage a 1000 + divers to come out regularly and self identify as urchin predators to help rebalance nature till nature can take care of itself. We protect the surviving abalone and kelp till the Calvary arrives.

Now if we can just get CDFW to allow the diving community to help in an effective and safe manor, such as sanctify hammering?

Reserving a portion of the tags for volunteers helping to mitigate urchins- That will help motivate more divers to come out. We will need all the help we can get if we are to stabilize the abalone death spiral. It is folly to think we will have much of a resource without addressing the urchin crisis. Time is short as we have squandered five years watch exponential death of the kelp and abalone and not pragmatically addressing the urchin explosion. We can only hope common sense will prevail and effective action taken.