

**ELEMENTS OF A DE-MINIMIS FISHERY**  
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**Overview**

The two sets of proposed abalone Management Strategies from the CDFW and TNC were written to support a high-level, open-access fishery. Because of environmental circumstances an open access fishery as described in the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP) may never again be seen. The peer review of the two management strategies suggested, *“Because of the red abalone population decline and the current fishery closure, we believe it is important to first address the current situation of the fishery.”* And they recommended, *“Given the current status of the populations, we think insuring the scientific underpinning of how to reopen the fishery is critical and timely.”*

Because of the environmental circumstances and the recommendations of the peer review, it is suggested that the Admin Team, Project Team and modelers focus their efforts on defining and developing a management strategy and associated set of Harvest Control Rules (HCR) which allow for re-opening of a de-minimis (restricted access) recreational fishery during the recovery/rebuilding period. A de-minimis fishery can provide fishery-dependent and environmental data, but any level of fishery will also keep fishermen involved in, and aware of, their fishery and the general marine environment.

**Reasons for a de-minimis fishery**

1. To gather fishery-dependent data which can be used to assess the health of the overall marine environment as well as the abalone species and the abalone fishery.
2. Provide a fishery which will offer a level of satisfaction and safety acceptable to fishermen while having minimal impact on recovery of the abalone fishery as defined by managers.
3. Provide a fishery which will encourage fishermen’s involvement in improving their fishery and the overall marine environment (ie the urchin removal projects and Reef Check (citizen) data collection).

**Data/Information gathered from a de-minimis fishery**

1. Scientist, modelers, managers and fishermen to determine what information/data is most valuable to be collected from a de-minimis fishery; and then design a fishery capable of delivering that data, especially

fishery dependent data which cannot be gathered without removing abalone from the water.

2. Scientist and modelers to access the differences between an open access fishery vs. a de-minimis (rebuilding) fishery and how to holistically use data in the different levels of fisheries.
3. Modelers to use MSE to determine associated risk levels with different types and levels of de-minimis fisheries; and to assist in developing that fishery.

### **Management and enforcement of a de-minimis fishery**

1. What information and data will fishermen be required to report?
2. How will data be collected from fishermen?
3. Which locations and levels of fisheries can support small restricted access fisheries? How large should management areas be in order to spread effort?
4. A management system for issuing tags/permits needs to be determined (ie similar to the ALDS deer/elk tag system?).
5. The fishery and data collection must be practical and enforceable within the constraints of costs.
6. Should the extra costs of management and enforcement be borne by fishermen/users? If so what are abalone fishermen willing pay?