

Proposal from Jan Freiwald

I just wanted to comment on the 4 zones that were proposed. In my mind this option is not viable given the locations of current data collection. If, regardless of the exact boundaries, 4 zones, as proposed (consisting (1) Marin/Southern Sonoma; (2) Northern Sonoma; (3) Southern Mendocino; and (4) Northern Mendocino/Humboldt/Del Norte), are used, large areas of the coast will be managed based on data from a very limited geographic range. What I mean is, for example, the zone northern Mendocino/Humboldt/Del Norte will be managed based on data only collected in "northern" Mendocino County, in my mind that creates the false idea that there is data available to manage the fisheries in the two northern counties when in fact they are managed on even less data than if they were combined with all of Mendocino County. I don't see what the benefit of this would be and don't think that northern Mendocino County is any more similar to Humboldt and Del Norte than all of Mendocino County. So I don't see a benefit of this option compared to a two zone system where the "north" is managed based on Mendocino County data and the "south" (i.e. Sonoma/Marin) is managed based on Sonoma data. In fact, I think the cleanest solution would be a 3 zone system where Sonoma and Mendocino are managed based on the respective data and the third zone is managed in the absence of data, at least for now, until we can develop sufficient data collection in those three counties: Marin, Humboldt and Del Norte. Then, as data collection in those counties is implemented they can be managed based on their own data, or if dynamics are similar to either Mendocino or Sonoma they can be combined with those counties into larger management zones.