

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2015

**5. ABALONE FMP****Today's Item****Information** **Action** 

Receive update from DFW on red abalone fishery management plan (FMP) development process and timeline.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- FGC/MRC discuss DFW options to review abalone management Apr 2013 - Aug 2014
- FGC accepts MRC recommendation to develop red abalone FMP Oct 8, 2014; Mt Shasta
- **Today receive update on FMP process Nov 4, 2014; Ventura**

**Background**

The management and recovery of abalone species in California is guided by the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP), adopted by FGC in 2005. The ARMP was required by legislation in 1997, prior to enactment of the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) that requires FMPs form the primary basis for managing the state's marine fisheries. The ARMP was recognized as an interim management plan until a long-term plan could be developed. In light of changes in the red abalone fishery, and limitations in the management responses available under the ARMP, FGC endorsed a proposal from DFW to develop an FMP for the existing northern recreational red abalone fishery, separate from recovery under the ARMP.

The endorsed process to develop the red abalone FMP was launched through a series of public workshops hosted by DFW and FGC staff in Sep and Oct 2014, followed by a month-long online angler survey commencing in Feb 2015. In Mar 2015, MRC received an update from DFW on survey participation and reviewed next steps in the FMP development process.

At this meeting, DFW will review progress to date, and provide an update on the timeline and opportunities for public and scientific input.

**Significant Public Comments**

1. Bill Bernard, representing the California Coalition of Diving Advocates, in support of managing abalone at a finer spatial scale to allow for more proactive and responsive management

**Recommendation**

Solicit public input on the results of the process to date and anticipated next steps. This topic will be a standing agenda item during FMP development.

**Exhibits**

1. [Email from Bill Bernard](#), California Coalition of Diving Advocates, received Apr 7, 2015

**Committee Direction (N/A)**

**From:** [Bill Bernard](#)  
**To:** [FGC](#); [Mastrup, Sonke@FGC](#); [Ashcraft, Susan@FGC](#); [Shuman, Craig@Wildlife](#); [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)  
**Subject:** Abalone FMP Frame Opportunities and Goals Recommendation  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 07, 2015 10:36:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [CCDA Abalone FMP Recommendation Frame Opportunities Goals Phase.pdf](#)

---

Please find the attached PDF Document:  
Abalone FMP Frame Opportunities and Goals Recommendation.

Submitted on behalf of the California Coalition of Diving Advocated diving club.

Best regards,  
Mr. Bill Bernard



## California Coalition of Diving Advocates

Conservation-Education-Science-Policy-Stewardship



4/7/15

After a decade and more, of having been a seated recreational member representative to the Commissions AAG process, the North Central Coast Marine Life Protection Act and the Al Taucher subcommittee, it would be inaccurate to say that I have not become “constituent educated” from these experiences in many wildlife science and the management thereof that science along with the issues and policy related.

I am going to go at it backwards, if by the competition of recreational red abalone FMP process, and if the Department recommendation were to be just simply rename the two regions the abalone fishery currently operates in today, and do nothing more than just that then we will have just simply advance the self full filling prophecy to closure of the abalone fishery.

Commissioners, Mr. Director, you have taken the first steps towards ending the self full filling prophecy by choosing to remove the recreational red abalone fishery out from under the auspicious of the ARMP into the MLMA- FMP process. Don't quit on the constituents now. We need to finish what we have started, and not fail by proclaiming practically prevents us from doing what we need to do. We can do, within the currently practically of the times, what needs to be done to ensure a sustainable recreational abalone fishery that the constituency of today and tomorrow will participate in with satisfaction of enjoyment.

6.2.2.1 of the ARMP. So much of our red abalone MVP is based upon the work of Shepherd & Brown. Shepherd and Brown (1993) found that recruitment started to decline when densities fell below 3,000 ab/ha. Stock collapsed when adult densities fell below 1,000 ab/ha.

A problem is Shepherd did not assess the densities of abalone the way the Department does today. Waterloo Bay Australia 1985, Shepherd, et al sent his divers out with a newly designed caliper. Divers were assigned to quadrants within the Bay and each measured, counted abalone not in transects as the DFW does, but measured abalone and the counts of abalone to obtain size and numbers of abalone totals against the mathematics designed to measure power of detection. Speed of measurement and the number of measurements made over time equated to the power of detection. Divers measured abalone using what was known as the free roam method within a quadrant. On average it took between 2.9 to 6.2 seconds to measure an abalone. The free roam method tends to produce more abalone counts than transect methods, but has the substantial advantage of saving time underwater. The numbers of abalone found, across the sizes found can usually correlate, and are used to determine SPR ratio's at site scales.

Commissioners in your packets today you have a letter from The Nature Conservancy, authored by Jono Wilson, PhD., and its intent is timed to meet and go beyond the phase in which the abalone FMP process is at now: Frame Opportunities and Goals. The four suggestive consideration and the rationales for each of the suggestion considerations are appropriate within scoping practicalities of the times. It is our hope that you will advance all of the suggestive recommendation today to the next steps in the abalone FMP process for further consideration by the Commission and the Department.



California Coalition of Diving Advocates

Conservation-Education-Science-Policy-Stewardship



At this time, as the representative for the California Coalition of Diving Advocates diving club we advocate that uses of zones, more than two and ideally four zones be used in the development of the Recreational Red Abalone Fishery FMP process; plus the contents of Dr. Jono Wilson TNC letter be advanced forward. Within the TNC letter recommendation letter Consideration 1: for examining area-specific stock information (perhaps by established sub-region) and a more flexible and adaptive approach to adjusting (up or down) management interventions (e.g. size limits, closures) at the appropriate spatial scale would allow for more responsive and proactive management.

Mr. Bill Bernard  
Representative, CCDA.