

## COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MARCH 21, 2016

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

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

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- FGC accepts MRC recommendation to develop red abalone FMP Oct 8, 2014; Mt Shasta
- Receive update on FMP process Nov 4, 2015; Ventura
- **Today receive update on FMP process Mar 21, 2016; Los Alamitos**

**Background**

A fishery management plan (FMP) for red abalone is under development. Currently, the management and recovery of all 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). The MLMA now requires that FMPs form the primary basis for managing the state's marine fisheries. 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 California 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 the fall of 2014, followed by an online angler survey in Feb 2015. Since then, DFW has provided updates at MRC meetings on stakeholder input and next steps in the FMP development process.

DFW has informed staff that the original FMP timeline will need to be modified due to extensive efforts to support Dungeness crab sampling for domoic acid by the same staff involved in preparing the FMP. At this meeting, DFW will provide an update on the timeline, as well as opportunities for public and scientific input.

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits (N/A)****Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)**