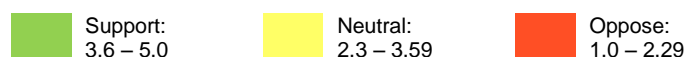


## RECREATIONAL RED ABALONE FISHING SURVEY RESULTS

**Survey Period: February 6 to March 6, 2015**

Survey questions and results are listed below. Responses for divers and rock pickers are presented separately because these two groups of fishers may have different priorities for the abalone fishery. A weighted average score was calculated to represent the overall opinion of the fishery participants, with weights based on the percent fishery participation of each group (78% divers; 22% rock pickers). These weights are based on telephone surveys conducted in 2013 that were directed to abalone report card holders.

Survey participants were asked to select a number 1 through 5 to state their support for each statement.



### ABALONE FISHING PRIORITIES

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**For your abalone fishing, how important is it to...**

*5 = Extremely important   4 = Somewhat important   3 = Neutral   2 = Somewhat unimportant  
1 = Not important at all*

Fishing Priority	Average Management Scores		
	Divers	Rock Pickers	Weighted Average
Keep or increase public access to fishing areas.	4.5	4.4	4.5
Get the full daily bag limit.	3.6	3.8	3.7
Fish for the entire season.	3.7	3.2	3.6
Catch trophy-sized abalone.	3.5	2.9	3.4
Catch the annual limit.	2.7	2.7	2.8
Take abalone even if it may be difficult to find legal-sized abalone.	2.3	2.7	2.4

### ABALONE MANAGEMENT

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In the following section, we present abalone management ideas including suggestions by stakeholders and some potential compromises (trade-offs) that may be required. We are interested in the strength of support for the various compromises in revising the current fishery management structure.

*5 = Strongly support   4 = Somewhat support   3 = Neutral   2 = Somewhat oppose   1 = Strongly oppose*

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1. The management of the red abalone fishery may differ depending on whether a priority is to maintain fishing opportunities (seasons, limits, open areas) or to maintain high catch rates (easy to get bag limits). While both approaches would act to prevent depletion, making fishing opportunity a priority could result in lower numbers of abalone and people might have a harder time reaching their take limit of abalone. If maintaining a high catch rate is a priority then fishing opportunities are more restricted to conserve high abalone abundances.

Would you support fishery management that...

Management Concept	Average Management Scores		
	Divers	Rock Pickers	Weighted Average
...is designed to maximize opportunities to fish, although it could be more difficult to find abalone?	3.4	3.1	3.4
...is designed with reduced fishing opportunity to maintain higher abalone abundances, making it easier to find abalone?	2.7	3.2	2.9

2. Abalone are currently managed as a single unit (San Francisco to Oregon), where regulation changes apply to the whole unit. Rather than managing the fishery as a single unit, abalone could be managed by zones to allow regulatory changes to apply to specific locations. Dividing the fishery into zones could provide more management flexibility and allow more restrictive regulations only where needed.

Would you support management by zones if this...

Management Concept	Average Management Scores		
	Divers	Rock Pickers	Weighted Average
...would result in more consistent/stable regulations in low-use zones?	3.6	3.6	3.6
...allows for separate regulations for heavily fished and lightly fished areas?	3.5	3.5	3.5
...means higher report card fees to cover increased management costs?	2.8	2.8	2.9
...increases the complexity of regulations?	2.4	2.5	2.4

3. A preference lottery system to limit the number of fishermen in specific zones or in the entire fishing area could be used as an alternative to more restrictive seasons, size limits, daily bag limits, or area closures.

Would you support a lottery system if this means...

Management Concept	Average Management Scores		
	Divers	Rock Pickers	Weighted Average
... the lottery is only used for certain zones or sites and other zones remain open under general rules?	2.5	2.7	2.5
... closing an area could be avoided or an area could be re-opened sooner?	2.2	2.7	2.4
... not everyone would be allowed to hunt abalone every year at all locations?	1.8	2.3	1.9
...lottery winners could be limited in which zones they use?	1.8	2.1	1.9

4. Current fishery monitoring provides an update on the fishery status every three years. More frequent updates could allow faster response to changes in the populations through time.

Would you support more responsive management for abalone if this means...

Management Concept	Average Management Scores		
	Divers	Rock Pickers	Weighted Average
...changes in abalone populations will be detected sooner?	3.9	3.9	3.9
... regulations may change more frequently?	3.2	3.2	3.2
...higher report card fees to cover increased management costs?	2.9	2.9	2.9

5. Some fishers have recommended increasing the minimum size limit to offer greater protection for abalone populations.

Would you support an increase in the minimum size limit if this means...

Management Concept	Average Management Scores		
	Divers	Rock Pickers	Weighted Average
... improved health for the abalone population?	3.9	3.1	3.7
... it takes you more time to get your daily bag limit?	3.7	3.0	3.6
...you may have less success in getting a daily bag limit?	3.6	2.9	3.5
... less restrictions on other take regulations?	3.4	2.9	3.3

6. Currently, locations closed to abalone fishing will re-open when abalone population densities reach full recovery.

Would you support re-opening closed sites prior to full recovery if this means...

Management Concept	Average Management Scores		
	Divers	Rock Pickers	Weighted Average
...your success rate is lower in a recovery site than in other sites?	2.9	2.8	2.9
... only a limited number of anglers could fish there each year (such as through a lottery system?)	2.4	2.6	2.5
... it will delay recovery and you may have reduced limits or more restrictions for many years in a recovery site?	2.4	2.4	2.4

7. Abalone card fees are adjusted minimally each year. These fees help pay for abalone management, enforcement, and education and outreach. In 2014, the cost of an abalone report card was \$22.17.

If it meant more active management and increased enforcement effort to reduce poaching, would you support increasing the fee for the abalone report card to...

*Fee options	Proportion of Respondents (rounded to nearest percentage)		
	Divers	Rock Pickers	Weighted Average
\$30	51%	66%	54%
\$40	24%	17%	23%
\$50	25%	17%	23%
<b>**No more than...</b>			
\$0 - \$20	16%	22%	17%
\$20 - \$30	54%	47%	52%
\$30 - \$100	18%	14%	17%
More than \$100	12%	18%	13%

\* Respondents chose one among 3 possible fee options.

\*\* Respondents were given a blank space to write answer. Answers were then divided up into ranges.

8. Abalone report card fees are the same for everyone regardless of the number of abalone caught. Adoption of progressive fees for abalone report cards could create a low-cost option for fishing at low levels, and increase costs for those who take more abalone. One way to create progressive fees is to allow multiple low-catch report cards (e.g. 6 abalone per card) with increased costs for additional cards. The number of cards allowed is determined by the annual limit.

Would you support progressive report card fees and multiple low-catch report cards if...

Management Concept	Average Management Scores		
	Divers	Rock Pickers	Weighted Average
...the first card costs less than the current card (\$22.17)?	3.2	3.2	3.2
...the limit on each card was 9 abalone?	3.2	3.1	3.2
...subsequent cards cost more than the current card?	2.8	2.9	2.8
...the first card costs the same as the current card?	2.7	2.8	2.7
...the limit on each card was 6 abalone?	2.7	2.7	2.7