

Meeting Summary and Outcomes
Recreational Abalone Advisory Committee (RAAC)
Thursday, December 1, 2016
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: Teleconference

RAAC Members Present: Brooke Halsey, Josh Russo, Doug Laughlin, Dennis Haussler, Chris Voss, Nancy Caruso, Joel Hendricks, Ian Taniguchi, Peter Haaker, Ed Schulze (northern alternate)

Others Present: Carol Rose (RAAC note taker), Brandi Easter, Bill Bernard, Taya Lazootin, Jack Likins, Jack Beallo, Steve Benavides, Bob Beras

Key Outcomes:

1. Proposed Emergency Rulemaking for the 2017 red abalone fishery

1.1 Update on Emergency rulemaking options: An update on the Emergency Rulemaking options was provided to the group. The latest rulemaking options are based on discussion and decisions made at the MRC meeting on November 15. There are three options for consideration at the December FGC meeting.

- i. Reduce the annual limit to 9 and close the month of November
- ii. Reduce the annual limit to 9 and close the months of November and April
- iii. Reduce the annual limit to 12 and close the months of November and April

1.2 Further discussion: A discussion on the merits of all options was conducted with various points raised.

- i. The loss of April will have economic impacts to local businesses but it may also reduce fatalities from drownings etc. that occur when people get into the ocean regardless of the conditions (Sacramento syndrome)
- ii. Concerns were raised about fishery reductions and the ‘track record’ of not getting anything back. A recommendation to include a sunset clause was suggested. Emergency rulemakings already have a sunset to them because they are temporary (initial affect 180 days with two possible 90 day extensions thereafter). The Commission expects a follow up with a standard rulemaking package to either formalize the emergency rulemaking response or provide alternative regulations that are comparable or satisfy the need for emergency rulemaking.

1.3 RAAC recommendation on Emergency Rulemaking: Josh made a motion to recommend the third option of an annual limit of 12 and closure of April and November. Dennis seconded the motion. The committee approved with one abstention.

1.4 RAAC recommendation For further LED support in 2017 season: Someone asked about the status of the recommendation to the director for funding for a 1,000 hours of OT to LED. No action yet on this issue. The committee discussed the concern for proper funding for LED for the next season when the emergency rules go into effect. Dennis made a motion to recommend to the director that an additional \$25,000 go to support LED Over time from the account’s prudent reserve for next season. Nancy seconded the motion and the committee approved.

2. RAAC as communication conduit for engaging on the red abalone FMP development

2.1 Continued discussion from November 5 RAAC meeting: The committee discussed becoming more involved in the FMP development process. Issues on how to engage, level of involvement, time commitment, and feasibility of participation in the FMP process were discussed. The committee all agreed that they should play a more active role in the FMP development and committed to doing so.

2.2 RAAC recommendation on FMP development role: Chris motioned that the RAAC be involved in the FMP development and be kept informed on its progress and interact with the Department in the further development of the FMP. Josh second the motion and the committee approved it.

3. Public Expression

Taya Lazootin – RAAC should consider utilizing conference calls more in conducting committee business. Not everyone can attend meetings and conference calls are an easy way for more people to engage with the committee. Brandy Easter also agrees since it is difficult for her to travel to attend meetings from where she lives.

Ed Schulze – Report card fees should be increased to support the increase in LED overtime that the RAAC recommended to the Director. The results of the fishing survey showed support for this increase.

Jack Likins – Size limits should really be considered in managing the fishery. If there is concern about additional mortality from changing size limits, then there are ways to address this concern through regulations. For example, we could require that you keep all abalone that you pull off and if any are under the size limit you must use two tags rather than one.

4. Wrap up, next meeting and Adjournment

4.1 Next meeting tentatively scheduled for March 11 in Petaluma, CA.

4.2 Meeting Adjourned