

**MEETING SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES**  
**Recreational Abalone Advisory Committee (RAAC)**  
**Saturday, March 18, 2017**  
**2:00 PM – 5:30 PM**

**Location:** Freedive Shop, 2500 Del Monte Street, Suite 110, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

**RAAC Members Present:** Peter Haaker, Nancy Caruso, Joel Hendricks, Ian Taniguchi, Dennis Haussler, Chris Voss, Josh Russo, Doug Laughlin, Brooke Halsey (phone).

**Key Outcomes:**

1. Approved replacing Ian Taniguchi as chair of committee with Sonke Mastrup. Ian will remain as science advisor to the committee.
2. Requested that Department set up workshop to be hosted by committee to discuss draft fishery management plan for the northern red abalone fishery. Late July was identified as a possible month to hold workshop. Requested that letter be sent to Director requesting his support for this effort.
3. Supports Josh Russo's concept of incorporating flexibility in 2017 rulemaking and FMP for experimentation relative to harvest strategies. Supports Josh addressing the Commission to request such flexibility in the FMP.
4. Supports funding for enforcement saturation patrols this spring.

**Summary:**

This meeting of the RAAC followed a meeting hosted by Josh Russo and the Freedive Shop to discuss the pending regulatory effort and fishery management plan. The Fish and Game Commission is set to consider making permanent the emergency regulations adopted in December of 2016. The RAAC continued the discussions from the earlier meeting and what role they could play in both the regulatory and FMP efforts. It was decided that the RAAC was a good venue for expanding public engagement for the FMP effort and requested the Department support this effort.

The RAAC reviewed the Abalone Dedicated Account budget as modified by the 2016-17 budget act and implementation by the Department. Concern was expressed that poaching was out of control and not getting enough attention by the Department. The committee reinforced its previous recommendation to the Director that more resources need to be allocated to enforcement.

**Notes:**

- Procedural – compliant about time it has taken to get minutes completed – Carol apologizes

**1. 14:15 – 15:00 Regulations for 2017 red abalone fishery and the Fish and Game Commission standard rulemaking for 2018**

Discussion of the proposed approach to the emergency regulations adopted in December 2016. The FGC appears to prefer rolling over the emergency regulations for 2018. Questions about opportunity to change the emergency regulations were raised. Without new information about the fishery, it is unlikely that the FGC would change the regulations. Recommendations inconsistent with existing management plan (ARMP) would require the FGC to set aside the plan, something that the Department could not support without a replacement plan.

Experimentation with management strategies would be appropriate to consider for the FMP rather than through the 2017 regulatory effort. The Department supports the ability to experiment with harvest strategies to improve opportunity and accountability.

The committee asked when the density data from the 2016 surveys would be ready for public release. Department indicated it would be out soon. Copies of raw data have been shared with a few who have requested it.

Josh asking RAAC to support: 'if conditions improve, does RAAC support modifying Dept. recommendation- entertain change if conditions, to their approval, change/improve' – Josh will represent RAAC at meeting. The Department expects the FGC to start discussing the 2017 regulation effort. Questions were raised about possibility of changes to the emergency regulations. Without new information, the Department is skeptical changes would be entertained. Josh will be attending MRC meeting next week.

## **2. 15:00 – 15:45 Red abalone FMP development update (Taniguchi)**

The RAAC discussed its interest in being part of the FMP development process. The Department felt the proposal could help with public outreach. The meeting would need to be scheduled in July or August to be most effective. Department recommended asking the Director for support and would initiate drafting an agenda.

The Department shared the expected time line for the FMP. The plan is to present an overview of the draft at the June FGC meeting. The Department expects the FGC to provide guidance as to how it wants the plan vetted and some idea of an adoption timeline. The first in-depth discussion as part of the FGC process is expected at the MRC meeting in July.

- Deliver overview of draft FMP at the June FGC
- Discuss at MRC meeting in July

Peer Review – Ocean Science Trust and by other similar groups such as TNC (tech review on model)

## **3. 15:45 – 16:30 Budget 2017/18 and abalone dedicated account (Taniguchi)**

Reduced some PYs – but lost OT enforcement money - Sonke looking to get it back

Doing 2 saturations – needs \$25,000 each

Only 2 marine wardens now????

Marine enforcement region being rebuilt –change structure

Try to get annual OT money from local County F&W commissions

Director has not made any decision on RAAC request for RAAC money

Could affect 2017-18 budget year to start July

## **4. 16:30 – 16:45 Other Business**

Citizen volunteers – useful 1 April? Print and send PDF email sent to all ab card holders reminding of 1 May opening. send info all ways possible

**5. 16:45 – 17:15 Public Expression on other agenda items** (please limit to 3 minutes per person) none

**6. 17:15 – 17:30 Wrap up, next meeting and Adjournment** TBA