

Reasons for developing a Red Abalone Fishery Management Plan



California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Marine Region Invertebrate Program

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Currently all abalone species in California are managed under the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP). The Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP) is the first management plan to provide a cohesive framework for the recovery of depleted abalone populations and the management of abalone fisheries in California. The development of the ARMP was mandated under a 1997 state law that also implemented an abalone fishing moratorium for the southern half of the state. The ARMP was adopted by the Fish and Game Commission in 2005 and has served as the focal point for guiding management of the northern California recreational red abalone fishery since then.

Abalone fishery management under the ARMP is divided into two phases of adaptive management: the interim management plan, which the fishery was managed under up until 2018, and the long-term management plan. The interim plan adaptively manages the northern California fishery as a single unit on a highly precautionary basis. The ARMP objective is to move the fishery into long-term management, where management is locally based, more responsive and adaptive, and less precautionary in nature. The ARMP and background information can be found on the CDFW ARMP [website](#).

During abalone fishery regulation changes in 2011 and 2013, CDFW received significant support from the public and the Fish and Game Commission regarding the transition of the fishery from interim management to long-term management. CDFW began this transition by initially asking for [an independent technical review of its survey methods for estimating red abalone density \(PDF\)](#). Monitoring abalone density is a major component of the adaptive management approach used in interim management of the recreational red abalone fishery. Density is a measure of abalone abundance in terms of the number of abalone per a given area, usually expressed as the number of abalone per square meter. The [California Ocean Science Trust](#) conducted the independent review for CDFW and convened a science advisory committee that produced a [technical review report \(PDF\)](#). The report with its recommendations will be an important resource for development of the red abalone FMP. Both the public support for ARMP long term management strategies along with the technical review served as the impetus to create a management plan for red abalone under the MLMA that is separate from the ARMP.