

## **I. Background**

The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) [provided a grant](#) to the Ocean Science Trust to facilitate a scientific peer review of the management strategies provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC)-led stakeholder team. The Final Recreational Red Abalone Peer Review Report, including a key themes summary from the first community webinar, is accessible [here](#).

After the completion of the peer review process and review of the final report, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) made the following recommendation at its December 2018 meeting: (1) Support addressing peer review recommendations to integrate aspects of both draft management strategies, based on a simulation modeling approach co-developed by CDFW and the TNC-led stakeholder team, including engagement with abalone divers and other stakeholders; (2) revise Fishery Management Plan (FMP) goals to allow for a *de minimis* fishery option; (3) develop triggers for the *de minimis* fishery option in consultation with stakeholders; and (4) request that CDFW develop a proposed process and timeline which accounts for active public and Marine Resources Council (MRC) engagement.

## **II. Purpose of the Project Team**

The primary purpose of the Project Team is to discuss and provide feedback on all scientific analyses conducted by the modelers to inform the management strategies integration process and provide input on *de minimis* (i.e., restricted/managed) fishery design. Such advice is critical to informing the revised management chapter for the Recreational Red Abalone FMP for the North Coast.

In order to ensure a successful outcome, the Project Team will conduct the following activities:

- 1) Consider all recommendations from the final Recreational Red Abalone Peer Review Report;
- 2) Review all scientific documents provided by the lead modeler and affiliates;
- 3) Provide constructive feedback on science reported by the lead modeler and affiliates;
- 4) Contribute to the design of *de minimis* fishery;
- 5) Propose candidate management strategies based on outcomes of simulation modeling work; and
- 6) Engage in productive and respectful discussions with all Project Team members and the facilitation team.

## **II. Participation**

Participation on the Project Team will be open to all members of the public, including members of the abalone fishing community, Tribes and tribal communities, non-governmental organizations, scientists, resource managers, the Recreational Abalone Advisory Committee, as well as staff of state agencies (i.e. CDFW, OPC, Commission). The Project Team, with the assistance of the facilitation team, will leverage the experiences, expertise, and insights of all participants committed to the success of the management strategies proposal integration process. A quantitative fisheries modeler will support the work of the Project Team during and between meetings.

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There will be no formal assigned seats unless it becomes necessary at a later time to maintain the productivity of the team. Project Team members are not directly responsible for managing project activities, rather they are charged with providing advice and guidance to inform activities of the Administrative Team in their role to "generate a summary report for fishery managers to inform re-drafting of (the recreational Red Abalone) fishery management plan."

As members of the Project Team, all agree to adhere to the following Meeting Agreements:

- Support CDFW during the FMP development to ensure a successful outcome;
- Listen to build mutual understanding;
- Openly and constructively discuss issues with others, respect differences;
- Focus on brainstorming ideas, with the intention to develop creative solutions;
- Arrive at each meeting prepared to discuss agenda items, including reviewing materials and information distributed in advance of the meeting or conference call;
- Contribute to and support constructive discussions focused on the charge of the group rather than personal interests; and
- When any individual is attending a Project Team meeting as a key contributor, that individual is expected to stay for the duration of the meeting unless prior arrangements have been made with the meeting facilitators.

Peer review panel representatives may attend Project Team meetings following the procedures below, as well as review work products to provide input to the process to ensure products are in line with peer review recommendations.

### **III. Project Team Meetings and Procedures**

The Project Team shall convene over a series of six full-day meetings (in-person or via webinar) between May and December 2019 in order to fulfill its advisory responsibilities. All Project Team meetings will be under third-party, neutral facilitation provided by Strategic Earth Consulting, and funded by the OPC. Project Team meetings will be informed by an agenda as put forth by the Administrative Team. Materials for review will be made available 1 week before any Project Team meeting.

During any small group breakout sessions for proposal development, each group will be provided with clear objectives, guidance, and background information. Breakout groups will incorporate a mix of scientists, industry, non-profit practitioners, and agency staff, with those individuals from any under-represented demographic or area of expertise floating between groups. Discussions held in breakout groups will be reported out to the full Project Team in plenary to promote information sharing and to be captured in meeting summaries.

#### *Project Team Decision Making*

No formal voting will take place within the Project Team. While all proposed ideas and recommendations will be taken into consideration, those ideas/proposals that have strong support from a broad representation of Project Team members (i.e., across stakeholder interests) will be prioritized by

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the Administrative Team for consideration in their final report to the Commission. The Administrative Team's report will aim to articulate background/context on minority options/ideas where broad agreement by the Project Team is not reached.

*Proposal Development*

Members of the Project Team and other interested stakeholders are invited to share ideas, proposals, comments, and questions regarding the integration of management strategies and development of a *de minimis* fishery option for consideration and discussion during Project Team meetings. Input and guidance may be directed to the Administrative Team, peer review panel representatives, and the quantitative fisheries lead modeler and affiliates. Proposals and comments will be made publicly available and efforts will be made by the Project Team and/or Administrative Team to be responsive to proposals submitted for consideration. Participants and others may convey their thoughts verbally during meetings (in-person only) or in a written format at any time.

For more information about the Project Team or the Recreational Red Abalone FMP process, please visit <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2019/05/red-abalone-management-strategies-integration/>.