

Staff Summary for April 17-18, 2024

29. Non-Regulatory Requests from Previous Meetings**Today's Item**Information Action

Consider and potentially act on requests for non-regulatory action received from members of the public at previous meetings.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Commission received requests April 17-18, 2024
- **Today, potentially act on requests June 19-20, 2024**

Background

Requests for non-regulatory action are received from members of the public under general public comment. All non-regulatory requests follow a two-meeting cycle to ensure proper review and thorough consideration of each item. All requests received in writing or public testimony during general public comment at the previous Commission meeting are scheduled for consideration at the next regular meeting. Referred non-regulatory requests are scheduled for action once the evaluation is completed and a recommendation made.

Two non-regulatory requests received in April are scheduled for action today. Exhibit 1 provides the staff recommendations and rationale, developed with input from the Department; see exhibits 2-3 for individual requests.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

Commission staff: Adopt the staff recommendation for the non-regulatory requests as reflected in Exhibit 1.

Exhibits

1. [Summary of non-regulatory requests and staff recommendations for request scheduled for action, updated June 4, 2024](#)
2. [Email and attachments from Alicia Bonnette, former recording secretary for California Abalone Association, received March 11, 2024](#)
3. [Email from Don Striepeke, received April 1, 2024](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for action on the non-regulatory request as reflected in Exhibit 1.

OR

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for the non-regulatory requests as reflected in Exhibit 1, except for _____, for which the action is _____.

**California Fish and Game Commission
Non-Regulatory Requests for Action – Updated June 4, 2024**

CFGC - California Fish and Game Commission CDFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
WRC - Wildlife Resources Committee MRC - Marine Resources Committee

Date Received	Name of Requestor	Subject of Request	Short Description	Category	FGC Receipt Scheduled	FGC Initial Action Scheduled	Initial Staff Recommendation
3/11/2024	Alicia Bonnette, formerly California Abalone Association (CAA)	Red abalone statewide recovery plan	Requests CFGC and CDFW incorporate the full history of efforts, information collected, and plans done statewide over the past 20 years when forming the "working group", including CAA work and The Nature Conservancy fishery management plan work; provides background document.	Marine	4/17-18/24	6/19-20/24	The background documentation of the red abalone working group's and CAA's efforts has been shared with CFGC and CDFW staffs to consider within the red abalone recovery plan. No further action recommended.
4/1/2024	Don Striepeke	Gooseneck barnacles	Requests that CFGC and CDFW discuss the potential of authorizing recreational take of gooseneck barnacles, which are already killed incidentally during mussel harvest.	Marine	4/17-18/24	6/19-20/24	The Commission has previously denied regulation change petitions to authorize recreational gooseneck barnacle take for two reasons: (1) Existing fisheries have been prioritized for management focus under the Marine Life Management Act master plan framework; and (2) Opening a new fishery for the petitioned species would require collecting sufficient data to determine sustainability and redirecting staff away from prioritized management needs. Therefore, staff recommends no further action at this time.

From: Generic Bonnette [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 06:24 PM

To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Subject: Letter and Attachment to Commission Executive Director Miller-Henson

Please accept the attached letter and attachment for Ms. Miller-Henson and provide copies to Commission and DFW staff listed.

Thank you. Alicia Bonnette

March 10, 2024

Melissa A. Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,

I was the recording secretary for the California Abalone Association (CAA), under then President Chris Voss, from July 2004 until August 2012. During that time there were thousands of hours (see attached CAA Fishery Development History) dedicated to development of adaptative management and fishery plans related to California's red abalone. After many years of being absent in the world of abalone I see that the Commission and Marine Staff are once again engaging in conversations regarding this resource.

First is a petition (Tracking Number 2024-02) requesting regulation change to "reopen the red abalone fishery at San Miguel Island, Santa Barbara County only". This to be received by the Commission at its April 17-18, 2024 meeting. With subsequent action (to deny or grant for further consideration in a future rulemaking) scheduled for the Commission's June 19-20, 2024 meeting.

Second was a posting in the Marine Management News Blog on March 7, 2024 where the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking individuals to join the Red Abalone Recovery Community Working Group to help develop California's Red Abalone Recovery Plan.

In assembling this "Working Group" I would like the Commission and Marine Management staff to recognize and take into consideration ALL of the efforts, information collected, and plans developed by dozens of individuals, groups, and organizations over the last twenty (20) years. Including, but not limited to, the most recent efforts by The Nature Conservancy in their draft of a Recreational Red Abalone Fishery Management Plan.

I believe these past efforts create a solid structural basis for a comprehensive abalone fishery management plan that embraces components of the Abalone Recovery Management Plan (ARMP) while incorporating principals of the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA).

Thank you for your consideration.



Alicia Bonnette

Attachment: CAA Fishery Development History

Copies To:

Susan Ashcraft, Commission Marine Advisor
Dr. Craig Shuman, DFW Marine Region 7 Manager
Joanna Grebel, DFW Invertebrate Program Manager
Samantha Murray, Fish & Game Commission President
Erika Zavaleta, Fish & Game Commission Vice President
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Fish & Game Commission Member
Eric Sklar, Fish & Game Commission Member
Darius W. Anderson, Fish & Game Commission Member
Don Thompson, California Abalone Association President

**CALIFORNIA ABALONE ASSOCIATION (CAA)
FISHERY DEVELOPMENT HISTORY
“PARALYSIS OF ANALYSIS”**

CAA MISSION STATEMENT

“To restore and steward a market abalone fishery in California that utilizes modern management concepts, protects and enhances the resource, and guarantees a sustainable resource for the future.”

The California Abalone Association (CAA) is dedicating the efforts of its membership to reopen a market abalone fishery in California. Below is a brief history of the activities that are bringing this dream to fruition. However, it should be noted that the CAA membership has never lost sight of their mission. Over the last nine (9) years, prior to July 2005, several members of the Association have consistently dedicated their efforts to keep the possibility of a fishery in the forefront of the public process.

Between August 26, 2004 and August 10, 2012 CAA members have participated in and/or attended the following meetings:

35	Commission
16	Marine Resource Committee
11	Limited Fishery Task Teams
14	AAG
<u>4</u>	Research Proposal Steering Group
80	TOTAL

May 22, 1997 (ARMP – Appendix A: Section A.1.3) 120 day closure of all abalone in southern and central California. **Sept 19, 1997** Extended emergency closure & closure of fishery for all abalone south of San Francisco. **2000** Only red abalone north of San Francisco Bay may be taken. (Unable to locate Commission documents regarding their findings or CDFG’s recommendation for emergency closure)

October 1997

Governor Pete Wilson signed SB463 into law. This bill imposed a “moratorium on the taking, possessing, or landing of abalone for commercial or recreational purposes in ocean waters of the state south of a line drawn due west magnetic from the center of the mouth of the San Francisco Bay, including all islands offshore the mainland of California”. Under this bill the California Department of Fish & Game was required to submit to the Commission “a comprehensive abalone recovery and management plan” before January 1, 2003 (the ARMP was not approved until December 2005). Under the bill “once a plan is submitted, the Department may apply to the Commission to reopen sport or commercial fishing in all of any portion of the waters closed by the moratorium”.

Moratorium: A delay or suspension of an activity or an authorized period of delay or waiting.

August 26, 2004

Commission Meeting (Morro Bay)

Public Forum: Don Thompson “stated that in discussions with Sen. Thompson, the original legislation was to include mitigation for those displaced divers, but to date there has been no aid. He indicated that the problems with the ARMP include inconsistencies in defining density; biomass estimates are not used in determining the health of the resource; and the goals of the plan are not feasible or reasonable given the current population data”.

Steve Rebeck (CAA Representative at that time) commented that “red abalone is not threatened or endangered and should not be included in the moratorium. He noted that the CDFG promised an ARMP by 1999 and that the fishery would be opened in as little as 18 months, and seven years later there has been no progress. He indicated that he did not think that the CDFG is data poor and that sea otters are not affecting red abalone.”

July 19, 2005

Special Commission Meeting to Receive Public Comments on the draft Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (Oakland)

CAA members heard Commission Executive Director Robert Treanor indicate that the possibility for an “experimental fishery” existed and they were encouraged to develop their ideas within the boundaries of the Abalone Recovery Management Plan (ARMP).

August 19, 2005

Commission Meeting (San Luis Obispo)

Item 24: Receipt of Public Testimony and Discussion of Timeline for Possible Adoption of the ARMP

The Commission received CDFG’s presentation and public testimony. CDFG indicated it would provide an update on its recent data collections at the Commission’s September meeting.

During Public Testimony Rebeck presented the first draft of a Limited Fishery Plan and received encouragement from the Commission to flush out the details of a progressive Plan.

September 30, 2005

Commission Meeting (Susanville)

Item 16.E: Update on Department Recent Surveys, Amendments to the ARMP, and Timeline for Possible Adoption

The Commission received a CDFG report and public testimony from Steve Rebeck, Chris Voss, Paul Weakland and Gary Verhagen regarding an experimental commercial abalone fishery in southern California and/or the Farallon Islands. The Commission discussed a time line for adoption of the ARMP and will receive additional information on the limited commercial fishery at its November meeting in Santa Barbara.

October 20, 2005

Marine Subcommittee (Santa Barbara)

Item 3.b: Proposal by Former Commercial Abalone Divers for a Limited Commercial Fishery at San Miguel Island.

Voss gave a brief presentation on the CAA's Limited Fishery Plan. The presentation was well received and Commissioner Rogers stated that he was willing to adopt a plan that is well managed, protects the resource, provides a wealth of data, and is self-sustaining. At that meeting CDFG was directed to develop another general option (Alternative 8) to the ARMP that included the elements of the Limited Fishery Plan. CAA members were excited to hear Rogers agree that the Limited Fishery Plan could be used as a model for a whole host of fisheries in the State of California. It was noted that details of such a plan could be resolved in legislative review and CEQA processes.

Following the 10/20/05 Marine Subcommittee meeting four (4) CAA members and Steve Rebeck met with CDFG Regional Marine Coordinator Gary Stacey, CDFG Deputy Director Sonke Mastrup, and Assistant Enforcement Chief Tony Warrington. This group discussed development of Alternative 8 and keeping the

components flexible. CAA members heard Warrington's concerns regarding enforcement issues. The group also discussed: a) data collection, b) inclusion of the sport section, c) developing a truly collaborative process, d) CAAC Enhancement Fund monies, and e) the CEQA process.

November 3, 2005

Commission Meeting (Santa Barbara)

Item 4: Presentation by the California Abalone Association Regarding a Proposed Limited Commercial Abalone Fishery at San Miguel Island.

The Commission received a presentation and heard public testimony. CDFG indicated that Alternative 8 (this eventually became Alternative 1/Section 7.3.1 of the ARMP) had been added to the draft ARMP which would allow for this request, if adopted by the Commission. The Commission will consider adoption of the ARMP at its December meeting.

Voss gave a detailed presentation of the "Experimental Fishery Plan" (components of this first plan are included in Appendix H/Section H.1.3.1 of the ARMP). The Plan was enthusiastically embraced by several of the Commissioners and endorsed by Tom Raftican of the United Anglers of Southern California. As a result of this presentation CDFG was officially directed to work with the CAA in developing an alternative that could be added to the ARMP. Alternative 8 was expected to incorporate the fishery concepts set forth in Voss's presentation and develop a public/private partnership that could become a model for other California fisheries.

December 8 & 9, 2005

Commission Meeting (Concord)

Item 8: Consideration and Possible Adoption of the draft Abalone Recovery and Management Plan

The Commission received the draft ARMP with latest amendments and public testimony.

CDFG personnel presented Alternative 8 to the Commission. After hearing comments from the public and CAA members, a lively discussion took place and CDFG was asked to make changes to the Alternative 8 language that would provide the Commission with more of a management role and the full authority to make changes to the ARMP without further formal review.

The Commission approved the ARMP with Alternative 8 and specified amendments to Section 7.1.2 and reference tables 7-2 and 7-4.

As the first item of business on December 9, CDFG staff presented the revised version of Alternative 8 and specified amendments to Section 7.1.2 and reference tables 7-2 and 7-4. Noting that the changes met his expectations Commissioner Rogers motioned approval of the ARMP with Alternative 8 as the preferred option. The Commission unanimously approved the ARMP with Alternative 8 as their preferred option. Fifteen (15) CAA members attended this Commission meeting and took to heart the support shown by the Commissioners to develop a public/private partnership to protect and preserve this valuable resource.

December 23, 2005

Quotes from the Los Angeles Times article "Abalone Fishery Off Southland May Reopen"

"The Commission decision . . . is likely to ignite another round of abalone wars, pitting recreational divers, biologists, and conservationist against commercial divers".

Stephen Benavides said "This is an unbelievable tragedy" and was incensed at the Commissioners.

January 14, 2006

Quotes from the Ventura Star article "State Agency Agrees to Look at Reopening Island Fishery"

Ian Taniguchi said "In my opinion, I think it's premature" and "In what we are proposing, I would not see a fishery in Southern California in my lifetime".

Gary Davis said "But the ultimate decision to reopen the fishery could be based on politics as much as science".

January 18, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #1 (Santa Barbara)

CAA representatives Voss and Marshall met with CDFG representatives Pat Coulston, Pete Haaker, and Ian Taniguchi for five (5) hours. Agenda items included: a) discussion of ARMP Section 6.3.1, b) meeting participants and future participants and their roles, c) identification of major tasks, tentative timeline issues, and d) finalization, implementation, and funding of the monitoring

protocols (which the CAA believes is critical in order to move forward). Guiding documents discussed were the: ARMP, MLMA, CEQA, and the Experimental Fishery Proposal. Many ideas, opinions, and philosophies were exchanged and the CAA was hopeful that they could work collaboratively with CDFG.

January 31, 2006

Meeting at Santa Barbara Fish & Game Office with CDFG Assistant Director Sonke Mastrup

Ten (10) CAA members met with Mastrup. They traded ideas and Mastrup heard the commitment the divers had to develop a fishery management plan that would meet CDFG's needs and continue to enhance the resource. The importance of the public component and the need for more positive press was discussed.

February 2, 2006

Commission Meeting (Sacramento)

Public Forum: (1:58:08 to 2:07:41) Voss reported that the stakeholders continue to work on the proposal for a limited abalone fishery at San Miguel Island, which they will soon present to CDFG for further development. He reported on the first meeting and talked about the survey protocols being developed. He emphasized the progress the CAA has made to date and asked the Commission to continue pressure on CDFG to perform, meet expected deadlines (for a tangible result), and work with us in an honest & fair manner. Rogers stated "we have the opportunity of historic proportions to put together a joint private/public partnership for a resource that is at risk" . . . "we will have a significant improvement in the management of our resource if we can pull this off" . . . "we will develop something that will enhance a resource". Mastrup stated "the biggest challenge is getting people to open their minds".

February 22, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #2 (Teleconference)

CAA representatives Voss and Marshall, along with five (5) other CAA members, and Carrie Culver from Sea Grant Extension met with CDFG representatives Pat Coulston and John Ugoretz (via telephone for five (5) hours. The agenda included: a) finalization, implementation, and funding of the monitoring protocols [culminating in a joint "Rapid Snapshot Data Collection" trip in late August 2006, followed by a data analysis workshop hosted by Sea Grant Extension], b) presentation and discussion on CDFG's "Draft SMI Fishery Development Timeline" (Attachment 5) in response to CAA proposed fishery development timeline, c) funding mechanisms, d) identification of future meeting participants and their roles, e) creation of document that fully develops CAA alternatives and concepts, and f) identification of tasks and future meeting dates.

It should be noted that significant progress was made on refining the Fishery Development Timeline and CAA members were encouraged that CDFG is willing and committed to work collaboratively with fisherman. In an effort to cement this commitment the divers requested that CDFG issue a positive press release. They asked for the release to focus on the present accomplishments, data collection, and a fishery that would be based on science and not speculation.

March 2, 2006

Commission Meeting (Riverside)

Item 7.C: Update on SMI Abalone Fishery

The Commission received a report and public testimony. CDFG indicated that it would provide future updates to the Commission electronically.

Voss and Woodcock attended the meeting. Both John Ugoretz (Department Nearshore Ecosystem Coordinator) and Voss made brief presentations regarding their recent accomplishments. Both reports were positive and demonstrated the collaborative working relationship being developed between the divers and CDFG. The most significant piece of both reports was the timeline (which indicated a fishery opening date of April 2008) and developing ways to expedite certain processes. Both reports were well received by the Commission. Voss distributed a summary report to the Commissioners outlining the CAA's activities from July 2005 to February 28, 2006. He also talked about the "rapid snapshot data collection" trip slated for August 27 to September 1, 2006.

March 24, 2006

Marine Resources Committee Meeting (Santa Barbara with Rogers and Gustafson)

Item 1.B: Status of Proposed Limited Abalone Fishery at San Miguel Island

Voss made a brief presentation on the collaborative efforts with CDFG to date and explained how a quota system with equal allocation can be beneficial to the fishery. Ugoretz noted that the ARMP will be used as the management plan for the abalone fishery (with minor tweaks). The upcoming CEQA and legislative processes were discussed. The possibility of redirecting funds contributed by the divers and what mechanism might be used was discussed briefly. The August 2006 Rapid Snapshot Data Collection trip was mentioned.

After a request by Voss the Commissioners directed CDFG to form an official advisory group that can make recommendations to the Commission on developing the fishery. Roles and responsibilities for the group will be discussed at the next Commission Meeting.

April 6, 2006

Commission Meeting (Monterey)

Item 5.G: (3:25:28 to 3:36:23)

John Ugoretz reported on the potential SMI fishery & noted that everyone is strongly behind the proposal and working toward a common goal. The current adhoc group has been advising CDFG and it is now necessary to form a more formal group with a specific role and clear charge (not a decision making & with no consensus required) that doesn't waste time. The timeline proposed had CEQA documents and proposed regulations coming before the full Commission in July 2007. The draft AAG charges were listed along with criteria for group participation which means discussion of a potential abalone fishery. The group was also supposed to include a fishery management scientist (and not the same old scientific participation).

Rogers talked about the “spectacular service within a genuine private/public partnership” “a model moving forward . . . and the process will be a jewel”. Gustafson agreed with the CDFG request for the Commission to select the members of the group.

April 7, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #3 (Santa Barbara)

The Team met and discussed: a) finalizing the data collection protocols and sending the protocols to SAP for scientific review, b) June and July training for the CAA divers on the approved protocols, c) MOA between the CAA, CDFG, and the California Wildlife Foundation (CWF), d) various meetings and trips that group members had participated in, and e) planning for the August Rapid Snapshot data collection trip. Tasks were assigned throughout the meeting and the next meeting was scheduled for May 19, 2006.

May 3, 2006

Commission Meeting (Tahoe City)

Public Forum: (29:30 to 40:10) Voss reported that over the past few months great progress was made with CDFG (protocols developed, staff trained, boats scheduled for survey); however, the momentum toward achieving further significant results is in jeopardy; because the MOA to provide funding for the data collection process and the following symposium to analysis that data has been rejected by CDFG legal staff (at the last minute). Voss requested that the Commission direct CDFG to work with their lawyers in developing language that meets the necessary legal requirements for Enhancement Fund monies to be utilized. Mastrup noted that the funding has moved into a contract mode and the data collection survey process will proceed (it is an unfortunate set back) and the job will get done. Rogers did not “want to risk this effort one of the shining lights in the last decade.” “This marker process for us (Commission) to develop other public/private partnerships.” The entire Commission and CDFG are interested in this process.

Item 5.A.1.A: Update to Nomination Process for the SMI Abalone Fishery Advisory Group (2:21:33 to 2:41:30) The Commission received an update and public testimony. Mastrup reported that CDFG is still compiling the nominations for the AAG. Rogers noted that the composition of this Advisory committee is critical for a positive result that works correctly for the fishery and the resource. All the Commissioners agreed that committee members should embrace the stated purpose of the AAG (not be negative activists against all fisheries or “regional chauvinist” from Northern California to protect their own) and work toward consensus building to establish a viable fishery. Committee members were not supposed to debate policy already set by the Commission.

Jim Martin submitted a letter stating that the recreational divers do not want a fishery at SMI and they are opposed to Alternative 8, poaching is their big concern along with the time commitment. Recreational divers are skeptical that this (AAG) can work and that any “pockets” of abalone should be left where they are or translocated.

Milo Vokovich (sp?) listed his affiliations and indicated that the problem with the AAG is the “charge” (which is not broad enough) which does not include any other enhancement options (translocation & hatcheries) for the remainder of the California coastline. He felt that the remaining resource should not be talked about as a harvestable excess and the AAG should not be used as an allocation battleground.

May 19, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #4 (Santa Barbara)

The Team met and discussed: a) data collection protocols, b) Research Activities Panel protocol review, c) training dates and participation, d) failure of MOA process with CWF, e) May 3 Commission meeting and formation of SMI Abalone Fishery Advisory Group, and f) Rapid Snapshot planning and post survey workshop.

May 25, 2006

Marine Resources Committee (Sacramento with Rogers and Hattoy)

Item 3: San Miguel Island Project Update and Possible Review of Candidates for Advisory Group

June 2, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #5 (Santa Barbara)

The Team met and discussed: a) data collection protocols, b) Research Activities Panel protocol review, c) training dates and participation, d) data base development, e) RFP and Invitation to Bid, f) May 25 Marine Resources Committee meeting attended by Voss, g) SMI Abalone Fishery Advisory Group nominations and meeting schedule, h) structure of Safety Panel for Snapshot survey, i) NAUI/PADI certification requirements, j) Rapid Snapshot planning and post survey workshop, and k) presentation of CAA fishery plan to CDFG for their review.

June 16, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #6 (Santa Barbara)

The Team met and discussed: a) protocol and gear testing, b) training dates and participation, c) data base development, d) RFP and Invitation to Bid, e) equipment needs and fabrication, f) videographer for Rapid Snapshot, g) NAUI/PADI certification requirements, h) Rapid Snapshot planning and post survey workshop, and i) presentation of CAA fishery plan to CDFG.

June 22 & 23, 2006

Commission Meeting (Mammoth Lakes)

Item 9. A.1.A: Update on or Possible Ratification of Nominees for the SMI Abalone Fishery Advisory Group (4:33:09 to 4:34:51). Gustafson was officially replaced by Hattoy on the MRC. Voss attended the meeting where the Commission discussed the list of CDFG’s nominees to the San Miguel Island Abalone Fishery Advisory Group (AAG). CDFG staff was directed to present their list to the Commissioners for continued discussion at their June 23, 2006.

The Marine Resource Priority Matrix was also presented (to prioritize the volume of work CDFG is asked to do).

Continuation of Item 9.A.1.A on June 23: (17:53 to 23:24). Hattoy presented CDFG's vetted list for the AAG and made a motion (seconded by Gustafson) to accept the nominees (unanimously accepted and AAG officially formed).

July 5, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #7 (Teleconference)

The Team had a conference call meeting and discussed: a) protocol and gear testing, b) training dates and participation, c) data base development, d) RFP and Invitation to Bid outcome, e) equipment needs and fabrication, f) videographer for Rapid Snapshot, g) appointment of AAG members and draft workshop plan, h) Rapid Snapshot planning, and i) review of CAA fishery plan by CDFG.

July 24, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #8 (Santa Barbara)

The Team met and discussed: a) protocol and gear testing, b) protocol training, c) data base testing and training, d) RFP outcome and contract timeline, e) equipment inventory, needs, and fabrication, f) videographer for Rapid Snapshot, g) draft logistics/cruise plan, h) Rapid Snapshot planning, i) review of CAA fishery plan by CDFG, j) initial AAG interaction, pre-meeting packet, and draft workshop concept, and k) San Diego sea urchin meeting.

August 10, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #9 (Santa Barbara)

The Team met and discussed: a) protocol training, b) data base development and training, c) status of RFP contract documents, d) status of Truth Aquatics contract documents, e) equipment needs and fabrication, f) videographer for Rapid Snapshot, g) press release, h) media activities and logistics, i) draft logistics/cruise plan, j) status of enforcement resources for survey, k) AAG appointment letters, l) AAG conference call & meeting packet, and m) fishery concepts discussion during survey.

August 14, 2006

SMI Abalone Fishery Advisory Group/AAG Meeting #1 (Teleconference)

The Group held a conference call meeting and discussed: a) the group charge, b) the general group process and timeline, c) the August Rapid Snapshot Survey, d) the November Snapshot Survey Technical Workshop, and e) the group's organizational structure.

August 17, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #10 (Santa Barbara)

The Team met and discussed: a) data base development and training, b) protocol changes and data sheet revisions, c) status of RFP contract documents, d) status of Truth Aquatics contract documents, e) equipment needs and fabrication, f) videographer for Rapid Snapshot, g) press release, h) media activities and logistics, i) final logistics/cruise plan, j) AAG appointment letters, and k) AAG conference call meeting.

August 24, 2006

Commission Meeting (Santa Barbara)

Item 8.E: Department Information Items

The Commission received an update on the upcoming cooperative data collection efforts regarding the proposed abalone fishery at San Miguel Island. Voss reported on the August 14 AAG meeting and invited the Commissioners to participate in the Rapid Snapshot Survey event.

August 27 to 31, 2006

“Rapid Snapshot Survey” Event

Twenty (20) CAA divers, six (6) CAA vessels, thirteen (13) CDFG personnel, three (3) CDFG vessels, five (5) UCSB divers, five (5) National Parks divers, six (6) Reef Check divers, and two (2) NOAA divers participated in the five (5) day event. Over 400 transects were surveyed and the entire event was videotaped and photographed by Jody Pesapane of Liquid Blue Media.

September 13, 2006

San Miguel Island Limited Fishery Task Team Meeting #11 (Santa Barbara)

The Team met and discussed: a) Rapid Snapshot debrief, b) data entry and availability of results, c) press coverage during event, d) availability of video and photos, e) video for October Commission meeting, f) AAG appointment letters, and g) September 29 AAG agenda and meeting packet. It was agreed that the purpose of this group has been served and the process now moves more into the AAG arena.

September 29, 2006

AAG Meeting #2 / First formal Meeting (Santa Barbara)

Agenda topics included: a) introductions and introductory remarks by Mastrup and Rogers, b) approval of minutes, c) Mission Statement, d) proposed ground rules, e) Snapshot Survey video, f) review of data collection protocols, g) presentation of preliminary survey data, h) December technical workshop development, and i) Group's priorities and expectations.

December 1, 2006

AAG sponsored Technical Workshop at the Bren School

Agenda topics for the first evening included: a) process of the AAG, b) a history of the abalone life and fishery, and population status, c) Snapshot Survey results, d) potential management options and comments on the data, and e) panel discussion and public questions.

December 2, 2006

AAG sponsored a Technical Workshop at the Bren School

The second day included: a) an AAG meeting (#3) at 8:00, b) a review of the Friday evening session, and c) concurrent working groups and reports back from each group on the various topics discussed.

January 12, 2007

AAG Meeting #4 (Santa Barbara)

The agenda included: a) approval of minutes, b) Snapshot Survey data analysis, c) TAC workshop development, d) additional data and information needs, e) timeline, f) preliminary discussion of alternative management strategies, g) preliminary discussion of allocation issues, and h) replacement of resigned AAG member (Hrabak).

February 1, 2007

Commission Meeting (Monterey)

Public Forum: Voss discussed the CDFG's management of commercial fisheries and requested that future efforts resulting from the MLPA be focused on fishery management and collaboration with the industry instead of fisheries science.

Item 9.F: Update on the SMI Abalone Resource (3:20:30 to 3:22). Gary Stacey reported that the 2006 Snapshot survey had been completed and CDFG is analyzing data to see what that means for a potential fishery, genetic research, and WS studies. The 2007 snapshot survey was mentioned. He reported on the process of the AAG and the need for professional facilitation. He stated that the timeline was adjusted forward into 2008.

Voss spoke (4:06:40 to 4:10) on the AAG process and noted that the group is making certain that none of the abalone at SMI are put at risk. Efforts are focused to compile information for an educated decision based on risk factors. He also asked the Commission to help with the facilitation process to provide focus for the group.

February 24, 2007

AAG Meeting #5 (Santa Barbara)

The agenda included: a) approval of minutes, b) introduction of facilitation team, c) revised timeline, d) Snapshot Survey data analysis, e) initial allocation scenarios, f) key management considerations, and g) replacement of resigned AAG member (Hrabak & Knight)

SAN MIGUEL ISLAND ABALONE FISHERY ADVISORY GROUP

February 24, 2007

CREATION

After the adoption of the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP) in December 2005, the Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) moved forward with the consideration of a limited abalone fishery as San Miguel Island prior to full recovery. In order to maximize the DFG's ability to properly design this fishery a cooperative planning approach was created to directly involve stakeholders in development of potential fishery alternatives.

ROLE

“The Abalone Advisory Group will be empanelled to provide recommendations to the Department of Fish and Game. The Group will not be a decision making body; instead, they will provide recommendations to be considered by resource managers of the DFG and the Fish and Game Commission (Commission). The Abalone Advisory Group is not expected to reach consensus, rather it is expected to develop a reasonable range of alternatives that achieve the goals of the ARMP.”

CHARGE

The Abalone Advisory Group will provide recommendations to the Department of Fish and Game regarding the following areas:

- A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for San Miguel Island red abalone
- Alternatives for allocation between recreational and commercial take
- Alternative regulations to achieve the TAC and allocation
- Potential management, enforcement, and monitoring techniques
- Possible individual quota and catch entitlement mechanisms

The DFG or Commission may bring other items to the Group for discussion. Advisory Group members may recommend other items for discussion, which will be considered if time allows.

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Abalone Advisory Group is to recommend a limited range of fully developed alternative for managing a potential red abalone fishery at San Miguel Island to the California Department of Fish and Game. The Department will use these management alternatives in recommendations to the California Fish and Game Commission when a red abalone fishery at San Miguel Island is considered.”

March 1, 2007

Commission Meeting (Arcata)

Public Forum: Voss discussed taking a closer look at the way the management of fisheries is funded and supplying the funds necessary in order to support a management system to assure sustainability.

Item 5.E: Update on SMI Abalone Resource

The Commission received a report from Gary Stacey regarding facilitation team and the 2007 survey event. The Commission heard from Voss on the AAG process.

April 6, 2007

AAG Meeting #6

The agenda included: a) facilitation team's role, b) use of KOM instead of minutes, c) update on project process and goals, d) findings of stakeholder assessments by facilitation team, e) Snapshot Survey data analysis, f) refined allocation concepts, g) key steps to fulfill AAG's charge, h) TAC expert panel, and i) 2007 survey event.

April 12, 2007

Commission Meeting (Bodega Bay)

Item 9.D: Update on SMI Abalone Resource

The Commission received a report and public testimony from Voss about how to save fisheries in California, the need to develop a TAC, and the lack of qualified modelers within CDFG.

May 3, 2007

Commission Meeting (San Diego)

Public Forum: Steven Benavides discussed the possible reopening of a commercial abalone fishery and requested that once a report from the AAG is received, that a coordinated presentation be made to the Board with the Recreational Abalone Advisory Committee, the Recreational Fishing Alliance, and the California Council of Divers.

Voss stated that with the implementation of the MLPA, commercial fisheries were being concentrated into smaller areas and there was a need to address how to effectively implement the MLMA.

Item 6.C: Department Information Items

Foley gave a report on the number of violations due to abalone poaching, the amount of abuse, and she embraced the tag concept.

Item 6.E: Update on SMI Abalone Resource

The Commission received a report and public testimony from Voss about keeping all meetings open (because he and Marshall had recently been excluded from a technical AAG related meeting).

June 7, 2007

Commission Meeting (Truckee)

Public Forum: Voss discussed commercial fisheries and the cost to the state to manage them in relationship to what they generate in revenue. He suggested the need for more participation from the industry in determining how the money generated is distributed. He also requested that the Commission allow fisheries to be more directly involved in the data collection process that is necessary to manage fisheries in a sustainable way.

Item 8.D: Update on SMI Abalone Resource

The Commission received a report and public testimony from Voss about the allocation options being developed by the AAG.

June 22, 2007

AAG Meeting #7 (Santa Barbara)

The agenda included: a) agenda review, b) membership update, c) Terms of Reference for TAC development, d) status of Technical Panel, e) management of SMI abalone policy memo, f) draft 2006 SMI survey final report, g) goals and design of 2007 survey process, h) allocation options, i) AAG final report outline, and j) public comment.

July 31 to August 3, 2007

“Rapid Snapshot Survey” Event

CDFG staff conducted first survey at SMI.

August 9, 2007

Commission Meeting (Santa Barbara)

Public Forum: Voss requested that the sea urchin fishery be agendized for the next Marine Resources Committee meeting to explore management options regarding the harvesting and processing of sea urchins. He also talked about the “destructive dynamic” in the urchin fishery with the untrustworthy processors.

Harry Vogl requested the reopening of abalone season and that the Commission directs CDFG to schedule a collaborative survey with concerned groups at the Farallon Islands.

Harry Liquornik requested that the Marine Resources Committee address restricted access issues, as well as administrative aspects of managing fisheries, with a possible workshop, so the fisheries would have clear guidelines to follow.

Richard Pogre discussed legislation that will soon be enacted which would affect the future of the commercial abalone industry. He requested that the Commission allow commercial divers to work with CDFG and other interested parties to collect data in the North Central Region affected by the abalone closure, in order to provide data to the health of the fishery.

Item 8.F: Update on SMI Abalone Resource

The Commission received a report and public testimony from Voss about the allocation options being developed by the AAG and the upcoming survey event.

September 6, 2007

AAG Meeting #8 (Santa Barbara)

The agenda included: a) agenda review, b) membership update, c) appointment of Dr. Yan Jiao and Robert Leaf as the Technical Panel modelers, d) steps for Technical Panel Review Committee, e) presentation of 2006 SMI final survey report, f) 2007 survey training and preliminary report, g) 2,000 abalone per hectare policy memo, h) alternative matrix, i) policy memo on enforcement considerations, and j) Marine Committee meeting.

September 11 to 14, 2007

“Rapid Snapshot Survey” Event

CDFG, CAA, and Reef Check conducted the second survey at SMI. During the survey 38 individual divers on 7 vessels covered 133 survey stations during four cruises over eleven days. This information and experience gained through the survey coupled with the 2006 survey provides additional essential information for initiating the fishery consideration process and designing future collaborative surveys.

In the **October 2007 CDFG Report** under “Size Frequency” the following was stated: Similar to the 2006 survey, the 2007 survey revealed that a large portion of the emergent abalone population is of legal size according to past fishery minimum size limits. The similar results greatly increase the confidence of our data collection process. Additionally, non-transect efforts revealed small size classes in and out of MPA areas, **indicating that recruitment is occurring at SMI**. If a fishery is considered, ongoing surveys of recruitment should be incorporated into the management structure. This will help ensure that adaptive management takes into account reproductive success.

September 21, 2007

Marine Resources Committee (Santa Barbara with Rogers and Sutton)

Item 3.A: Proposed Marine Resource Committee Priorities/Short Term Priorities

CDFG suggestions included the San Miguel Island abalone fishery review process and lessons learned so far as a potential model for future management, as a short term priority for the MRC.

September 25 to 28, 2007

“Rapid Snapshot Survey” Event

CDFG staff conducted third survey at SMI.

October 11, 2007

Commission Meeting (Concord)

Public Forum: Voss stated that in order to save and manage fisheries effectively, a community-based approach needs be taken, with sustainability of the fisheries as the primary goal.

Harry Liquornik requested that the California Sea Urchin Commission’s request for minor regulatory changes be agendized. He also thanked the Commission for having the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting in Santa Barbara, and stated that he looks forward to working with the MRC regarding Restricted Access Fisheries.

Item 12.E: Department Informational Items

Foley reported that abalone poaching on the North Coast is out of control.

Item 12.F: Update on SMI Abalone Resource

Received CDFG’s report from Mastrup and received public testimony from Voss about a setback in the Technical Panel process and the three survey events. The Commission formally approved the appointment of Terry Maas to the Abalone Advisory Group.

November 1, 2007

Commission Meeting (Sacramento)

Item 8.F: Update on SMI Abalone Resource

Received CDFG report from Mastrup on the completion of the 2007 SMI surveys and the next AAG meeting set for November 29, 2007.

Item 10.A.1: MRC.

Received report from Commissioner Sutton and public testimony. Commission approved the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) priority list.

November 29, 2007

AAG Meeting #9 (La Jolla)

The agenda included: a) update on AAG membership, b) presentation and discussion of revised Workgroup Alternatives, c) launch of TAC development process (with presentation by Jiao, d) public comments, and e) update on process coordination and discussion of timeline.

December 6, 2007

Commission Meeting (Sacramento)

Public Forum: Voss indicated that the California Abalone Association, with support from the CDFG, would be conducting an informal survey at the Farallon Islands, and will submit the data to assist in the MPA decision making process regarding the economic impact to the Farallon Islands (unfortunately this never happened).

Item 7.D: Update on SMI Abalone Resource

Received CDFG report and public testimony from Voss about the modeling process which begins in January 2008. Voss also read a statement prepared by the AAG regarding the essential nature of expanding collaborative survey efforts.

December 13, 2007

Marine Resources Committee (Monterey with Rogers and Sutton)

Voss and Woodcock attended, agenda topics included: a) analysis of commercial fishery fees under current FGC authority and discussion of possible rulemaking recommendations, and b) analysis of the current FGC restricted access policy and discussion of implementation and conflicts.

February 7, 2008

Commission Meeting (San Diego)

Item 12.E: Update on SMI Abalone Resource

Received CDFG report from Vojkovich to move these reports to a quarterly schedule because monthly reports were "overkill" and public testimony from Voss.

May 8, 2008

Commission Meeting (Monterey)

Public Forum: Voss reported on the AAG modeling process. Rogers and Sutton asked Voss for updates as the cooperative (being proposed by the CAA) is being formed. Both Rogers and Sutton commended Voss.

August 7, 2008

Commission Meeting (Carpinteria)

Item 6.G: Update on SMI Abalone Resource

Received CDFG report from Tom Barnes about focus on TAC by Technical Panel, final modeling results to be available in the late fall, and formation of Review Committee.

Voss and Marshall gave a PowerPoint presentation on cooperative development.

September 22 to 27, 2008

“Rapid Snapshot Survey” Event

Divers from various agencies and organizations participated in this survey and a final report from CDFG was never provided.

November 14, 2008

Commission Meeting (Huntington Beach)

Public Forum: Voss asked the Commission to direct CDFG to establish the process for opening a fishery at SMI.

December 10, 2008

AAG Meeting #10 (Teleconference)

The agenda included: a) update on Technical Panel and development of models, b) update on TAC, c) SMI survey update, d) Review Committee development, and e) timeline to complete AAG process.

February 4, 2009

Marine Resources Committee (Sacramento with Rogers and Sutton)

Voss and Liquornik attended, agenda included: a) discussions on Committee roles and responsibilities, b) the MLMA lessons learned study, and c) a review of the existing MRC short and long term priority list.

February 17 & 18, 2009 – Dr. Doug Butterworth, Dr. Harry Gorfine, Dr. Steve Schroeter, and Dr. Ed Weber met in La Jolla California with members of the AAG Technical Panel (including Dr. Yan Jiao) for a scientific review of the modeling work performed by the TP. The agenda topics included: a) discussion of data inputs, b) discussion of model description and use, c) discussion of model results and sensitivities, d) discussion of TAC development and risk analysis, and e) presentation of the final review findings and recommendations. The Review Committee subsequently prepared and distributed their final report titled “Evaluation of the Red Abalone Stock Assessment by the Review Committee in Support of Deliberation of the AAG”.

April 2, 2009

Marine Resources Committee (Santa Barbara with Rogers and Sutton)

Item 2.c: Innovative Approaches to Fisheries Management (California Abalone Association: Framework of proposed fishing cooperative and co-management strategy). The CAA made a presentation of the proposed framework and the two Commissioners asked the CDFG to schedule a presentation on the CAA’s proposed management regime to the full Commission in the summer of 2009.

At that meeting the Commissioners were reminded that Fish and Game Code Section 5521 gives the Commission authority to lift the moratorium (which was specifically contemplated to be lifted in the Legislature when the moratorium was imposed) on the commercial abalone fishery. Fish and Game Code Section 5522 describes the circumstances in which CDFG may apply to the Commission to reopen fishing if the Commission “makes a finding that the resource can support additional harvest activities and that these activities are consistent with the ARMP”.

April 17, 2009

AAG Meeting #11 (Los Alamitos)

The agenda topics included: a) two different PowerPoint presentations by Rogers-Bennett (stock assessment and TAC framework), b) Review Committee comments on Jiao model, and c) AAG timeline.

May 13, 2009

Commission Meeting (Sacramento)

Public Forum: Voss reported on the AAG progress.

June 16, 2009

“The Santa Barbara Initiative: Developing Social Capital, Infrastructure and Scientific Techniques for Reforming Californian Fisheries” which outlined a position by Jeremy Prince to nurture and develop the capacity of the fishing community to consider and implement management change. Starting from a position of outright opposition and a culture of entrenched conflict between and amongst industry, academics and the key agencies, awareness, communication and engagement have grown to the extent that there is now widespread support in the port of Santa Barbara for a program of change in partnership with UCSB academics, the F&G Commission, CDFG, the OPC and NGOs.

July 21, 2009

Marine Resources Committee (Monterey with Rogers and Sutton)

Voss and Liquornik attended to learn about the MLMA lessons learned study.

September 23, 2009

AAG Meeting #12 (Teleconference)

The agenda topics included: a) draft 2009 survey protocols, b) additional modeling, c) four management options, d) Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) pre-assessment by Alison Cross (WWF), and e) timeline for presenting recommendations to Commission.

October 2009

“A New Beginning for Abalone Management in California: Critique and Comment on the Abalone Advisory Group’s Discussions” by Jeremy Prince and Sarah Valencia.

October 20 to 22, 2009 – Four (4) CAA boats with eight (8) divers participated in the 2009 abalone survey at San Miguel Island (Tyler, Crook Point, Judith Rock, and Markers). The primary goal of this survey was to detect changes in year-to-

year (relative) abundance between impact areas (fished) vs. control areas (unfished) based on procedures currently used to monitor fished stocks in Victoria and South Australia and adapts them to best fit red abalone ecology and the logistics at SMI.

Selection of Survey Areas

Areas will be surveyed that exhibit abalone densities that could potentially support a sustainable commercial fishery. Using the previous three years of survey data and utilizing knowledge of the area from commercial fishermen and biologists

November 17, 2009

Marine Resources Committee (Santa Barbara with Rogers and Sutton)

Voss attended to learn about the MLMA lessons learned draft report. Vojkovich gave an update on abalone that indicated that CDFG did not have enough information to make a decision on reopening the fishery and suggested a closed meeting to discuss the process.

December 2009

The “San Miguel Island Red Abalone Fishery MSC Pre-Assessment” was completed by Dr. Craig Mundy, Dr. Sabine Daume, Team Leader, and Dr. Stephen Mayfield. In the report under “Indicator 1.1.1 - Stock Status” it was stated that “From the documents provided, it is difficult to ascertain the current status of red abalone stocks at SMI relative to the status during the period of active fishing (e.g. late 1980’s), and a judgment is not made here. The key problem is that detailed, robust, fishery-independent research data were not collected in the final years prior to closure to match the current data series (2006 to 2008), and there is currently not an active fishery to compare against the performance of the fishery prior to closure. Using the 2006 to 2008 survey data, a range of methodological approaches have been used to consider stock status in the context of supporting a commercial fishery, including Yield per Recruit (YPR) and Statistical Catch at Age (SCA) modeling, Replacement Density Analysis (RDA), and Minimum Viable Population (MVP) size. Relative abundance is used in the SCA model, but TAC’s estimated as a fraction of absolute abundance. RDA and MVP methods appear to use absolute abalone abundance per Hectare as the basis for calculations.

Obtaining an independent assessment of absolute abalone abundance is a difficult task, and arguably unreliable for most abalone fisheries. The use of abundance data estimates (abalone/m²) **to calculate absolute abundance (abalone/Ha) based on assumed habitable area is problematic, not well accepted amongst abalone biologists**, and with few exceptions (e.g. *Haliotis laevis* fishery in South Australia), is rarely used in the management of abalone fisheries elsewhere. Two key reasons for this are 1) abundance of abalone is highly spatially variable from scales of meters, to 10’s of meters, and is often not linked to apparently suitable habitat; and 2) calculation of absolute abundance should include some knowledge of the proportion of the total abalone at a site that are available to be seen by divers. Circumstances where absolute abundance calculations might be permitted are reef systems where spatial variability in abalone abundance and reef complexity are low.”

December 8, 2009

AAG Meeting #13 (Teleconference)

The agenda topics included: a) review of the draft AAG report, b) distribution of the final AAG report, and c) status of additional modeling.

December 10, 2009

Commission Meeting (Los Angeles)

Public Forum: (24:19 to 31:20). Voss presented the Commission with the “Red Abalone Market Fishery Operating Guidelines” (which included the MSC Pre-Assessment). He thanked Sutton and Rogers for setting the February 16, 2010 MRC meeting to discuss the AAG results. Sutton stated that the CAA has been responsible and progressive in their approach to innovative management of the abalone resource. He also indicated that opening the fishery is a “heavy lift” both politically and biologically and that the CAA has taken a “responsible and progressive approach to innovative fishery management”. Rogers stated that the full Commission will get the opportunity to hear a presentation on the AAG results.

February 16, 2010

Marine Resources Committee (Santa Barbara with Rogers and Sutton)

Item 5: Report from California Abalone Advisory Group

The four AAG options were presented, and a discussion on the level of CEQA requirements that might be necessary to support the CAA’s proposal took place. Rogers indicated that the existing data was not enough to support a sustainable fishery. Sutton did not indicate a preference for any of the four options. CDFG staff was directed to take the next steps: 1) complete Jiao modeling ASAP, 2) provide comprehensive cost estimate for CEQA process, 3) recess AAG, and 4) schedule another MRC briefing when steps 1 and 2 were completed.

March 3, 2010

Commission Meeting (Ontario)

Item 7.A: MRC (2:49 to 3:19:24)

Don Thompson spoke about the significant impacts the abalone fishery closure had on him personally and asked them not to lose sight of Alternative 1 which was “preferred” when the ARMP was adopted. Jim Marshall spoke about the scope of work for the modeling. Alicia Bonnette read the first two paragraphs of Alternative 1 and emphasized all the scientific support for a limited fishery. She also indicated her disappointment with the AAG process and asked for help from the Commission. Voss spoke about the model management plan created by the CAA, successful collaborations, survey data collected, Bren School projects, and the misinformation of the flawed modeling that has weakened all of the CAA’s efforts. He requested the Commission direct CDFG to: 1) follow Review Committee recommendations, 2) require modeler to include the 2008 data, 3) and direct CDFG to submit future modeling work in an open bid process, and Commission be aware of the CAA proposal and its limited impact to the resource at SMI.

Sutton recognized that the abalone discussion was controversial and there is not enough information to make a recommendation to the full Commission. He has

respect for the management regime presented by the CAA (“on the cutting edge”). Recommendation to not reopen a fishery until there is more information from CDFG and modeler. Rogers requested that CDFG provide him with the known areas of disagreement (which cannot be resolved) for the modeling. He would like there to be agreement before the additional modeling is completed (using ALL the data sets) and would like it to be completed in 2010. Commissioner Richards talked about the “paralysis of analysis” and the need for setting a date to receive the final analysis. Shuman talked about funding for the supplemental modeling and noted that there is disagreement on the AAG about the validity of the initial modeling. Mastrup added that CDFG wants the work to be finished and they are committed to finding funding to “finish” and he asked the Commission to remember that “science is not a one step process”.

April 7, 2010

Commission Meeting (Monterey)

Public Forum: Voss presented the revised 2009 “Pre-Fishery Survey of Index Sites” survey protocol and explained the methodology which utilizes the past three years of broad surveys to determine areas with densities high enough to support an experimental fishery.

April 20, 2010

Summerland

Meeting with Commissioner Rogers, Commission Science Advisor Craig Shuman, Sarah Valencia, Voss, Woodcock, and Bonnette.

May 25, 2010

Marine Resources Committee (Monterey with Rogers and Sutton)

Dr. Jeremy Prince, Sarah Valencia, and Voss attended to learn about the final MLM lessons learned project and hear a presentation on data poor fisheries management and alternatives from Burr Henneman, Alex MacCall, and Tom Barnes.

May 26, 2010

Monterey Bay Aquarium (Sutton’s Office)

Meeting with Deputy Director Mastrup, Commissioner Michael Sutton, Commissioner Richard Rogers, Commission Science Advisor Craig Shuman, Huff McConglin, Voss, Dr. Jeremy Prince, Sarah Valencia, and Bonnette. A discussion on the status of the CAA’s proposal took place that ended in a recommendation to create a specific research fishery proposal that could be peer reviewed. Immediately after Mastrup, Prince, Valencia, McConglin, Voss, and Bonnette met to discuss next steps. It was agreed that Prince and Valencia would develop an outline for a research fishery proposal and determine the number of abalone needed for scientifically validated experimental sampling.

June 2010

“Outline of a Proposed Research Proposal for SMI Abalone” by Jeremy Prince and Sarah Valencia. This was the first document submitted to Mastrup and CDFG to provide an outline or framework around which a proposal can be developed for a program of abalone research to be conducted on the south side of SMI.

September 30, 2010

California Abalone Marketing Association, Inc. (cooperative) incorporated in the State of California.

October 12, 2010**Marine Resources Committee (Santa Barbara with Rogers and Sutton)**

Voss and Marshall attended to hear Taniguchi report on the status of the Northern California Recreational Fishery and potential proactive regulatory changes that would protect that abalone resource. During that meeting Shuman was tasked to work with CDFG and evaluate the merit of the CAA’s revised proposal and report back to the MRC on suggested regulation(s) (amend ARMP, etc.) that would support the proposal. He was also tasked with gaining a legal opinion on the CAA’s proposal.

December 16, 2010**Commission Meeting (Santa Barbara)**

Public Forum: Voss listed the CAA’s partners and reported on the revised proposal for a scaled down experimental fishery (with research as the focus) and requested that a vote regarding this experiment be agendaized. Rogers and Sutton agreed that they are impressed with the CAA and reminded the Commission that the issue is being discussed by the MRC, which is working toward a recommendation for the full Commission.

February 15, 2011**Marine Resources Committee (Monterey with Rogers and Sutton)**

Voss attended to learn about the OPC Strategic Plan and hear a presentation on the Collaborative Fisheries Research Organization.

May 24, 2011**Meeting at Santa Barbara Harbor**

Voss, Marshall, Harrington, Colgate, and Valencia met with Craig Shuman, Commissioner Rogers, and newly appointed Commission Executive Secretary Sonke Mastrup to discuss the following agenda topics: a) rigor of research proposal to be developed by Valencia and Prince, b) abalone festival, and c) next steps.

May 25, 2011**Marine Resources Committee (Santa Barbara with Rogers and Sutton)**

Voss and Marshall attended, agenda items included: a) MRC priorities and approach to review of Commission’s policy on restricted access fisheries, and b) MPA monitoring on South Coast.

September 27, 2011

Marine Resources Committee (Monterey with Rogers and Sutton)

Voss attended the morning session and presented Commissioners, Shuman, and Mastrup with the “Proposal for Red Abalone Research Fishery at San Miguel Island (SMI)” created by Dr. Prince. This same Proposal was e-mailed to CDFG staff (Barnes, Taniguchi, Vojkovich, and Foley) the following day.

November 17, 2011

Commission Meeting (Santa Barbara)

Public Forum: (27:33 to 34:30) Marshall described the efforts of the CAA to reopen a fishery and reminded the Commissioners about the progress made to date. He noted that the CAA is waiting to discuss the new science based Proposal with CDFG. Rogers talked about how “inspirational” the participants have been and thanked Jim for the CAA’s persistence even after the “ridiculous” amount of time spent in the process. Sutton stated that the AAG “was a model for other stakeholder groups”. Rogers and Sutton both agreed that the CAA was spoken about in glowing terms by Bren School academics and there was mutual respect shown during those collaborations.

December 13, 2011

Proposal Steering Group Meeting #1 (Santa Barbara)

Jeremy Prince, Sarah Valencia, Chris Voss, Jim Marshall, and Alicia Bonnette met with Craig Shuman, Tom Barnes to discuss the first draft of the Research Proposal developed by Prince and Valencia. Thirty-one (31) CDFG comments were reviewed and addressed in a very positive and productive meeting environment.

February 16, 2012

Proposal Steering Group Meeting #2 (Los Alamitos)

Prince, Valencia, Barnes, Taniguchi, Shuman, Voss, Marshall, Lampson, Stein, Carlos Mirelis, and Laura Rogers-Bennett discussed: a) revised Proposal, b) implementation logistics, and c) next steps.

May 29, 2012

Proposal Steering Group Meeting #3 (Teleconference)

Prince, Valencia, Barnes, Taniguchi, Cpt. Bob Farrell, Voss, Marshall, Stein, and Rogers-Bennett discussed: a) International abalone symposium in Tasmania, b) enforcement issues with the Proposal, c) revised Proposal, d) Jiao additional modeling, and e) next steps.

July 30, 2012

Proposal Steering Group Meeting #4 (Teleconference)

Barnes, Marshall, Voss, Taniguchi, Rogers-Bennett, Valencia, Button, Prince, Cpt. Farrell, Stein, and Shuman discussed: a) comments by Review Committee on SMI research proposal, b) status of Jiao additional modeling, c) enforcement hours needed to support proposal, and d) next steps.

August 8, 2012

Commission Meeting (Ventura)

Voss attended to maintain communication link with Commission members.

August 10, 2012

Marine Resources Committee (Ventura with Rogers and Sutton)

Voss attended to learn about the MPA monitoring.

Summary:

It continues to be the position of the CAA that Criterion 1 and 2 of the ARMP have been met (using data from the 2006 to 2008 surveys) and that Criterion 3 is trumped by the Commission's preferred Alternative 1.

ARMP

"Recovery is a stepwise process, where goals must be met sequentially. Once recovery goals are met, a species may be evaluated and considered for a fishery." Criterion 1 is satisfied when a broad range of sizes is present in the population, from small, younger abalones to large, older individuals. Satisfying Criterion 1 is considered a milestone in recovery.

6.2.1.1 Criterion 1 - Broad Size Distribution Over the Former Abalone Range

Populations are more stable when there are more individuals occupying a broad size range at multiple locations. To evaluate resource conditions using this measure, two categories, intermediate (100 mm to recreational minimum legal size, or RMLS), and large (larger than RMLS), are defined, and each of those categories is further subdivided into 5 mm groups. When abalone observed during timed surveys (Appendix E Survey Methods) at an index site occupy 90% and 25% of the intermediate and large categories, respectively, then the broad size frequency distribution aspect of Criterion 1 will have been met at that site (Table 6-1 and Section 6.4.1.1 Assessment for Criterion 1). A category smaller than 100 mm is not used, because abalone smaller than 100 mm are usually cryptic and not easily assessed.

Since the ARMP is relying on 20 year old science it seems more prudent to concentrate on recent scientific research that is explained in "**A New Beginning for Abalone Management in California**" (Prince & Valencia 2009).

Survey protocols with regard to searching for small abalone have changed radically through the years. The original survey protocol in the early 1970s (1974) was simple: swim and count emergent abs. This protocol changed in the 1990s (1993-97). The Cruise report 93-M-6 shows the procedures during timed swims then started including some invasive searching of cryptic habitat targeting juveniles, in addition to counting emergent abalone along survey transects: "When possible, boulders were turned to search for juvenile abalone." Reports 97-M-1 and 97-M-5 also describe the use of these invasive techniques. In 1997 surveys were part of a collaboration with commercial fishermen who were asked to direct CDFG researchers to where juvenile abalone might be easily found and CDFG researchers specifically targeted these areas with the aim of constructing length frequency histograms for the cryptic juvenile size classes (Karpov et al.

1998). In 1999 the protocol changed to counting aggregations, reflecting a growing interest in the Allee effect, and this protocol continued through 2000 and 2001 using the timed swim method, with some searching of cryptic habitats for juveniles, some aggregation counting and only a little transect work. So in these earlier surveys researchers mainly conducted timed swims during which they counted and measured emergent abalone, and then turned boulders looking for juveniles, and there was much less emphasis on swimming along randomly placed transect lines.

By point of reference, since 2006 the survey protocol has been based on randomly placing 60m transects within the boundary of the kelp canopy mapped by aerial photography over several years. Within a 2m wide strip along either side of the 60m transect line, emergent abalone have been counted within 5m segments. There has been no searching of cryptic habitats for juveniles.

Clearly this evolution of survey protocols will have produced marked changes in the actual selectivity curve of the surveys. Without modeling this as a different selectivity curve for each survey protocol, the model will have been constrained to attribute the changes in the proportion of small abalone measured to changes in abalone recruitment, when they were actually produced by changing survey protocols. In this case the length-frequency data from early 1990s, when survey divers searched cryptic habitats for small abalone, and particularly in 1997 where commercial divers told research divers where juveniles would be most easily found, will have been interpreted by the model as indicating a higher previous level of recruitment. The 1997 protocol seems to have been interpreted by the model as a pulse of previous recruitment on top of normal, while the current survey protocol is being interpreted as continuing current lack of recruitment. According to the logic built into the population model this must over time start decrease estimated adult biomass.

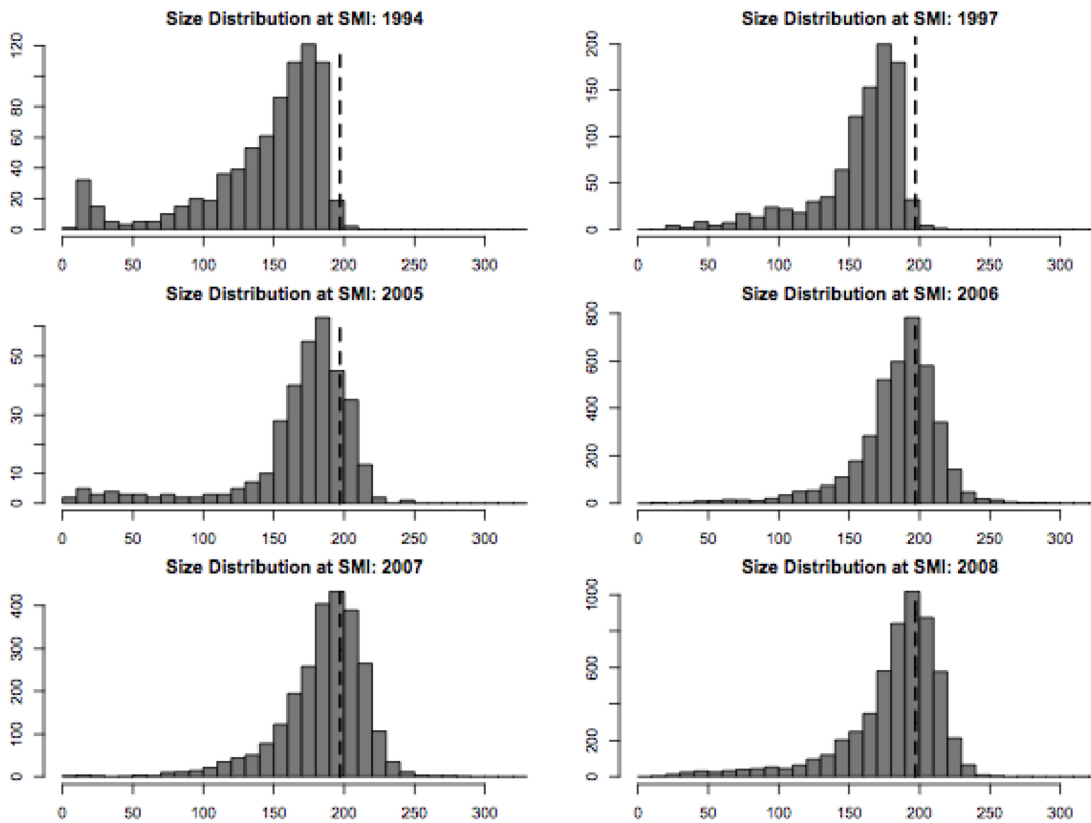


Figure 4. Length frequency histograms (maximum length in mm and number counted) for the abalone surveyed during CDFG surveys 1994-2008.

It should be noted that the historic time series of length frequency data is more reliable where it pertains to the size range of the larger, fully-emerged and -recruited size classes, because that part of the size structure has not varied with changing survey protocols. In this respect the time series shows that there has been a considerable increase in the proportion of the population larger than the old legal size limit. The percentage of the population larger than 197mm has increased from less than 1% in 1997 (the year the moratorium was enacted) to 47.8% in 2008 (Figure 4). In light of the high fecundity of these large individuals (Rogers-Bennett et al. 2006) one can assume that gamete production has similarly increased in magnitude and that the area their aggregations now cover has grown as well i.e. biomass is growing. This is what commercial, recreational, and research divers alike are uniformly reporting as well.

ARMP

Populations must reach MVP levels in multiple locations to satisfy Criterion 2.

6.2.2.1 Criterion 2 - First Density Level (2,000 ab/ha)

When Criterion 1 has been satisfied, emergent density surveys will be conducted in key locations to determine average abalone density. MVP is the density level that indicates that the population is not at risk for collapse. The MVP used in the ARMP is based on two sources of information: minimum spawning densities determined by Shepherd and Brown (1993), and the density preceding sharp declines of red abalone in southern California (Tegner *et al.* 1989; Karpov *et al.*

1998) (Section 2.1.2.2 Spawning and Fecundity). Shepherd and Brown (1993) found that recruitment started to decline when densities fell below 3,000 ab/ha. Stock collapsed when adult densities fell below 1,000 ab/ha. Comparable densities and consequences were found with red abalone on Santa Rosa Island in southern California. Densities under 1,000 ab/ha were not sustainable and were followed by a collapse of the population (Karpov *et al.* 1998).

An MVP level was therefore established at 2,000 ab/ha for each species based on the best available red abalone density information. The MVP for each species may change as more information on recovering populations is obtained.

Satisfaction of Criterion 2 does not trigger consideration of take. Criterion 2 requires that MVP levels be achieved at all key locations in all recovery areas that continue to satisfy Criterion 1.

“A New Beginning for Abalone Management in California” (Prince & Valencia 2009).

Figure 1 plots the percent of abalone sampled against the density at which they were observed within each 5m segment of transect. It shows that almost 10% of the sample was recorded at densities of around 2,000 abalone/ha and that only 8% of the sample was found occurring at densities below this level. Figure 2 shows a similar view to figure 1 but plotted as the cumulative percent of the abalone sampled.

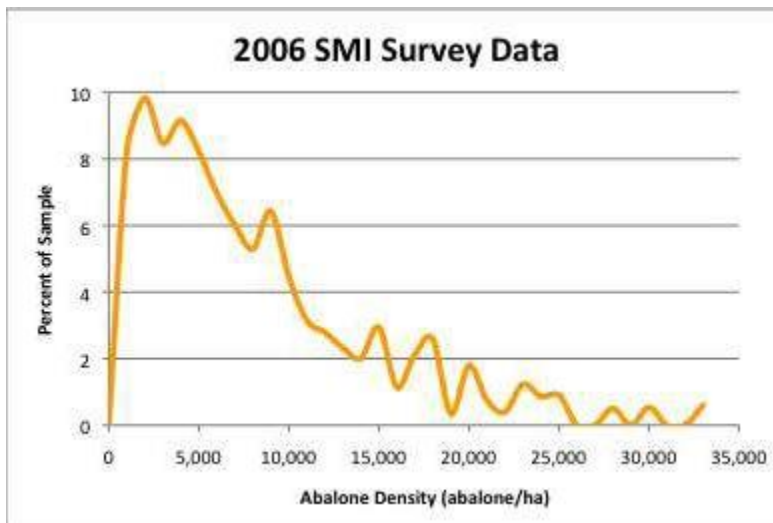


Figure 1. Percent of abalone sampled during the 2006 surveys plotted against the density at which they were observed within each 5m transect segment.

In figure 2 it can be seen that >73% of the sample occurred at densities of 3,000 abalone/ha or greater and at those densities they cover approximately 10% of the broader survey area. This concentration profile is a common feature of abalone populations with 70-80% of the population normally occurring in 10-20% of the potential area (Prince *et al.* 1998).

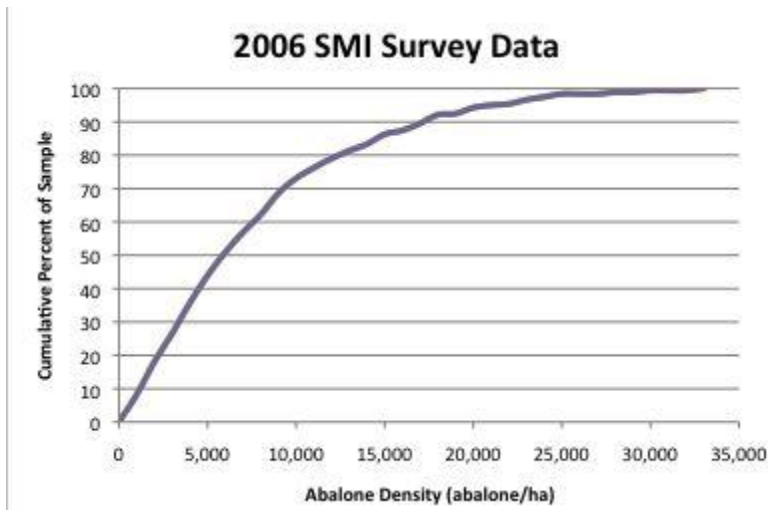


Figure 2. Cumulative percent of abalone sampled during the 2006 surveys plotted against the density at which they were observed within each 5m transect segment.

ARMP Section 7.1.2.2 Total Allowable Catch

Fisheries that have been closed will be considered for reopening only when recovery criteria are met, and the stock has rebuilt to sustainable fishery densities at refuge depths and all depths (more than 3,300 and more than 6,600 ab/ha respectively). Fisheries will be initially reopened with low TAC levels that can be incrementally increased to former levels over a number of years, depending on stock conditions.

barnacles

don striepeke [REDACTED]

Mon 04/01/2024 09:31 AM

To:FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

ive addressed the gooseneck barnacle concern with the commission before. why no sport fishery? they live along side mussels and incidental killing takes place when harvestig mussels. excellent food . theres no shortage of mussels and no shortage of banacles. discuss this ,please.