



# Recreational Red Abalone Fishing Moratorium

*March 13, 2025*

*Presented to:*

**Marine Resources Committee**  
**CA Fish and Game Commission**

*Presented by:*

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**Invertebrate Program Manager**  
**Marine Region**



# Overview

- Background on Fishery Closures
- Current Status
- Department Recommendation





# Background – Red Abalone

- Fishery closed in 2018 (one year)
- Second sunset implemented in 2019 (two years)
- Last sunset implemented in 2021 (five years)
- Fishery to automatically reopen on April 1, 2026



# Current State of Knowledge

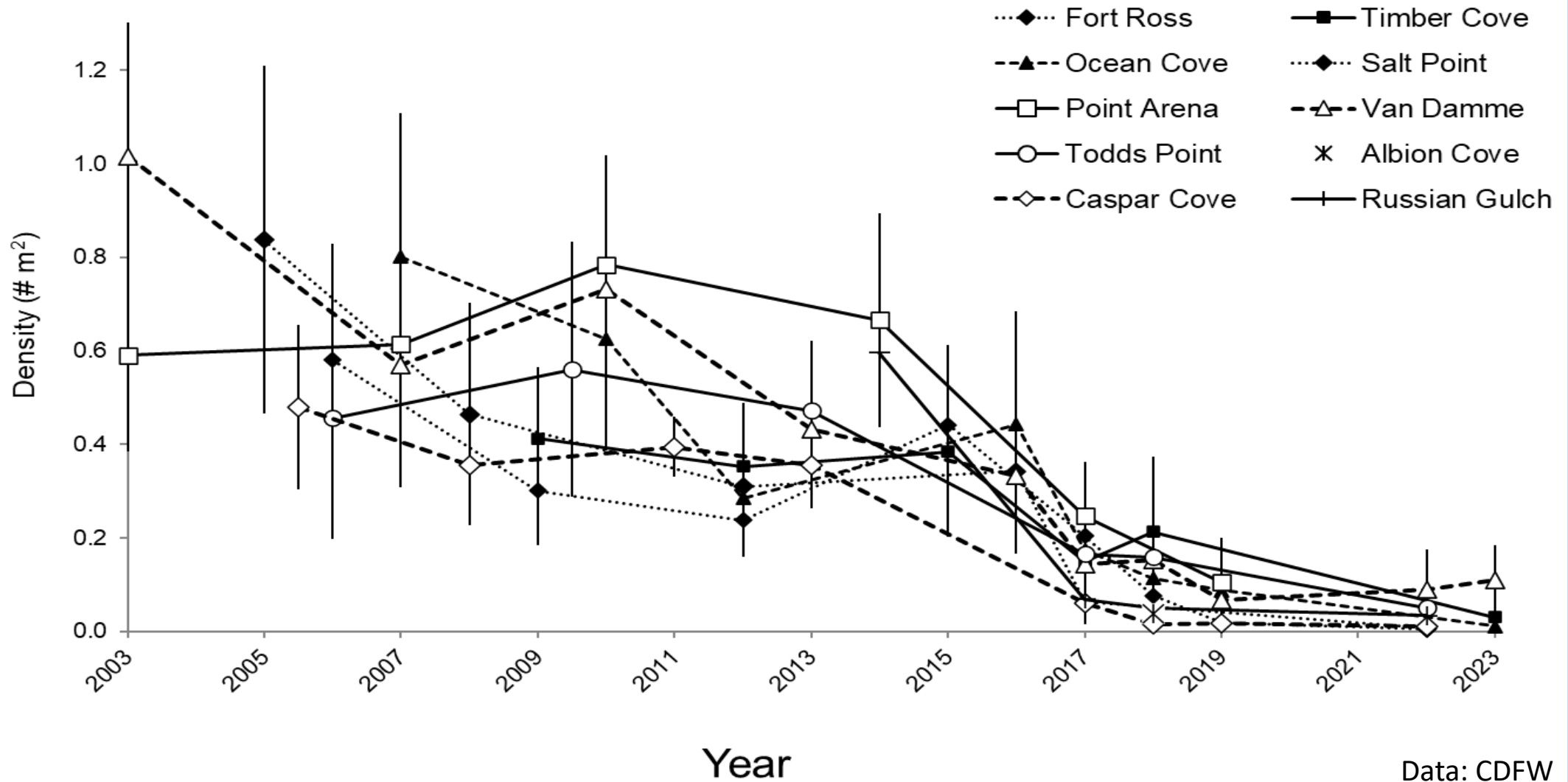
- Red abalone
- Kelp
- Purple Sea Urchin
- *Pycnopodia sp.*



Photo: K. Joe

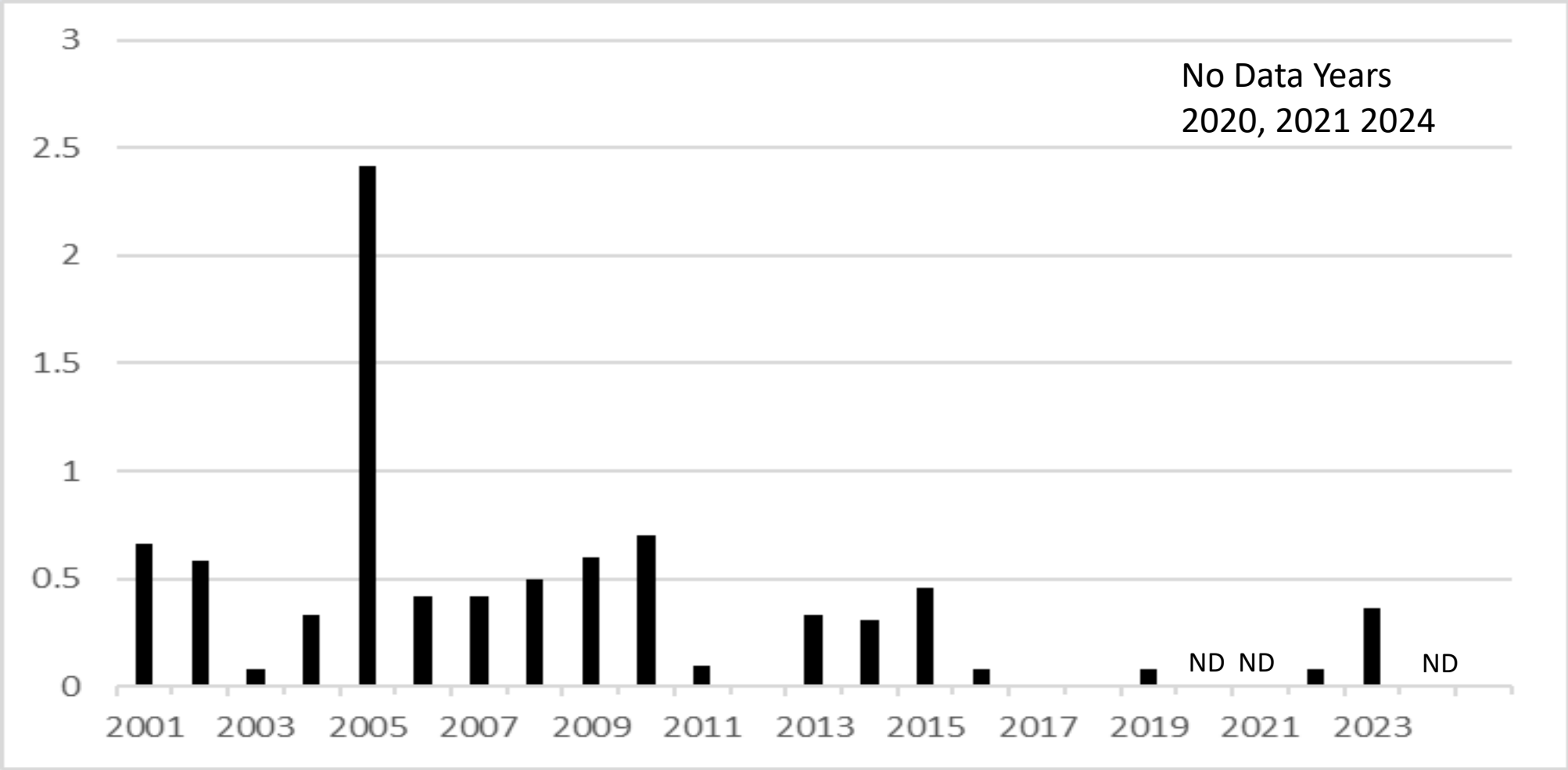


# Current Status – Red Abalone Density





# Current Status – Red Abalone Recruitment

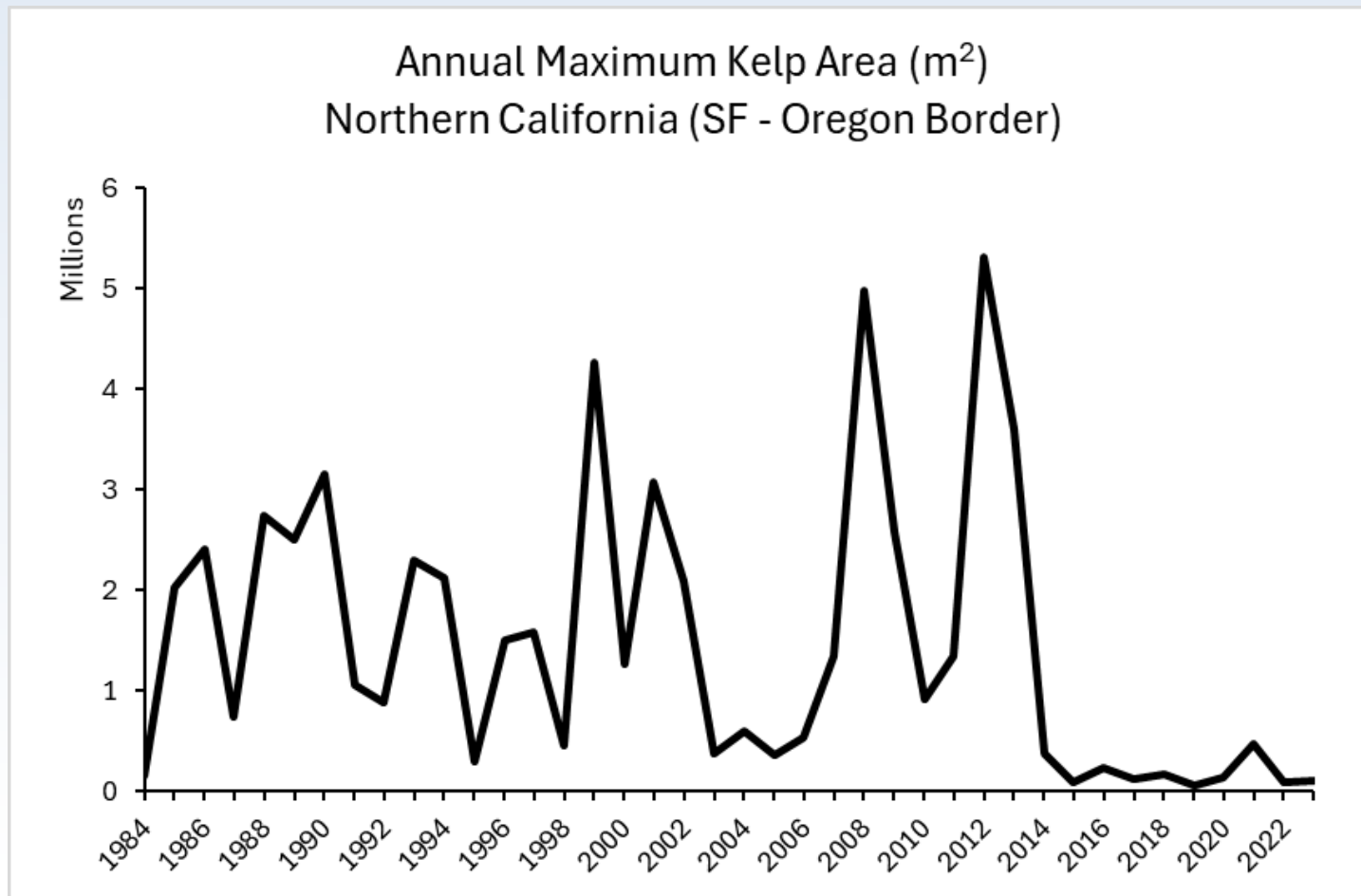


Data: CDFW



# Current Status - Kelp

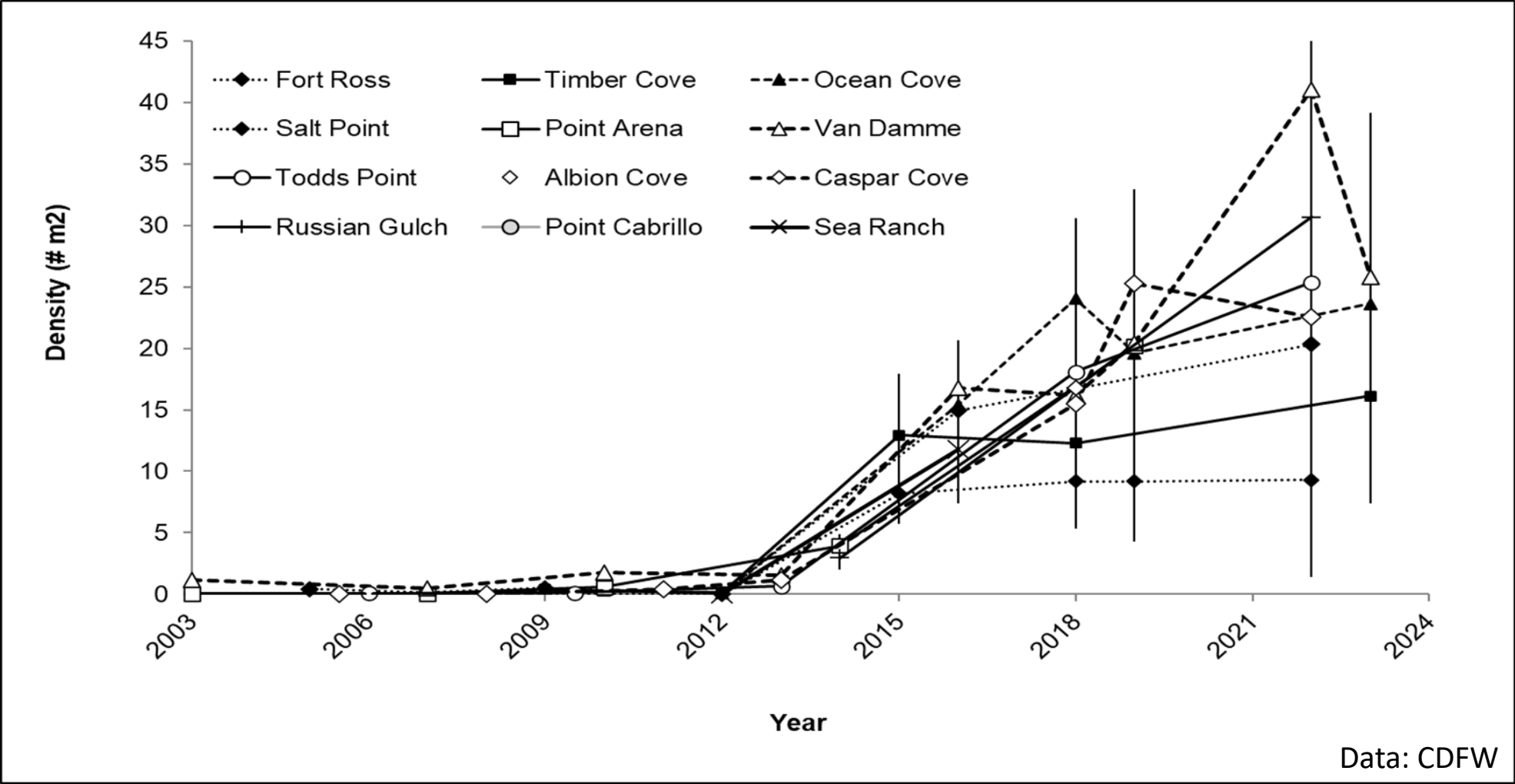
- Over 90% loss of bull kelp canopy in Sonoma and Mendocino
- Minimal recovery since kelp die-off events began in 2014



Data: Kelpwatch.org



# Current Status – Purple Sea Urchin





## Current Status – *Pycnopodia* sp.

- *Pycnopodia* sp. are functionally extinct in California waters due to disease
- Only 5 observed in CA in 2023



Photo: CDFW

# Summary

- Abalone: No widescale recovery.
- Kelp: No widescale recovery.
- Purple Sea Urchin: Continued increases.
- *Pycnopodia*: No recovery.





# Recommendation

- Continue fishery closure
- Implement indefinite moratorium





# Regulatory Timeline

- Tribal Notification Letter: Late March 2025
- Tribal Committee Meeting: April 2025
- Notice: Aug 2025
- Discussion: October 2025
- Adoption: December 2025
- Target effective date for regulation: March 31, 2026

# Thank You



Photo: CDFW

Questions: [Abalone@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Abalone@wildlife.ca.gov)