



Department of Fish and Wildlife

Stakeholder Survey

Options for Recreational Abalone Fishery Regulations

The Department manages abalone to provide for a productive and sustainable fishery. To this end, the Department conducts annual field surveys to assess the health of the resource and track changes in density. Recent surveys have shown downward trends which have reached management triggers set forth in the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP). Accordingly, the Department is considering ways to scale back the fishery to improve the health of the resource and reduce the risk of overfishing. Changes to the existing regulations would become effective in 2014. Two management actions are mandated for consideration based on the density triggers reached: 1) Reduce overall red abalone fishery take by 25 percent; 2) Close Fort Ross to allow for recovery in that area. The Department is seeking constituent input to help inform the development of recommendations for the Fish and Game Commission.

Name (first, last): _____ **Zip Code:** _____ **Email:** _____

Please consider the following options to reduce the fishery take by ~25%. Rate the four options you would prefer (1-best, 4-fourth best). Check the preferred sub-options:

- Prohibit take before 8am (estimated 23% reduction)**
 - Reduce bag limit from 3 to 2 abalone per day (estimated 30% reduction)**
 - Reduce season by closing the following month(s)**
 Apr, Nov (24%) April (16%) Oct, Nov (12%) Apr, Oct, Nov (28%)
 - Reduce fishery-wide annual limit from 24 per year**
 Limit 12 (24%) Limit 15 (15%) Limit 18 (8%) Limit 9 (36%)
- Sub-option: Regional annual limit reduction for Sonoma County and south**
- Limit 6 (46% Sonoma-Marin reduction, 18% total fishery reduction)**
 - Limit 9 (32% Sonoma-Marin reduction, 12% total fishery reduction)**
 - No regional annual limit reduction**

Additional Suggestions for Reducing the Overall Take:

Survey deadline: February 28, 2013. Forms found online www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/abalonesurvey or mailed to: Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, 32330 North Harbor Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437