

Red Abalone FMP, Spring 2019

On behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), in partnership with the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), Fish and Game Commission (Commission), and members of the Red Abalone fishing community, we are pleased to invite you to guide the development of the Recreational Red Abalone Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the North Coast. Your experience and perspective are valued and deeply appreciated.

Background

Following a scientific peer review of two management strategies under consideration for the Recreational Red Abalone FMP in 2018 (here), the Commission made the following recommendations at its December 2018 meeting: (1) address peer review recommendations to integrate the two proposed management strategies; (2) develop a de minimis (i.e., managed/restricted access) fishery option; and (3) develop a more comprehensive process and timeline to engage and consult with stakeholders.

To accomplish this, a series of public meetings (anticipated both in-person and teleconference) will be hosted over the coming months where members of the abalone fishing community, Tribes and tribal communities, and other interested stakeholders will work with scientists and resource managers (collectively known as the Project Team) to provide feedback and develop recommendations for CDFW and the Commission to consider as they finalize a Recreational Red Abalone FMP.

Upcoming Meeting - May 22, 2019

The first of these public Project Team meetings has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 22:

Recreational Red Abalone FMP Project Team

Meeting #1: Introductions & Initial Discussions: Modeling and Managed/Restricted Access Fishery

Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - Santa Rosa

Justice Joseph A. Rattigan Building, Room 410

50 D St (at First St.), Santa Rosa, CA 95404 ([map here](#))

9:00am-5:00pm

Registration will begin at 8:30am. Light refreshments will be provided; lunch will not be provided and a lunch break will be made available to meeting participants.

During this first meeting, participants will be provided with background information on the fishery and FMP process to date and invited to begin discussions related to modeling to inform the integration of the two management strategies and considering a managed/restricted access fishery, in alignment with the Commission's recommendations, Marine Life Management Act, and the peer review recommendations. Strategic Earth will facilitate all Project Team meetings, as well as provide administrative support to the Project Team.

While not required, RSVPs are requested to help with planning and can be sent to Strategic Earth Consulting (hello@strategicearth.com) by Wednesday, May 15. We also would be most appreciative if you could share this invitation with your peers and constituents via your newsletters, blogs, social media, and other communications outlets.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions. An agenda and meeting materials, along with information to request limited travel reimbursement support, will be circulated in the coming weeks. We will be in touch soon!

All our best,

Kelly and the Strategic Earth Team

Project Team Management & Facilitation Support