

10. RECREATIONAL RED ABALONE FISHING

Today's Item Information Action

Consider adopting proposed changes to the recreational take of red abalone fishery closure sunset date regulation.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- FGC adopted emergency regulation to close recreational red abalone fishery for one year Dec 7, 2016, San Diego
- FGC adopted regular rulemaking to extend closure to 2021 Dec 12-13, 2018, Oceanside
- DFW presentation on fishery status Jun 24-25, 2020; Webinar/Teleconference
- Notice hearing Aug 19-20, 2020; Webinar/Teleconference
- Discussion hearing Oct 14, 2020; Webinar/Teleconference
- Today's adoption hearing Dec 9-10, 2020; Webinar/Teleconference

Background

Red abalone fishery management is currently guided by the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan. The recreational red abalone fishery was closed in 2017, following dramatic environmental conditions leading to extensive loss of bull kelp beds and significant abalone die-off (see Exhibit 1 for additional background).

In Jun 2020, DFW confirmed that poor conditions continue to persist or worsen and advised that continuing the closure is necessary. **The proposed regulation would extend the closure, currently due to sunset on Apr 1, 2021, for another five years with a new sunset date of Apr 1, 2026.** The extension will facilitate recovery of the red abalone population while preparation of a red abalone fishery management plan is underway. There are no updates to the proposed action in the initial statement of reasons (ISOR, Exhibit 3). DFW prepared a preadoption statement of reasons (PSOR) memo, which includes responses to comments received during the notice period (Exhibit 5).

[Editor's note: This was adopted December 10, 2020.]