

Restricted de minimus access Red Abalone Fishery in Northern California draft ideas for consideration in both Project Team and Admin Team discussions

Key components:

Harvest Control Rules / HCR (TBD) needs to be very specific as suggested in the PEER review to re-open

Draw (fee TBD)/Tag (fee TBD) system– see previous surveys for suggested cost ideas

PRE re-opening opportunity – DATA tag

Re-opening opportunities in selected areas as HCR allows

Preference point and random draw opportunities, high bid auction opportunity

TAG SYSTEM:

Like the current deer tag system, offer a lottery draw for X divers/rock pickers (TAC TBD) for X designated locations (TBD by HCR's) on specified dates (TBD). Diver/rock picker can apply and pay for all location tag draws (cost TBD), however, the drawn diver/rock picker can only be awarded one location tag per year regardless of how many draws they elect to enter to allow other divers/rock pickers opportunity. If applying for multiple draws, they can specify priority of desired tag. All divers/rock pickers 16 of age and older must have fishing license to apply. Under 16 can apply for draw without fishing license if they will not be 16 during season/timeframe draw tag is for. If diver/rock picker unable to dive, they do not get their tag cost reimbursed (just like if a deer hunter does not get a deer). Mandatory reporting of information by either online reporting and/or noting on report card required (actual reporting method & info TBD) otherwise they are ineligible to apply for draw without reporting and a penalty (TBD) would apply. Revenues generated by draw and tags will only apply to abalone related research and abalone enforcement. No replacement tags offered.

In the current ecosystem, will it be beneficial to remove some abalone, especially in the most affected areas, to assist in rebuilding fisheries? Suggest data collection method and potential opportunity for recreational divers to assist with evaluating HCR (TBD) PRE re-opening areas of the fishery with a draw opportunity for a DATA tag. Inquiries to CDFW about this concept were not responded to prior to submitting.

DATA tag

PRE re-opening opportunity. Number of draw tags TBD. If name is drawn, diver/rock picker would pay DATA tag cost (TBD) for two abalone - one for the person whose tag was drawn and one for their pre-designated dive/rock picking buddy. Designated diver / rock picker can also apply for tag with possibility to be drawn. They can only dive/rock pick at the site and date/dates specified by CDFW and must only harvest abalone of specified size/sizes. Abalone size to harvest TBD. Mandatory harvest information would be provided day of dive/rock picking directly to CDFW at coordinated data collection sites (TBD) to receive harvest documentation/tag (or check in pre dive/ rock pick to collect). Diver would be able to retain meat and shell. Information to collect/report TBD. Data collected to be available for public review. If designated days are weathered out/unsafe to dive/rock pick, CDFW can provide optional dates. If diver/rock picker

unable to dive/rock pick during the dates offered, they do not get tag cost reimbursed (just like if a deer hunter does not get a deer). Revenues generated by draw and tags will only apply to abalone related research and abalone enforcement. No replacement tags offered.

Diver/Rock Picker pair tag draw

If name is drawn, diver/rock picker would pay tag cost (TBD) for two abalone - one for the person whose tag was drawn and one for their pre-designated dive buddy. Designated diver / rock picker can also apply for tag with possibility to be drawn. They can only dive/rock pick at the site and date/dates specified (TBD) and must only harvest abalone of specified size/sizes. Abalone size TBD. Tag would reflect date/dates and location info which would need to be attached to shells as noted in regulations pre closure. Prompt mandatory reporting of information by either online reporting and/or noting on report card required otherwise they are ineligible to apply for draw without reporting and a penalty (TBD) would apply. Information to report TBD. Data collected to be available for public review. If diver/rock picker unable to dive/rock pick, they do not get tag cost reimbursed (just like if a deer hunter does not get a deer). Revenues generated by draw and tags will only apply to abalone related research and abalone enforcement. No replacement tags offered.

PREFERNCE POINTS

Award one preference point per year regardless of how many draws are applied for. No additional preference points to be awarded for proximity to draw locations nor age. All preference points removed if drawn/selected. Preference points will be only a percentage (TBD) of draw, percentage balance would be applied to a random draw. Offer very limited high bid auction opportunity?

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Extreme limited opportunity to re-open fishery – one per day/one per year to maximize public opportunity with annual TAC to be determined and to ensure fishery can sustain harvests. Rationale: possible uncertainty of ocean condition change upon reopening provides opportunity to learn how fishery responds at a conservative level, provides opportunity for more of the public to harvest abalone and for the Department to generate some revenues for continue research and enforcement.
- HCR data collection to come from various sources with same or very similar data collection protocols for consistency, credibility and to have data collected in broader areas within the fishery IE CDFW, Reef Check, PISCO, any MPA monitoring. Volunteer citizen scientists strongly encouraged to assist IE AAUS divers with CDFW and public with Reef Check etc.
- GPS, ankle monitor or other location tracking device to be used by diver / rock picker as requirement to validate compliance, assist with enforcement and to help mitigate poaching activities
- Varying allocations per zone/region due to varying habitat and densities per HCR's (TBD), regional management areas
- Education requirement
- Enforcement feasibility and public understanding considerations