

Ken Morrill Proposal
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I became involved with the recreational red abalone FMP project team in May because I felt it is important for the CDFW to work with sport fisherman to determine what TAC will not adversely impact the red abalone population in California waters. Below are a few points I'd like to raise.

Many game species have been, and are still being, managed with little or no data to support that the current limits will not eventually lead to a decline in the fishery . For instance, what data is collected annually to establish that a limit of twenty five albacore per day is sustainable?

Personally, I feel CDFW is allowing the over harvest of many marine species by not imposing an annual limit. Why should any sport fisherman be allowed to catch the same species day after day through out the entire, season simply because they paid \$50 for a fishing license? Not limiting harvest to an annual take encourages greed, waste, or even the illegal sale of sport caught fish by some license holders.

It is extremely important to sport fisherman that the current management strategy for red abalone in Northern California waters include a third zone comprised of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. This stretch of coastline has historically been managed with little to no data and should be managed in the future using different criteria and triggers due to its ecologically different habitat. As long as urchin barrens do not develop in this area a limited take of red abalone should not negatively impact the overall population.

Which brings me to my final point of how to limit an acceptable TAC. I strongly believe that harvest of all game species can easily be achieved by limiting the annual take for each species, by imposing size limits that restrict harvest of individuals that have had the opportunity to produce on many occasions and who are of such size that they comprise only a small fraction of the entire population.

For example, if a size limit of ten inches were adopted for red abalone, all of the state waters could eventually be reopened for recreational fisherman to again have the opportunity to search for the trophy that most have never achieved and the total harvest would never significantly impact the remaining red abalone population. As a comparison, when the Pismo clam population was collapsing due to sea otter predation it was not necessary to close the fishery because there were no legal sized clams available for sport fisherman to harvest and because a stable population of small breeding clams still existed. The same would be true for red abalone because there will be pockets of breeding individuals and removing only a very limited number of very old individuals should have no negative effect.

It will be a win win situation for the CDFW, recreational fisherman, and business owners who depend on our business if this simple strategy is adopted.

Sincerely,
Ken Morrill