

Project Team,

Re-open your greatest data stream.

It is with great disappointment after attending meetings of the past and the latest meeting August 27, 2019, to hear that the proposals on the table are little more than having nature take its course. At the meeting prior to closing the abalone season, I brought to the attention of the panel, that in addition to proposing an inapplicable measure to the problem at hand, DFW was at risk of losing its greatest data stream: the thousands of license and tag buying enthusiasts who actually pay to be advocates to the cause of a sustainable fishery. At the time the only model in place was based primarily on triggers due to overfishing. Unfortunately, overfishing was not the problem, and yet the panel used that inapplicable model anyway...making matters worse rather than better. Worse, because as anyone in agriculture knows, if you have a food shortage—you don't just lock the gate and let the herd starve to death. That is not management, that is mismanagement. But that is what DFW did anyway, against the advice of their-then-advocates in the field. And here we are.

So, my proposal is this:

- Find a way to involve the power of public interest and your greatest data stream potential; to re-align again with those who paid to have an interest by buying licenses and tags. Find a way. Sooner, rather than later.
- Instead of regulating and resisting public efforts to help resolve the problem, pull out the stops. For example: Instead of putting on the brakes and taking months to approve an increase in urchin bag limits from 1 bucket to 4 buckets, you should be the ones hosting urchin removal events, and even offering guidelines on how best to maximize the efforts, etc..
- Scrap your previous management and procedures methods. They failed. Heads should roll.
- Remember the original mission statement of DFG that has been all but forgotten, and do it.

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