

**Steven Rebuck**

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Concerning the California abalone fisheries, I have a few suggestions.

#### NORTH COAST

\*Dave Parker (1986/Attached) identified the commercial abalone divers of CAA, in field research, found more abalone at Arena Cove and cited "experience" as the possible variable (page 6).

\* When the sea urchin fishery began on the north coast in 1988, several commercial divers moved to the north coast. The ones I know were: Jeff Baldwin (Bodega), Jon Holcomb (Ft. Bragg), Bob Askew (Pt. Arena ?) Mike Kitahara (Albion) and Mike Radon Albion, Pt. Arena). Radon relocated to New Zealand. There may be a couple more still living on the north coast.

\* When DFW begins surveys, I suggest these men be hired to assist the surveys.

\* These men have 30 years of north coast sea urchin diving experience plus another 20 years diving the Channel Island. As much as 50 years per individual,

\* Engage the divers in producing maps of the north coast. They know the various substrates. They know the areas that formerly had more abalone than urchins.

\* The remaining sea urchin divers also have many years of experience and observation. Many if not most may also sport dive abalone.

\* These divers have the boats, equipment, ability.

\* Produce more experiments: Traps, individual diver harvest, air-lift, etc with these divers.

\* Seek grant funding--CSUC, OPC--for these services.

#### SOUTH COAST

\*Immediately open San Miguel Island, pursuant to ARMP/Appendix H (attached).

#### JUSTIFICATION

\*Some areas of the Channel Islands are showing signs of a purple urchin potential overpopulation. We know what occurred on the north, first identified by Hamdorf, 2012. Possibly we can head it off on the Channel Island.

\* Allow the former abalone divers to harvest mixed loads: Abalone, red urchin, purple urchins.

- \* Creates financial incentive for divers to harvest purple urchins and create markets.
- \* Creates fishery dependent data for DFW which no longer exists.
- \* Creates finance--landing taxes, Resource Rents--for DFW research, management and law enforcement.
- \* Appendix H creates recreation abalone fishing opportunity.
- \* Restores tradition fishery resource use.
- \* Creates an "orderly fishery" model.
- ^Restored confidence and cooperation between DFW and fishermen.
- \*More eyes in the water, making and reporting observations.

Considering the north will not likely open for decades, some of us to the south are moving forward. Please consider the attached, ARMP/Appendix H as our starting point. Some of us see this document as an existing, San Miguel Island Fishery Management Plan. Considering there have been nearly 23 years of closure/recovery, we believe a small "experimental" red abalone fishery is doable. We are also observing a similar pattern of purple urchin invasion/overpopulation occurring. We see an opportunity to possibly head this off, using similar techniques as on the north, plus the use of trap to remove excess urchins. Allowing mixed loads: abalone, red urchin and purple urchin would create a financial incentive for fishermen to use their existing boats and equipment. In addition, this would provide the DFW with fishery dependent data which they no longer have, plus revenue from taxes and resource rents.

Thank you for your consideration.