

## **FAQ: Recreational Red Abalone Fishery Peer Review Public Webinar**

*August 2018*

### **How has the recreational red abalone fishery been managed to date?**

The recreational red abalone fishery is currently managed by the Abalone Recovery Management Plan (ARMP). Until a new Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) is adopted, the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) are required to adhere to the ARMP.

### **Is the peer review considering how density surveys are conducted?**

In 2014, an Ocean Protection Council-Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT) peer review panel reviewed the application and methodologies for density survey estimates as they existed under the ARMP. Density survey estimates in the new CDFW proposed FMP have some similarities and differences to those in the ARMP. The peer review panel is assessing the scientific rigor of the proposed density survey methods to inform the current FMP process.

### **Why is time and effort being invested in reviewing a closed fishery?**

The focus on developing a FMP for the North Coast recreational red abalone fishery began many years ago when the fishery was still open. The intention is that this FMP can outline any number of management strategies that could be implemented under any current or future scenarios including a closed fishery, rebuilding stock, or open recreational fishery, along with other management considerations. CDFW and FGC plan to discuss the final peer reviewed report and the next phase of the FMP process at their upcoming FGC meeting in October 2018.

### **Who are the peer reviewers?**

The scientific peer reviewers are a group of seven scientists selected by the OPC-SAT to review the science used in the abalone Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). These individuals come from all over the world and specialize in a range of disciplines including fisheries science, ecology, oceanography, population dynamics, etc. A list of the peer reviewers is available on the [Recreational Red Abalone Peer Review website](#). The peer reviewers responsibility is to make sure the FMP uses the best available science to inform management approaches.

### **What is the peer review panel reviewing?**

Two proposed management strategies have been submitted for review, one from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and a second from a stakeholder group of fishermen, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and researchers. The peer review panel will be reviewing both proposals.

### **How are community members, including commercial fishermen, involved in the peer review process?**

Ocean Science Trust (OST) has worked to build new elements into this peer review, based on stakeholder feedback, in support of information sharing and building transparency into the peer review process. While some parts of the review are not yet publicly available, many aspects have been shared including both draft proposed management strategies, reviewer

instructions, and the ongoing list of questions and data requests sent to both management strategy proposal teams, all of which can be viewed on the [Recreational Red Abalone Peer Review website](#).

OST also has two community engagement webinars planned for the review. The first webinar is on August 20 at 1:00pm, if you would like to participate please visit the [Recreational Red Abalone Peer Review website](#) for all the details. A high-level summary of stakeholder questions submitted and responses from the webinar will be included in the final peer review report and made available to CDFW to inform the FMP process. The second webinar will be scheduled upon the close of the review, most likely early October, to share the results with community members and allow for questions and discussion about the findings.

**Will the FGC take red abalone fishery community members questions into consideration?**

The FGC will always consider any testimony on an issue before them.

**How can red abalone community members participate?**

California Ocean Science Trust invites members of the red abalone community and other interested parties to engage in an information exchange with the Recreational Red Abalone Peer Review Panel co-chairs during a public webinar on August 20. This is an opportunity for members of the red abalone community to have their questions answered by the peer review panel and Ocean Science Trust. For more information on how to participate in the webinar and additional information about the peer review process, please visit the [Recreational Red Abalone Peer Review website](#).