Evaluation of the Potential Impact MPA Proposals May Pose for Recreational Abalone Fisheries and Abalone Management in the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region

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Significant recreational abalone fishery in North Central Coast Study Region

- 2002-2006: Annual harvest averaged >134,000 abalone
- 24 “Report Card Landing Sites” in the NCCSR
- No commercial fishery in the state
Abalone Management

Potential Impacts to Management

- **Index sites** = Areas of high or moderate fishing pressure which are used as long-term underwater and intertidal survey sites
- No proposals encompass any existing abalone index sites

Index Site Examples

- Salt Point
- Timber Cove
- Fort Ross
Recreational Abalone Estimates

• Evaluation provides maximum potential impacts to recreational harvest in study region
  1. Landing sites from Department abalone report card
  2. Anglers must report harvested abalone to nearest landing site
  3. Evaluation - % harvest potentially impacted by MPAs that prohibit abalone take (2002-06)
  4. Assumes harvesters do not move to a new location
Point Arena Lighthouse Landing Site

- Point Arena Lighthouse landing site contains Stornetta Ranch
- Public gained access to Stornetta Ranch in mid-2004
- 2006 harvest at Point Arena Lighthouse: >10x higher than 2002 & 2003
Stornetta Ranch (Sea Lion Cove)

- Potential impact from Proposal 1-3 and 2-XA is likely different from Proposal 4, which includes Sea Lion Cove SMCA
Maximum Potential Impact to Abalone Harvest Based on 2002-2006 Abalone Report Card Data for the NCCSR

Final Proposal 1-3

Final Proposal 2XA

Maximum % Reduction in Total Abalone Harvest

San Francisco Bay Southern terminus of abalone fishery
Maximum Potential Impact to Abalone Harvest Based on 2002-2006 Abalone Report Card Data for the NCCSR

Final Proposal 4

Maximum % Reduction in Total Harvest

San Francisco Bay
Southern terminus of abalone fishery
Summary

- Maximum impacts relative to total harvest in the study region
- Proposal 4 includes part of Stornetta Ranch in an SMCA
- Proposal 1-3 has the least potential impact to recreational harvest of abalone
Questions?