Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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

California Fish and Game Commission / MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force

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Evaluation of MPA Proposals on Abalone Fishery

Describe Potential impact of each Marine Protected Area (MPA) Proposal on:
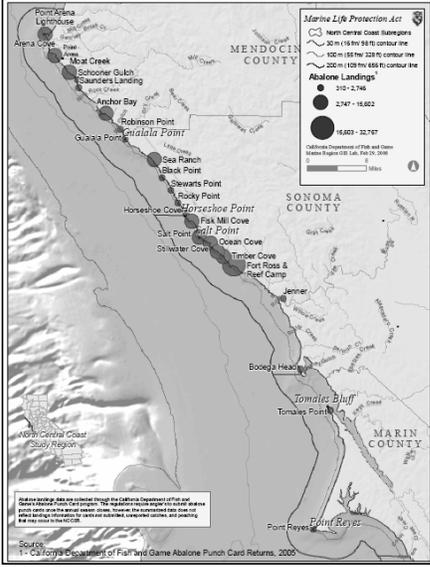
➢ Abalone Fishery Management

➢ Recreational Abalone Fisheries

Recreational Abalone Harvest: Background

➢ North Central Coast Study Region has a significant recreational abalone fishery

➢ 2002-2006: Annual harvest averaged >134,000 abalone

➢ 24 "Report Card Landing Sites" in the NCCSR

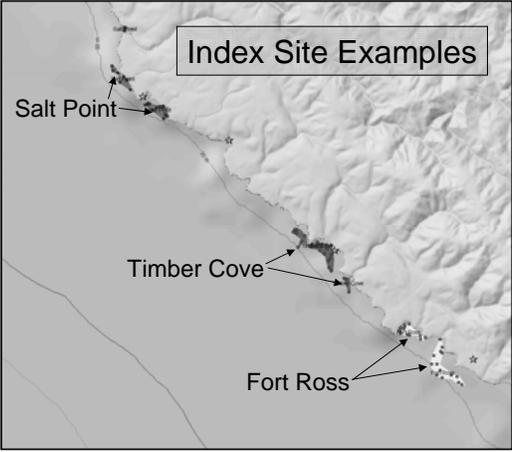➢ No commercial fishery in the state

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 abalone index sites occur within proposed MPAs prohibiting abalone take

Index Site Examples

Salt Point

Timber Cove

Fort Ross

Recreational Abalone: Evaluation Methodology

➢ Evaluation provides **MAXIMUM POTENTIAL** impacts to recreational harvest for the study region

    ➢ Evaluation shows proportion of total regional harvest for 2002-2006 that may be impacted by MPAs that prohibit abalone harvest

    ➢ Assumes MPAs covering any portion of report card site have an impact on harvest for the entire site, including the non-MPA portion of the site

    ➢ Assumes harvesters do not move to a new location

    ➢ Based on DFG abalone harvest estimates from report card data for pre-designated landing sites combined with a telephone survey

    ➢ Anglers must report harvested abalone to nearest landing site on the report card

Point Arena Lighthouse

➢ Point Arena Lighthouse landing site contains Stornetta Ranch

➢ Public gained access to Stornetta Ranch in mid-2004

    ➢ 2006 abalone harvest was over ten times higher than 2002 and 2003 at the Point Arena Lighthouse report card landing site

Stornetta Ranch (Sea Lion Cove)

Potential impacts from Proposals 1-3 and 2-XA are likely different from Proposal 4 and the BRTF Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA) which include Sea Lion Cove SMCA

Final Proposal 1-3 & 2XA

Final Proposal 4 & IPA

Maximum Potential Impact to Abalone Harvest Based on 2002-2006 Abalone Report Card Data

Proposal 1-3

Proposal 2-XA

Maximum Potential Impact to Abalone Harvest Based on 2002-2006 Abalone Report Card Data

Proposal 4

BRTF IPA

Summary

MAXIMUM POTENTIAL Impact to Recreational Abalone Harvest