

Common Name: **Green Abalone**
Scientific name: *Haliotis fulgens*



Area of concern: Pt. Conception, California, to Bahia Magdalena, Baja California.

Year first listed as a “Species of Concern”: 2004

Species description: Green abalone ranges from Pt. Conception, California, to Bahia Magdalena, Baja California Sur, Mexico. This species resides in shallow water on open/exposed coast; low intertidal to at least 9 m, perhaps as deep as 18 m. The shell is usually brown and marked with many low, flat-topped ribs which run parallel to 5-7 open respiratory pores that are elevated above the shell’s surface. The inside of the shell is an iridescent blue and green. The cephalic and epipodial tentacles are olive green, but the epipodial fringes are a mottled cream and brown, with tubercles scattered on the surface and a frilly edge (California Department of Fish and Game 1986).

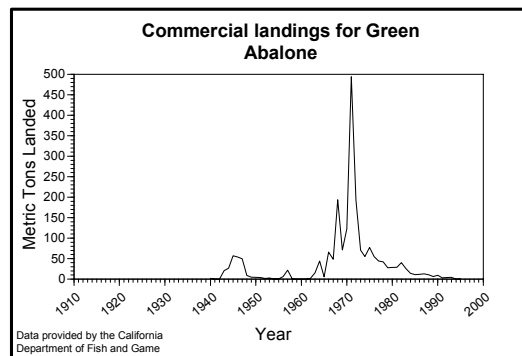
Rationale for “Species of Concern” Listing:

Demographic and Diversity Concerns:

Reduced numbers due primarily to overfishing make the species vulnerable to extirpation due to a phenomenon known as the Allee effect (Allee et al. 1949).

Factors for decline:

The primary factors contributing to the decline of this species are overharvest, and suspected illegal harvest and trade. Other factors include predation by sea stars, the southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*), fishes and octopi, competition (*Strongylocentrotus* sp.), disease (withering syndrome), climate change, and El Niño events. The green abalone fishery in California was targeted after the collapse of the pink abalone fishery in 1970. Peak catch in California occurred in 1971 (> 494 metric tons) and by 1990 the catch had declined to 6% of the 1968-1972 average catch. In 1996 the California Department of Fish and game closed the commercial and recreational abalone fisheries in California, but populations continued to decline. Information regarding the status of green abalone in Mexico is scant. Aquaculture programs are being pursued in an attempt to artificially enhance populations. A commercial fishery for green abalone is still in place in Mexico and is managed by local cooperatives.



Existing protections include a proposed system of California Marine Protected Areas, commercial and recreational fishery closures, an Abalone Recovery Management Plan (ARMP), mandated by the California legislature, to be completed by January 1, 2003.

Status Reviews/Research Completed or Underway: No status review underway.

Citations

Allee, W.C., A.E. Emerson, O. Park, T. Park, and K.P. Schmidt. 1949. Principles of animal ecology. Saunders, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

California Department of Fish and Game. 1986. California Abalone. Marine Resources Leaflet No. 11, Marine Resources Division, Long Beach, California, USA.

For further information on this Species of Concern, or on the Species of Concern Program in general, please contact Ms. Marta Nammack, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-1401, Marta.Nammack@noaa.gov; or Dr. Melissa Neuman, NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Region, Protected Resources Division, 501 W. Ocean Blvd. Suite 4200, Long Beach, California, 90802-4213, (562) 980-4115, Melissa.Neuman@noaa.gov.