

Update on the Status of the Pinto Abalone - (Briefing)

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Summary

Meeting dates: June 13, 2014

Agenda item: Update on the status of the Pinto abalone – (Briefing)

Presenter(s): Bob Sizemore – Research Scientist, Fish Program
Betsy Peabody and Josh Bouma – Puget Sound Restoration Fund
Scott Rumsey - NOAA

Background summary:

The Pinto abalone population in WA has been in continuous decline over the past two decades, in spite of a recreational fishery closure in 1994. Stocks are now at a level where natural recovery is unlikely. WDFW has formed a collaboration with NOAA, DNR, universities, treaty tribes, the Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF), and private industry to develop remote propagation methods and conduct restoration outplants at specific sites. In 2013 two petitions were received by NOAA to list Pinto abalone as either Threatened or Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. This presentation is made by key collaborators to inform the WA Fish and Wildlife Commission about the current status of Pinto abalone stocks and restoration efforts.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

None at this time.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Outreach has been conducted by PSRF and WDFW, information has been provided in the WDFW recreational harvest pamphlet, an agency web page is being developed, a non-SEPA restoration plan has been posted to the PSRF web site, and a federal register request for population information has been completed. There has been overwhelming public support for restoring Pinto abalone populations. The status of the Pinto population (and population sub-units) across its' range is under review by NOAA.

Action requested:

None

Draft motion language:

None.

Justification for Commission action:

Not Applicable.

Communications Plan:

Not Applicable.

Commission Request to Department

"Blue Sheet"

Date of Request: 8/ March / 14

Title of Request: Update on the biological status of the pinto abalone

Commissioner: Mahrken

Priority Level (put one check in each row):

Importance: High Medium Low

Urgency: High Medium Low

Request Due Date: April Commission meeting?

Knowledge or Action Being Requested (narrative). Describe what you want to know. Be specific.

- Summary of proactive hatchery recovery research/outplanting etc.
- Review of population status (abundance, distribution, shells etc.)
- new understanding of causes for decline (over predation, ocean acidification etc.)
- ramifications of recent ESA petition to list as threatened or endangered

Output Requested (e.g., telephone call, memo, material from files, new report, presentation, other):

Presentation to Commission by WDFW, NOAA & collaborators.

For Commission Executive Assistant Use	
Date Assigned: _____ [At Debrief]	Assigned To: _____ [Program]