

K. Cox, P.T. Raimondi, C. DaCosta, R. Gaddam, D. Lohse, C. Bell, M. George, M. Miner, and S. Worden. 2006. Reserves in Reverse: The recent change in access status of Stornetta Ranch and the resulting effect on red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*) populations

Stornetta Ranch, in Mendocino, CA, historically consisted of 1711 acres with 2.5 miles of coastline. Until recently, there was virtually no public access to this stretch of coastline, making it a *de facto* reserve. In 2004, this property was purchased by a consortium (The Nature Conservancy, The State Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and The State of California Wildlife Conservation Board), to be administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

In 2004, the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe), Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO), and California Department of Fish and Game conducted an intertidal survey of the marine resources on the property. Findings included a large population of unharvested red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*). Coastal access of Stornetta Ranch was opened to the public in 2005 and harvesting of abalone immediately began. PISCO initiated a long term monitoring study of these abalone populations in 2005 to determine the effects of harvesting.