Can a California Abalone Fishing Cooperative be Economically Viable and Sustainable?
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**Background**
- **Red Abalone**
  - Abalone populations declined in the 1900s due to fishing pressure, environmental variability, lack of data, and an inappropriate scale of management.
- **FISHERS AS STEWARDS**
  - A cooperative is a group of fishers who are given dedicated access to a marine resource, as well as greater responsibility in harvesting decisions, data collection, and monitoring.
  - Two options for allocating harvest between the cooperative and the recreational sector:
    - Commercial 90% / Recreational 10%
    - Commercial 50% / Recreational 50%

**Methods & Economic Viability Model**
- **General Approach**
  - Examine cooperative's costs and benefits over 15 years
  - Incorporate environmental and economic uncertainty
  - Make recommendations for cooperative structure
- **Benefits**
  - Market Value
  - Fishing
  - Research & Monitoring
- **Costs**
  - Harvest Labeling
  - Marketing
  - Administrative
  - Enforcement & Taxes
- **Summary of Costs**
  - 90% Commercial Allocation
  - 50% Commercial Allocation

**Long-term Results & Recommendations**
- There are other elements that will contribute to the cooperative's success:
  - Closely monitor population and adjust harvest based on adaptive management approach
  - Cooperate with enforcement to minimize poaching
  - Spatially isolate recreational and commercial sectors
  - Collaborate with government and universities
  - Keep an open dialogue with community
  - Reduce membership size
  - Coordinate marketing

**CONCLUSION**
This CAA abalone cooperative is economically viable. Properly implemented, this could be a tool for sustainable management of California red abalone.

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