

Northern Abalone (*Haliotis kamtschatkana*)

Only a concern when planning activities in foreshore / near shore areas—log dumps, heli drop zones etc

Description

- single ear shaped shell with row of perforations along one side
- usually mottled reddish or greenish with areas of white and blue. Orange variant seen rarely
- often overgrown with various encrusting organisms
- Inside shell is pearly white with faint iridescence
- Large foot usually tan coloured

Similar Species—no similar single shelled shellfish in BC

Biology

- Can be sexually mature at shell length of 50-70mm (2-5 years)
- Immature found under rocks or crevices
- Mature found on exposed rock surfaces
- Thought to live up to 15-20 years
- Feed primarily on macro-algae
- Larval abalone are poor swimmers and have low dispersal rate
- Threats include illegal harvest; predation and low recruitment



Habitat

- Sheltered bays to exposed coastlines
- Require full salinity (no brackish water)
- Require source of macro algae such as kelp
- <10m depth

Occurrence: DSI, DCR, DSC

- Found throughout BC

Status

BC: Red Listed (threatened /endangered);

Canada: Threatened

Action Required

- Contact a Qualified Registered Professional to develop mitigation strategy for any activities taking place in foreshore or near shore areas

