

Laws and Lawlessness: how national and international legislation led to an increase in poaching of abalone in South Africa

India Miller

*Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies
University of Washington
Seattle, WA*

Matthew W Farthing

*Department of ichthyology
Rhodes University
Grahamstown, South Africa*

Despite attempts by both the South African government and the international community, South African Abalone, *Haliotis Midae*, have been poached to the brink of extinction and fraught with crime and even drug activity. By examining the rise of the illegal abalone trade, key actors within it, and past South African legislation, this paper will show why policies have failed to protect abalone, and even led to an exacerbation of both abalone and social issues. It will then be argued that restructuring environmental policies to be more integrative and community-based will result in more effective abalone conservation and use.