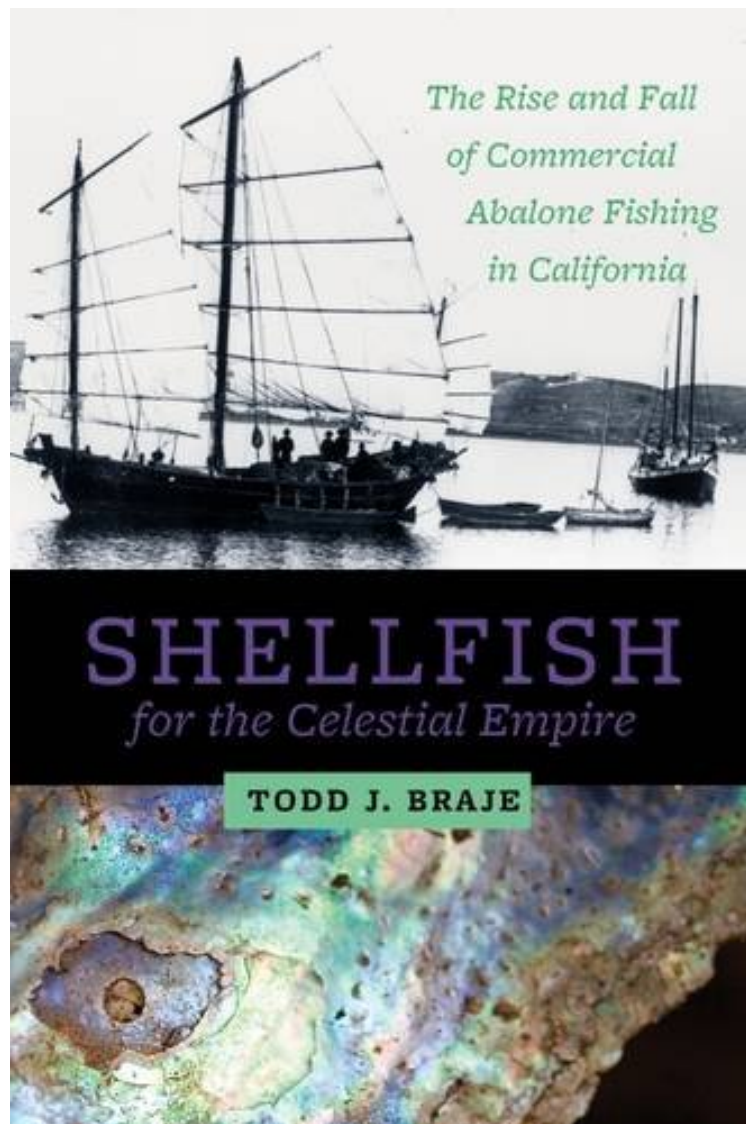


[Download ebook] Shellfish for the Celestial Empire: The Rise and Fall of Commercial Abalone Fishing in California

Shellfish for the Celestial Empire: The Rise and Fall of Commercial Abalone Fishing in California

Todd J Braje

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Todd J Braje : Shellfish for the Celestial Empire: The Rise and Fall of Commercial Abalone Fishing in California before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shellfish for the Celestial Empire: The Rise and Fall of Commercial Abalone Fishing in California:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Damien RVery good book!

In the 1800s, when California was captivated by gold fever, a small group of Chinese immigrants recognized the fortune to be made from the untapped resources along the states coast, particularly from harvesting the black abalone of southern and Baja California. These immigrants, with skills from humble beginnings in a traditional Chinese fishing province, founded Californias commercial abalone industry, and led its growth and expansion for several decades. By the turn of the twentieth century, however, their successful livelihood was stolen from them through targeted legislation of the U.S. and California governments. Today, the physical evidence of historical Chinese abalone fishing on the mainland has been erased by development. On Californias Channel Islands, however, remnants of temporary abalone collecting and processing camps lie scattered along the coastlines. These sites hold a treasure trove of information, stories, lifeways, and history. Braje has excavated many of these sites and uses them to explore the history of Chinese abalone fishing, presenting a microcosm of the broader history of Chinese immigrants in America their struggles, their successes, the institutionalized racism they faced, and the unique ways in which they helped to shape the identity of the United States.

Although other authors have documented aspects of the rise and fall of commercial abalone fishing, to my knowledge none has the particular focus of Brajes book: the social context of the industry and links to a deeper history. The book will have a significant impact in the fields of conservation of marine resources and marine habitat restoration. Michael A. Glassow, Professor Emeritus and Research Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara