



## **Frequently Asked Questions: Dungeness Crab Task Force Commercial Fishing Elections**

*March 2019*

### **What is the Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF)?**

The DCTF is the legislatively-mandated advisory body that reviews and evaluates Dungeness crab fishery management measures and provides recommendations to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, CDFW, and the Fish and Game Commission (FGC).

### **What is the composition of the DCTF?**

The composition of the DCTF is described in Fish and Game Code Section 8276.4. The DCTF is comprised of various members, including commercial and recreational fishermen, a member representing commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) interests, crab processors, as well as non-voting members from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), California Sea Grant and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The 17 commercial fishermen will be elected by their peers from the same respective port complex and production level.

There will be a simultaneous public process through OPC to solicit nominations for and appoint the seven non-commercial fishing members to the DCTF. The process to solicit nominations for and appoint the seven non-commercial fishing members to the DCTF will occur via the DCTF listserv, OPC listserv and OPC website. Visit the DCTF homepage: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/> to sign up for the DCTF listserv, and the OPC homepage to sign up for the OPC listserv: [opc.ca.gov](http://opc.ca.gov).

### **How many representatives will each port have?**

Home port complexes and representation are as follows:

- Crescent City, 3 members
- Trinidad, 1 member
- Eureka, 2 members
- Fort Bragg, 2 members
- Bodega Bay, 2 members
- San Francisco, 2 members
- Half Moon Bay, 2 members
- Ports south of Half Moon Bay, 2 members
- California nonresident crab permitholders, 1 member (includes all out of state vessel port registrations designated as Unknown)

For ports with one elected member (Trinidad and nonresident), the member shall represent both the upper and lower production levels. For ports with two elected members, one member shall represent the upper production level and one member shall represent the lower production level. For ports (Crescent City) with three elected members, one member shall represent the upper production level, one member shall represent the lower production level, and one member shall represent both the upper and lower production levels.

### **How are production levels calculated?**

Upper and lower production levels will be determined based on total statewide landings associated with the permit during the five-season period prior to the election cycle. Everyone within a specific port who landed at least 25,000 pounds in the five seasons prior to the election are put into a pool. The five-season cumulative landings of all individuals in the pool are averaged. Everyone who landed more than the average is placed in the upper level and everyone who landed below the average (including those who landed less than 25,000 pounds in five seasons) are placed in the lower level. This calculation is specific to each port and therefore the division between the upper and lower tier varies from port to port.

### **How does my production level relate to my pot tier?**

Production levels are calculated ONLY for the purposes of creating the DCTF and are not related to your trap tier allocation.

### **How will DCTF commercial fishing elections be carried out?**

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and CDFW will carry out the elections as described in Fish and Game Code Section 8276.4. Commercial fishermen will be elected to the DCTF by their peers to represent their home port complexes and production level.

DCTF elections shall be held every three years in each port, on a staggered basis across ports. To facilitate the election process, ports were separated into two groups (see below) based on need to fill vacancies, feedback received during the 2018 Port Tour, and in an effort to balance elections in the Northern and Central Management Areas.

#### Group 1 Ports: DCTF Elections in 2019

If your vessel's registered home port is in any of the following port complexes, you are eligible to vote in the Group 1 DCTF elections in 2019, 2022, 2025, and 2028:

- Crescent City (includes all California ports north of Trinidad)
- Trinidad

- Fort Bragg (includes all ports in Mendocino County)
- San Francisco (includes ports from within San Francisco Bay)
- South of Half Moon Bay (includes all ports from Monterey Bay south)

After nominations are submitted using the enclosed form, all fishermen with Group 1 home ports will receive another mailing with a ballot. Upon tallying the ballots, the results will be shared with all permitholders. Group 1 fishermen will be able to nominate individuals in next year's Group 2 elections, but they will not be eligible to vote in that election.

Group 2 Ports: DCTF Elections in 2020

If your vessel's registered home port is in any of the following port complexes, you are eligible to vote in the Group 2 DCTF elections in 2020, 2023, and 2026:

- Eureka (includes Shelter Cove and all ports within Humboldt Bay)
- Bodega Bay (includes Bolinas and all ports within Tomales Bay)
- Half Moon Bay
- Non-resident California Dungeness crab permitholder (includes all out of state vessel port registrations designated as Unknown)

All fishermen with Group 2 home ports will receive nomination forms and ballots next year as part of the 2020 DCTF elections. Group 2 fishermen will be able to nominate individuals in Group 1 elections in 2019, but they will not be eligible to vote in that election.

**Who is allowed to participate in DCTF commercial fishing elections?**

Valid Dungeness crab permitholders are eligible to vote in the port complex where the vessel is registered. In an election year, all elected members in a port are subject to reelection.

**How is my homeport determined?**

Your home port is the port at which your vessel is registered with CDFW. If you would like to request a change to your home port, you must submit the change to CDFW's License Revenue Branch based on your vessel registration documents (either via the California DMV or the US Coast Guard). If you are currently registered as part of a Group 1 home port and would like to request an update to your home port, this request will be processed for the next election cycle in 2022, and all elections thereafter.

**How do I participate in the elections?**

During each election cycle, elections will be carried out with two separate mailings:

**Mailing #1: Nomination Form:** The entire fleet will receive a letter to solicit nominations, regardless of their homeport. We request that you nominate several Dungeness crab commercial fishing permitholders to serve on the DCTF – self

nominations are welcome and encouraged. You may nominate multiple people from any home port complex or production level. To participate in the nomination process, commercial Dungeness crab permit holders must provide their CDFW vessel ID number, commercial fishing permit number, and updated contact information. Please also indicate if you would be willing to serve on the DCTF if elected.

**Mailing #2: Ballot:** Ballots will be compiled from the list of nominees. Only permit holders from the Group 1 port complexes (Crescent City, Trinidad, Fort Bragg, San Francisco, and South of Half Moon Bay) will receive a ballot in 2019 and will only be able to vote for their representative(s) in the same registered home port complex/production level combination. Each permit represents one vote and permit holders with more than one permit will be able to vote for each port complex/production level combination that their respective permits represent. Votes tallied from these ballots will determine the members who serve on the DCTF.

Permit holders from Group 2 port complexes (Bodega Bay, Half Moon Bay, Eureka, non-resident) will receive a ballot in 2020 and will vote for their representative(s) in their home port complex/production level combination at that time. Group 2 permit holders may nominate representatives for any home port complex/production level combination now, but they will not receive a voting ballot in 2019.

**How will I learn about the results of the election?**

Results of the DCTF elections will be posted on OPC's website and shared via the DCTF, OPC and CDFW listservs.