

California Dungeness Crab Task Force
Requests for Future Meeting Agenda Items

For DCTF Executive Committee Review and Consideration

April 12, 2018

A request for a future DCTF and/or DCTF Executive Committee meeting agenda item has been submitted for review in compliance with the [Guidelines: How to Submit Requests for Agenda Items at California Dungeness Crab Task Force and/or Executive Committee Meetings](#). The information below was provided by the requestor and has not yet been vetted for accuracy and details shared will be further verified once/if the DCTF and/or Executive Committee requests the requested item be put on an upcoming agenda.

Agenda item request: Implementing zone declarations for each year that permit holders renew their California Dungeness crab fishing permits.

Request Details: Permit holders would choose a zone and would be limited to fish only that zone for the duration of the season. Zones could be traded or purchased for those who wanted to shift there declared area. Zones could be defined as the 3 existing management zones for CA (i.e., Mexican border to Point Arena, Pt. Arena to Humboldt Bay, and Humboldt Bay to Oregon). There would not be any limitations on the maximum number of participants in a zone. However, mid-season transferability could be traded and market driven. Chosen areas would be public information so a choice can be considered and balance perceived production vs. effort.

Quality testing and domoic acid sampling would remain as is. Fair starts regulations would no longer be an issue as effort shift will be eliminated, except for areas within a zone, which the state has been reluctant to do anyway.

Enforcement could be as simple as flying an official colored flag with numbers or a barcode on the boats mast. Or one more buoy tag or both.

Rationale: The main purpose of this would be to allow the buyers to bring on product in a orderly fashion. Additionally, this could prevent effort shift and avoid reactive responses to certain circumstances (e.g., market negotiations, whale entanglements, etc.) and help with a more consistent distribution of the fleet. The fear of effort shifts being eliminated would empower the fleet's attempts for a favorable price.

Background information: Alaska Dungeness Crab Fishery may use similar management tools.