

Final Meeting Summary
DCTF Executive Committee
Thursday, May 24, 2012
1-2pm

Meeting Participants

EC Members Present	Larry Collins, Mike Cunningham, Vince Doyle, Brett Fahning
Admin Team	Rachelle Fisher, Kelly Sayce
EC Members Absent	Geoff Bettencourt, Bill Blue, Bill Carvahlo

Meeting Summary

All "next steps" are **in bold** below

- The EC approved the draft "thank you" letter (including Mike Cunningham's edits) to the DFG Director regarding out of state landings.
 - **The Admin Team will send letter on behalf of EC to Director Bonham following approval of the letter by those EC members absent on the call.**
- The Admin Team provided updates to the EC on their conversations with DFG about the trap limit program. DFG informed the Admin Team that trap tags would not be ordered and tier allocations will not be available until the trap limit program regulations were adopted. The trap limit program regulations are currently on schedule.
 - The EC re-emphasized the value in knowing tier allocations and trap tags before the trap limit program regulations are adopted.
 - The EC inquired as to when latent permits would be subject to a 2-year transfer restrictions and expressed concern about allowing latent permits to be transferred prior to the trap limit program's regulations being in place.
 - Conversation with DFG Enforcement confirmed that permits are transferable within the existing law (Fish and Game Code, Section 8280.3). Once the trap limit program is implemented, Tier 7 permits will only be transferrable every two years.
 - **Admin Team will have ongoing conversations with DFG surrounding the trap limit program.**
- The EC discussed emergency transfers and expressed concern that emergency transfer loopholes may be abused during the upcoming Dungeness crab commercial fishing season.
 - Although AB 2363 addresses these concerns, it has not yet passed in the Legislature and will not be in place until at least 2013. Therefore, the EC explored options to prevent these abuses and suggested writing a letter to Director Bonham at the beginning of the 2012-2013 commercial season.
 - The EC re-emphasized the benefits of having the trap limit program implemented on January 1, 2013, which would also have benefits on issues and concerns surrounding emergency transfers.
- The EC discussed the need for reliable consistent funding with accountability measures, for the crab quality testing program in the northern part of the fishery. The group further discussed the DCTF's March 2010 recommendation.
 - Admin Team was informed by DFG that there were no longer concerns with selling meat collected during quality testing as long as accountability measures were in place and the crab was trackable (i.e., canning crab).

- The EC agreed the sale of pre-season meat could have a value that exceeds the cost of testing the crab – testing costs between \$6-\$8k. They suggested excess monies could be used to offset the cost of the crab quality testing program in the future, the cost of the trap limit program, giving it to charity, and/or paying the fishers who assist with testing.
 - The EC identified the need for a more organized system to manage crab quality testing in California that may include establishment of a managing body to help with coordination.
 - Pacific States Fisheries Management Council (PSFMC) was identified as a possible coordinating body.
 - **EC member Mike Cunningham will work with AB 2363 author to discuss including DCTF recommendation specific to funding crab quality testing in AB 2363** (Report #2- Recommendations from the California Dungeness Crab Task Force regarding management of the fishery in accordance with SB1690- March 31, 2010 http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/project_pages/dctf/Final_DCTF_LegReport2.pdf).
 - **Admin Team will contact Dave Colpo at PSFMC to gain information on its capacity to oversee/organize the crab quality testing process in California.**
 - **A letter to Barbara Emley, PSMFC Commissioner, on behalf of EC may be drafted to inform the PSMFC of the need for support/infrastructure to oversee and organize the crab quality testing process.- This task is dependent on the conversations with Dave Colpo.**
- The EC identified potential tri-state discussion topics including moving the fair start line as identified in SB 369. The EC agreed to table all tri-state conversations until later and focus their efforts on the implementation of the California trap limit program.
 - The EC discussed the idea of allowing alternates to serve in their place when they could not be present at an EC conference call and agreed that the Admin Team should check in with the DCTF to see if the alternates should be another member of the DCTF or if EC's should select their own alternates.
 - After further reflection following the call, the Admin Team sent the EC an email stating that since the EC was established by a vote of the DCTF and the EC created operating procedures to accommodate busy schedules and create flexibility (requiring only 4 of 7 members to be present to hold an EC meeting), the Admin Team suggested that alternates not be allowed until the issue can be brought up at a subsequent DCTF meeting.
 - The EC will meet again via conference call in the coming weeks (the middle of June). Admin Team will email a notice.