

Date: June 18, 2012
To: Members, Dungeness crab task force (DCTF)
From: DCTF Executive Committee
Re: June 2012 Executive Committee Update

Dear Fellow DCTF Members,

As you know, the DCTF Executive Committee (EC) convened two conference calls in May to help move DCTF recommendations,¹ intentions, and sentiments forward between DCTF meetings (for summaries of all EC calls, please visit the [DCTF webpage](#)).

During these discussions, the EC identified securing a reliable and accountable funding source(s) for crab quality testing in districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 as a top priority. As you may recall in the DCTF's [March 31, 2010 report](#), the DCTF agreed that crab quality testing should be funded through the sale of meat harvested during the testing program. With the DCTF's past recommendation in mind, the EC moved forward and contacted the author of AB 2363 (sponsored by Assemblymember Chesbro) and proposed adding the DCTF's recommendation to the bill. This was agreed to, and language was developed (see attached) and submitted to Chesbro's office on behalf of the EC. While the intent of the submitted language was to reflect the DCTF's March 31, 2010 recommendation, the new language also creates measures to allow for tracking the crabmeat and ensuring the program is not inadvertently abused.

We hope the EC has accurately captured the intent of the DCTF and acted appropriately. Please note, the language submitted to Chesbro's office has not been submitted on behalf of the entire DCTF, but only on behalf of the EC. If you have questions or concerns about this language or process, please contact the DCTF Admin Team (crabs@scc.ca.gov; 805-845-9852) and they will help direct you to the appropriate audience. Additionally, the EC will work with the DCTF Admin Team to ensure the topic of funding the crab quality testing program is added to the DCTF's upcoming meeting agenda (anticipated for sometime in 2013 or 2014).

The next EC call is tentatively set for mid-July. While the EC's agenda is currently being developed, we intend to discuss the status of the trap limit program and the funding of the crab quality testing program, and begin discussions around the evaluation of the trap limit program. If there are other issues you would like the EC to discuss, please contact the Admin Team on or before June 30, 2012.

We hope everyone is well, and we look forward to continuing to update the DCTF on the EC's progress.

Best,
DCTF Executive Committee
Brett Fahning, Vince Doyle, Mike Cunningham, Larry Collins, Bill Blue, Bill Carvahlo, and Geoff Bettencourt

¹ Recommendations include those ideas detailed in the DCTF's January 15, 2010, March 31, 2010, and April 27, 2012 DCTF reports.

Fish and Game Code section 8276.2.

(a) The director may order a delay in the opening of the Dungeness crab fishery after December 1 in Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 in any year. The delay in the opening shall not be later than January 15 of any year.

(b) On or about November 1 of each year, the director may authorize one or more operators of commercial fishing vessels to take and land a limited number of Dungeness crab for the purpose of quality testing according to a testing program conducted by, or on behalf of, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission or an entity approved by the department. The meat extracted from Dungeness crab taken pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 8276.2 may be sold to cover costs incurred in conducting the test. Funds shall be placed in an account managed and overseen by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Department shall consult with the California Dungeness crab industry, which shall include but is not limited to, members of the California delegates of the Tri-State Dungeness crab Committee and/or the California Dungeness crab task force, to develop guidelines for the management of the funds and the quality testing program. These guidelines will also establish measures that will track crab caught during this program including but not limited to requiring that all crab caught and sold as part of the crab quality testing program shall be canned. Excess funds or Dungeness crab meat may be used for charitable purposes.