

## CALIFORNIA DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING REGULATIONS 101



### Commercial Fishery Digest

Dungeness Crab Task Force Meeting  
June 5-6, 2018 | Ukiah, CA  
Christy Juhasz, Marine Region  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov/crab](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/crab)

### PURPOSE OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS 101 UPDATE

- Provide summary and clarity of current regulations (pending changes from introduced 2018 legislative bills: SB1309 and SB1310)
- Inform decisions on issues identified in 2018-19 DCTF Work Plan
- Ensure all DCTF members have same foundational knowledge to inform decisions

## FISHERY MANAGEMENT : PROCESS & BACKGROUND

- **State Legislature** – Regulates commercial fishery (Fish and Game Commission regulates recreational)
- **Fish and Game Commission** – Regulates recreational fishery, limited authority for regulating commercial traps (i.e. destruct device)
- **CDFW Director** – Exercises limited authority via legislative statute, (i.e., quality delays in 15-day increments, can close/delay fishery based on human health hazard)
- **CDFW** – Administers, manages, enforces Dungeness crab fisheries also authorized to conduct rulemakings under APA (i.e., trap limit program and gear retrieval program)
- **California Dungeness Crab Task Force**: Advisory body representing fleet interests, discusses current fishery issues, and provides recommendations to Legislature, Director, & FGC
- **Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group**: A multi-stakeholder group convened by CDFW, in partnership with other state and federal agencies, working to reduce risk of whale entanglements in CA Dungeness crab fishing gear

## SEASONS & PRE-SETS

Management Area	Gear Setting Period (Gear in water)	Season Start (Harvesting of crab)	Season Ends (Gear out of water, no more take)
CENTRAL	18-hours (6:01 am Nov. 14)	12:01 am Nov. 15	11:59 pm June 30
NORTHERN	64-hours (8:01 am Nov. 28)	12:01 am Dec. 1*	11:59 pm July 15

\*Conditionally, dependent on pre-season quality testing

## PRE-SEASON QUALITY TESTING

(UNDER CURRENT PROVISION)

- Under **Tri-State Dungeness Crab MOU**
  - CDFW coordinates CA quality testing & season opener with WA & OR
  - Tri-State formalizes quality testing protocol, overseen by PSMFC (<http://www.psmfc.org/crab/>)
    - Tri-State testing protocol: defines when and how ports are sampled, meat recovery criteria (25%)
  - Statute (along w/protocol) allow testing between late-October and late-December and under statute;
    - Entire Northern Management Area delayed by low quality results
    - No testing allowed past January 1
    - No delays beyond January 15 due to quality
  - CDFW with industry input decides on port/areas to sample (Tri-State protocol)
  - Sale of pre-season crab meat funds the test (based on a recommendation from the DCTF in 2014; PSMFC receives/tracks/distributes funds)

## TRAP GEAR – STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

- Trap gear in Fish and Game code:
  - Requires L # on main buoy (§9006)
  - Trap escape opening requirements (§9011)
  - 96-hour servicing rule (§9004)
- Commercial section in Title 14, CA Code of Regulations:
  - Specifies L# dimensions on main buoy (§180.5)
  - Destruct device requirement (§180.2)
  - Specifies trap limit rules (§132.1-132.5)

**2017-18 PRELIMINARY SEASONAL LANDINGS**

Management Area	Total Landings (lbs)	Total Ex Vessel Value (\$)
Northern	13,355,888	\$ 38,842,646
Central	4,945,778	\$ 20,361,607
Statewide Total	18,301,666	\$ 59,204,252