

Commercial Non-Cancer Crab Incidental Landing Limits



**Dr. Julia Coates, Marine Region, Environmental Scientist
Fish & Game Commission Meeting, Sacramento, June 20, 2018**

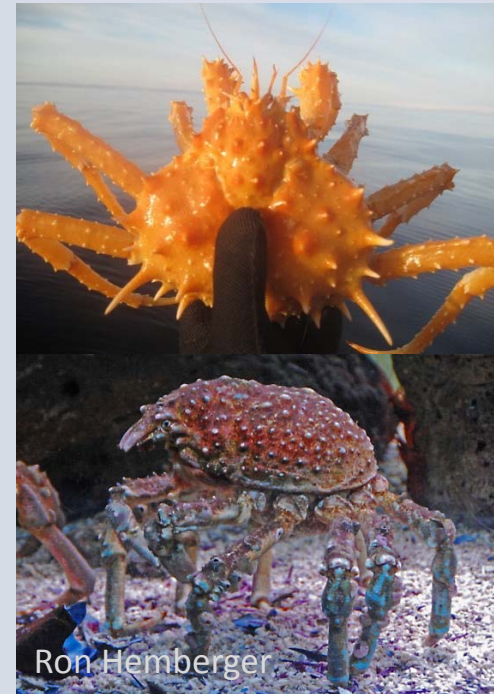
Issue history

- Landings increases began 2014
- Experimental gear permit requests began June 2017
- Marine Resource Committee discussion November 2017
- Commission directed Department to develop rulemaking package December 2017
- Survey and constituent meeting April 2018



Species tracked

- Brown box crab
- California king crab
- Sheep/spider crab
- Armed box crab



Ron Hemberger



Kevin Lee



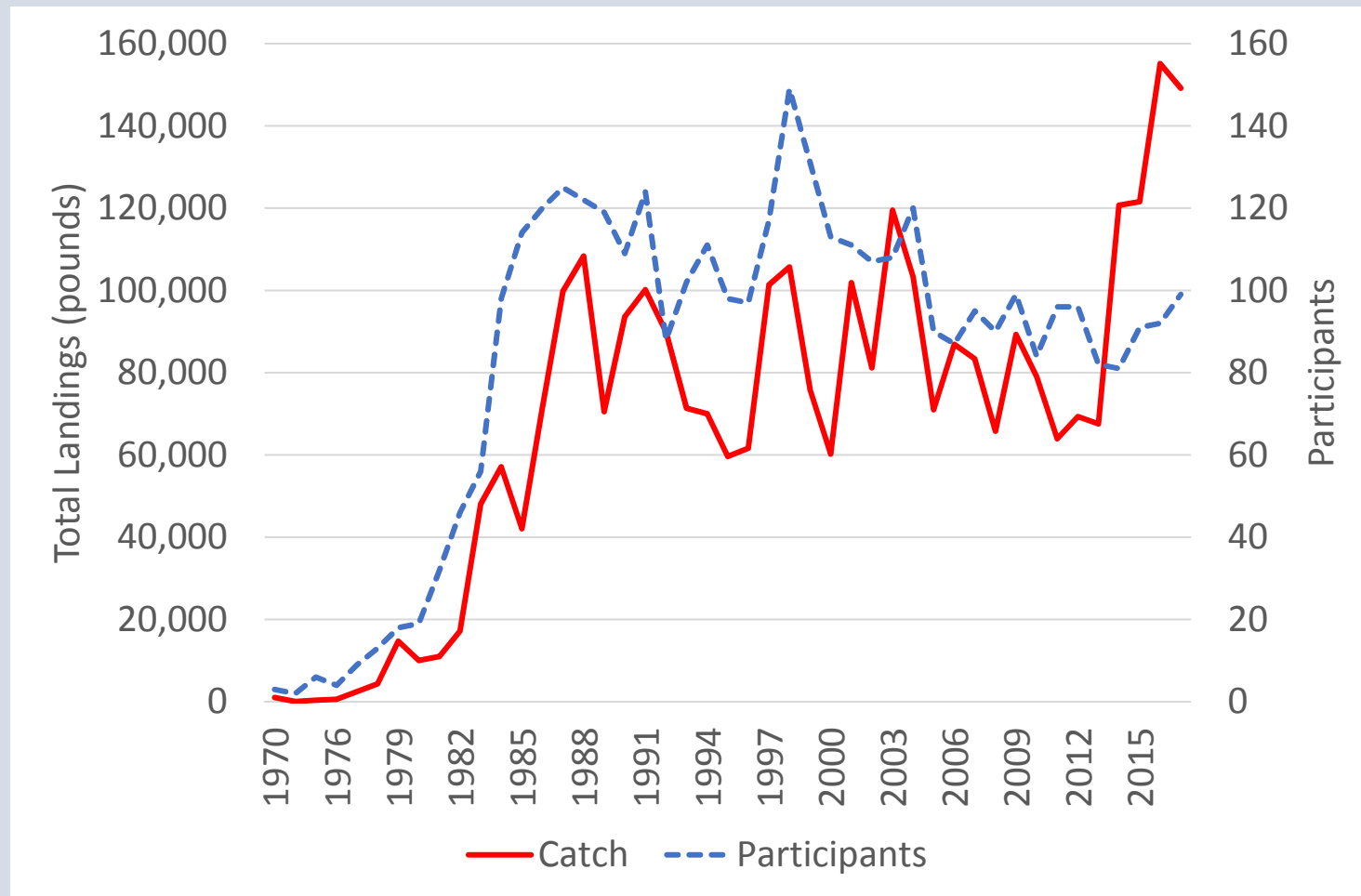
Regulatory status

- Incidental take of non-Cancer crabs expressly permitted
 - Dungeness - FGC 8284(a)
 - Rock crab – FGC 8284(c), CCR 125.1(c)
 - Lobster – FGC 8250.5(b)
 - Trawl (N of Pt Reyes) – FGC 8834.5
- No limit on amount by trap

FGC = Fish and Game Code sections CCR = subsection of Title 14, CA Code of Regulations



All non-Cancer crabs

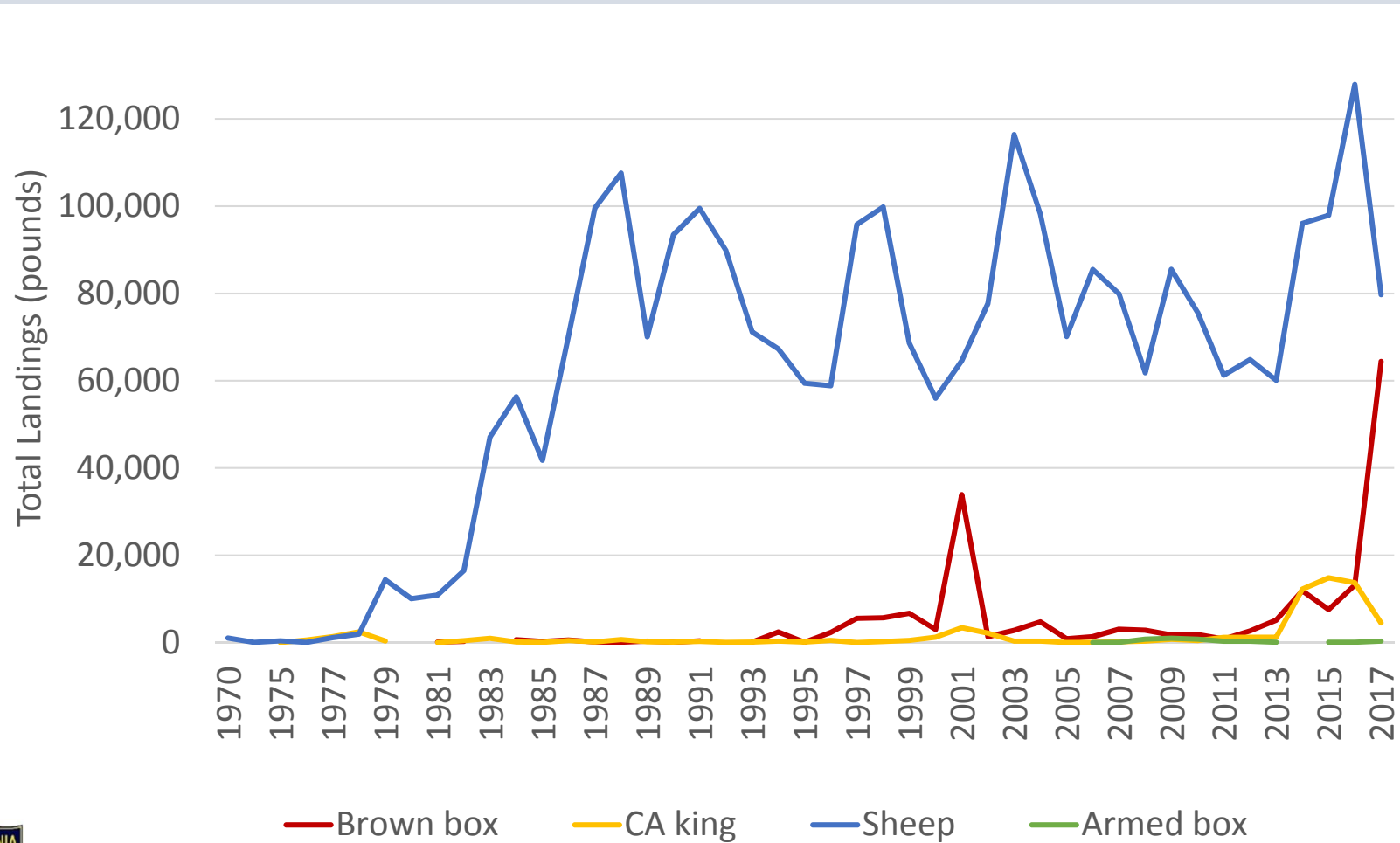


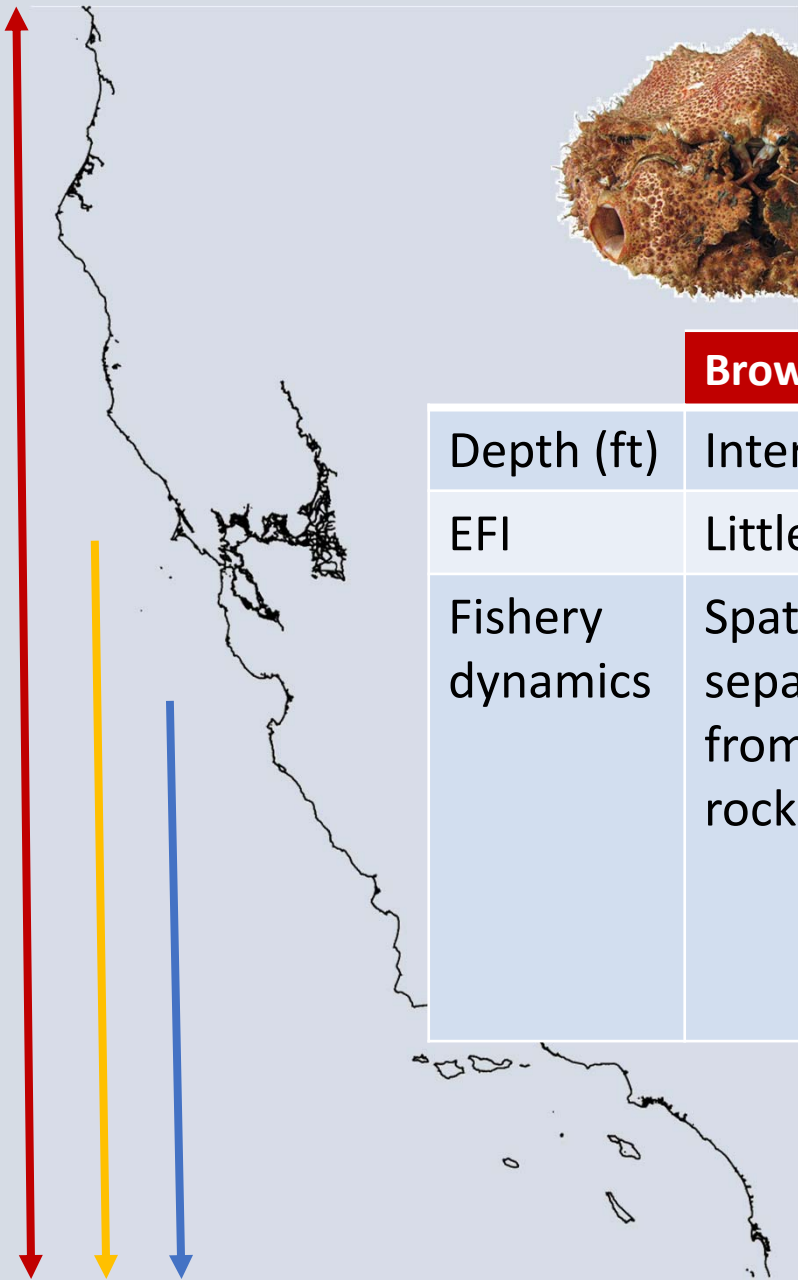
Emerging fishery designation

- CDFW Director designation submitted to Commission April 2018
- Commission authority to adopt management measures
- CDFW recommendations
 - Precautionary limits
 - Research & information gathering with experimental gear permits
 - Develop target fisheries or revise limits as appropriate



Landings by species





	Brown Box	CA King	Sheep
Depth (ft)	Intertidal-1800	500-1000	30-400
EFI	Little - None	Little - None	Medium - Little
Fishery dynamics	Spatial separation from lobster & rock crab	Spatial separation from lobster & rock crab	No spatial separation from lobster & rock crab, current levels likely sustainable, nearshore bait



Proposed new rules

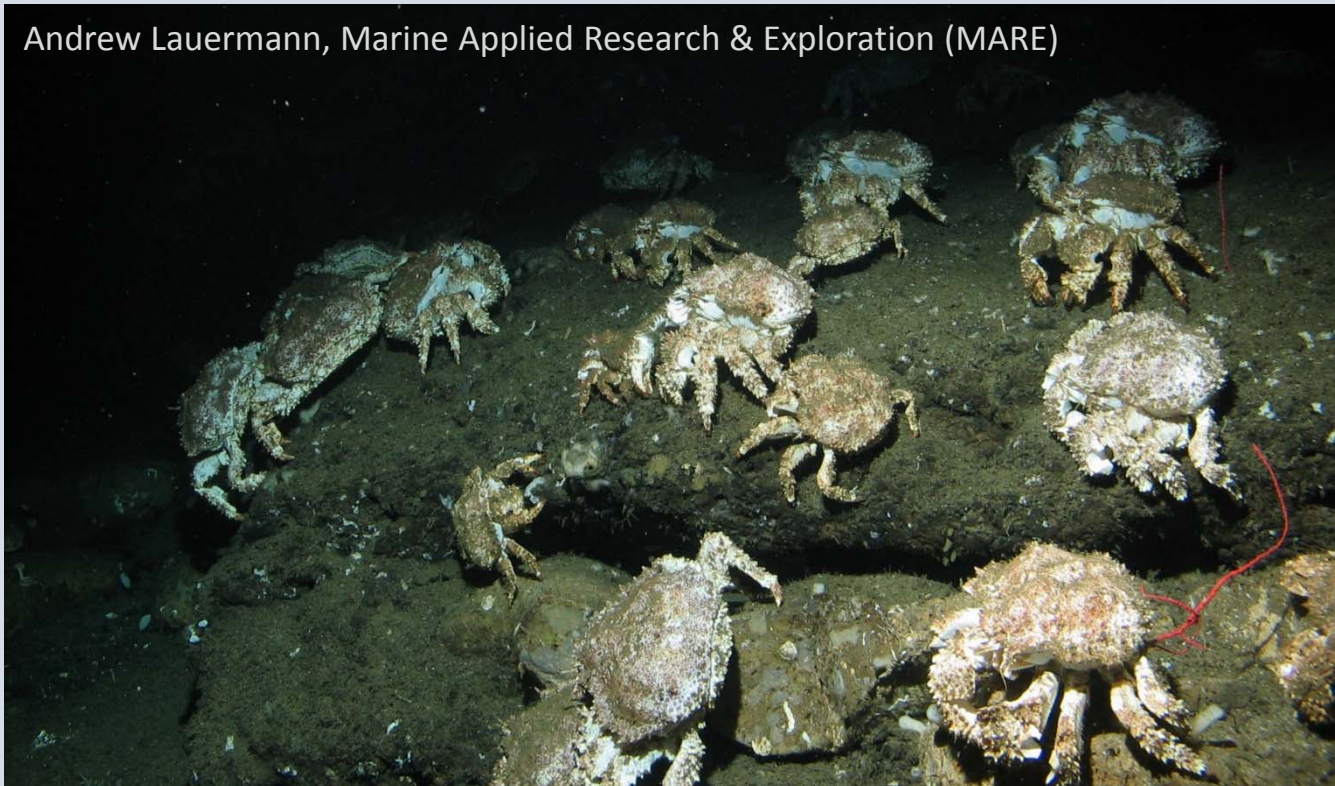
- Family Lithodidae (box and king)
 - Possession and landing limit 25 pounds
- Sheep/spider crab
 - Total allowable catch 95,000 pounds
- Requirement to land crab before use as bait
- New section 126 for non-Cancer crabs in trap



Experimental gear permit for box crab

- Potential underutilized resource
- Requests in October 2018

Andrew Lauermann, Marine Applied Research & Exploration (MARE)



Summary

- Notice hearing today
- Discussion & possible adoption, October 2018, Fresno
- Send comments to Commission by email (fgc@fgc.ca.gov) or mail
- Experimental gear permit requests October or December 2018



Julia.Coates@wildlife.ca.gov



Derek Stein, CDFW