



JT Van Sickle

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15 June, 2012

Rachelle Fisher
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Re: Dungeness Crab LOA measurements

Dear Ms. Fisher,

Regarding the recent vote by the DCTF at the meetings on March 12 and April 2, 2012, to recommend changing the wording from “licensed marine surveyor” to “marine surveyor” I think this may have opened a can of worms so to speak. (See recommendation #1, page 5, [http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/project_pages/dctf/SB369_\(Evans,2011\)/DCTF_Final_ReportTrapLimitProgram_042712.pdf](http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/project_pages/dctf/SB369_(Evans,2011)/DCTF_Final_ReportTrapLimitProgram_042712.pdf))

As a marine surveyor who measures commercial fishing vessels for LOA and Dungeness Crab permits, I understand that it is vital for a disinterested third party to perform the measurement and certify a report. In California and the USA marine surveyors are not licensed and there is no government oversight of who can call themselves a ‘marine surveyor’. However, there are two national marine surveying organizations that have high ethical standards and training requirements recognized by the USCG in other areas of the fishing industry. These are NAMS (National Association of Marine Surveyors) and SAMS (Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors).

I urge you to request the DCTF to reconsider their vote and change the wording to reflect the importance of having the LOA measurements made by members of SAMS, NAMS, or other professional marine survey organizations that maintain the ethical and training standards needed for accurate and reliable vessel measurements.

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