



# First Meeting of the Dungeness Crab Task Force Eureka, CA May 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2009



# DCTF meeting objectives

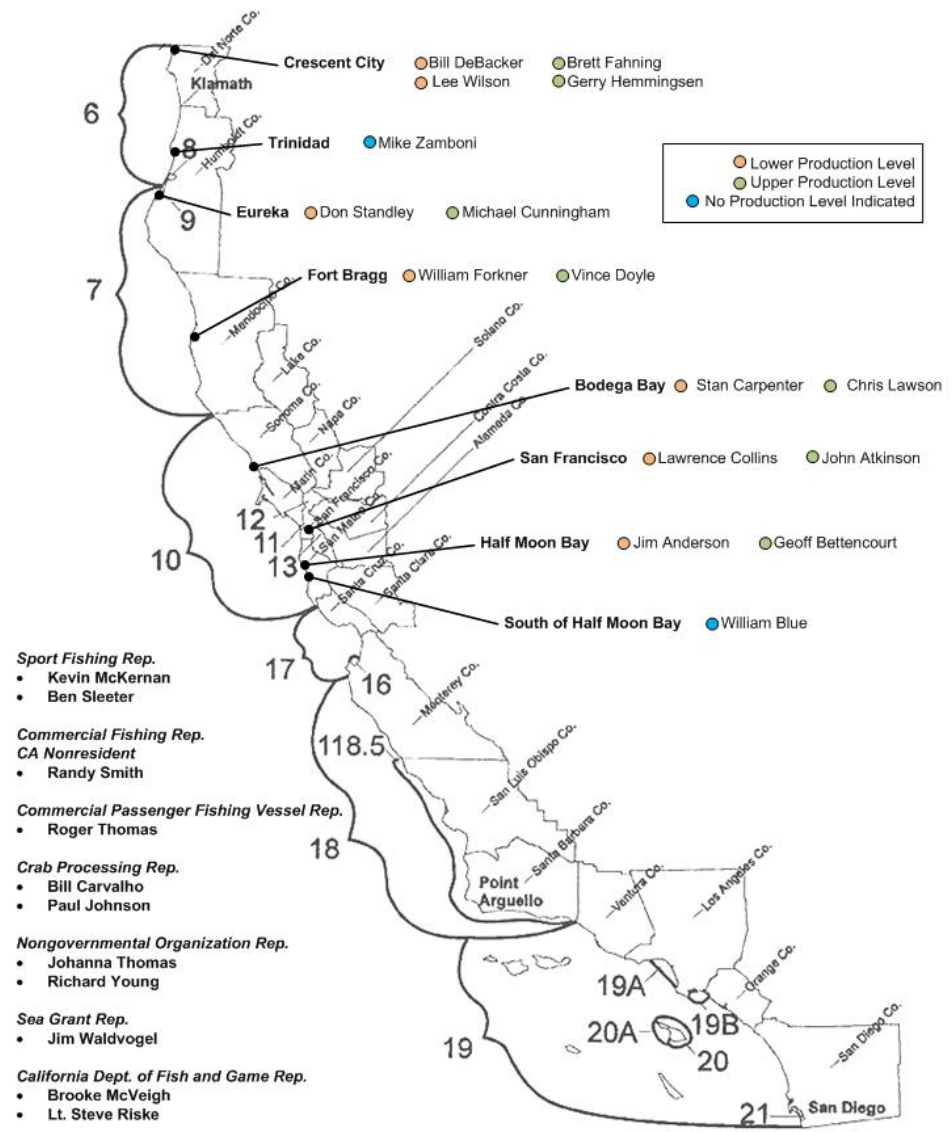
## May 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2009

- Review and discuss key findings of the situational analysis
- Provide an overview of SB 1690 and management / regulatory structure of the Dungeness crab fishery
- Introduce and develop Guiding Principles, Charter and Project Approach
- Review road map and upcoming activities



[www.enature.com](http://www.enature.com)

# California Dungeness Crab Task Force Members and Geographic Locations of Commercial Fishing Representatives



- Sport Fishing Rep.**
  - Kevin McKernan
  - Ben Sleeter
- Commercial Fishing Rep. CA Nonresident**
  - Randy Smith
- Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Rep.**
  - Roger Thomas
- Crab Processing Rep.**
  - Bill Carvalho
  - Paul Johnson
- Nongovernmental Organization Rep.**
  - Johanna Thomas
  - Richard Young
- Sea Grant Rep.**
  - Jim Waldvogel
- California Dept. of Fish and Game Rep.**
  - Brooke McVeigh
  - Lt. Steve Riske

Inland districts are defined in FGC §§11001-11013; 11033-11037.



# Situational Analysis Results for the Dungeness Crab Task Force May 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2009



# Outline

- Purpose of situational analysis
- Methodology
- Key findings
  - Understanding the creation and purpose of DCTF
  - Economics and structure of the fishery
  - Regulations, management and enforcement
  - Opportunities and needs for the commercial and recreational harvests
  - Meeting Task Force objectives
  - Information and data needs
- Conclusion



# Purpose of the situational analysis

- Clarify members' understanding and expectations of the Task Force
- Identify views of current and future management
- Reveal members' perspectives on barriers to expected outcomes
- Identify potential areas of agreement and disagreement



<http://redwoods.info/>



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# Methodology

- Develop standardized survey instrument, looking at:
  - Background and history of involvement in the fishery
  - Historical, current and future status of the fishery
  - Structuring the Task Force process
  - Perceptions of the role of science and identification of data needs and uses
- Pre-interview preparation (letter and sharing of questionnaire)
- Conduct interviews with DCTF and other key informants
- Analyze results, identify key findings and opportunities, draft recommendations for the DCTF deliberative process





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# Key findings

## Understanding the creation and purpose of DCTF

### Key findings

- Nearly a third of Task Force members have limited familiarity with
  - the previous work of the crab steering committee
  - the mandated objectives of SB 1690
  - the full membership of the Task Force
- Near unanimous agreement that a key benefit of the Task Force is full representation along the coast
- Some interest in seeing the Task Force grow into an established crab commission



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# Key findings

## Economics and structure of the fishery

Key finding – Significant concern about the early, high-volume fishery, increase in gear, impact on market prices, and resulting inequities





# Key findings

## Economics and structure of the fishery

### Additional key findings – Common concerns for the fishery

- Economic inequity, fractured fishery and the need for a longer “evenflow” season
- New pressure on crab as a result of the decline of other fisheries, out-of-state fisheries, and the establishment of MPAs
- Threat of latent permits being activated
- Impacts of fleet migration (within CA and from OR and WA)
- Consolidation of buyers and control of the market



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# Key findings

## Regulations, management and enforcement

Key finding – Accurate understanding of the management and enforcement role of the Department of Fish and Game







# Key findings

## Regulations, management and enforcement

Key finding – Significantly less understanding and awareness of the role of the Legislature and the Fish and Game Commission





# Key findings

## Regulations, management and enforcement

### Additional key findings

- The fundamental goal of management should be industry and resource and sustainability
- Broad level view that the 3 S principle works; some acknowledgement of limited science



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# Key findings

## Opportunities and needs for the commercial and recreational harvest

Key finding – Strong majority identify the need for trap limits to slow the “arms race”; significant North/Central and Upper/Lower production differences of opinion on the issue





# Key findings

## Opportunities and needs for the commercial and recreational harvest

### Additional key findings

- Majority of all Central CA and some Northern CA lower tier commercial fishing representatives think a fair start clause in District 10 or uniform statewide starting date would “even the playing field”
- Majority of commercial fishing representatives from all tiers and regions and some non-fishers cited poorly written recreational laws that need to be improved to eliminate “double dipping” by commercial fishers



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# Key findings

## Meeting DCTF Objectives – What is it going to take?

### Key findings

- Nearly half emphasized the need to bring an open mind to identify problems and understand each others challenges and needs to develop compromise solutions
- Nearly a third recommended a strategy of finding issues where early agreement and trust can be built before tackling more difficult issues
- More than a third of *commercial fishing representatives* and several others identified the need to bring relevant information to the table to analyze issues and inform positions on specific management topics
- Broad interest to ensure good representation of respective ports and find equity and compromise that benefits the whole fishery



# Key findings

## Meeting DCTF Objectives

Can the 2/3rds vote be achieved?				
	Yes	Yes some/ No others	Not sure	No
Entire Task Force	67%	22%	7%	4%
Northern CA fishers (all)	82%	9%	0%	9%
Central CA fishers (all)	55%	34%	11%	0%





# Key findings

## Meeting DCTF Objectives

Can the 2/3rds vote be exceeded?				
	Yes	Yes some/ No others	Not sure	No
Entire Task Force	19%	41%	22%	19%
Northern CA fishers (all)	30%	50%	10%	10%
Central CA fishers (all)	0%	43%	28%	28%



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# Key findings

## Information and data needs

Key finding – Significant interest to integrate new information and data into the decision making process

- Landings statistics
- Pros/cons and costs of trap limit programs
- Socio-economic data
- Latent permits



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# Conclusion

- YOUR views form the foundation of the Task Force dialogue
- There are many common threads of concern for the fishery, and a desire to see the Task Force benefit the whole fishery
- Openness, learning about the needs others, and a willingness to compromise may be the best tools to tackle challenging issues
- YOU are the experts, and the work of this Task Force depends on your expertise



# Conclusion

“There should be no big winners, and no big losers”

“We have to learn about each others needs”

“The key is to build trust before getting into previous issues of disagreement”

“Fair representation creates a great opportunity to achieve the 2/3rds vote”

“People need to not be selfish but instead think of the wider health of the fishery”

“Everyone is going to have to give a little and meet people halfway”