

Dungeness Crab Task Force

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DCTF faces Challenging Tasks

- 60 + years of contentious issues.
- 30 Years of increasingly intense derby.
- New issues in last 10 years.
 - Recreational fishery.
 - WA and OR trap limits.
 - Decline in other fisheries.



Suggestions

- Think long term.
- Achieve consensus on future structure and goals for DCTF.
- Set clear achievable goals.
- Act incrementally to reach goals.
- Evaluate outcomes and adjust.

General Trends

- Abundance cycles up and down.
- Price varies inversely with abundance.
- Stable number of vessels landing crab ~ 400.
- Bulk of landing in first 4-6 weeks – pre-1980 spread out over 6 months.

Trap Numbers

- 1970-75 PSFMC estimated average of 30,000 traps in California. Also estimated that economic benefits could be maximized with 60,000 total traps across the 3 states.

Trap Numbers

- Early 2000s – Dewees et. al. 2004 survey estimates 170,000 traps in California. PSFMC estimates 375,000 traps coast wide.

Regional Landing Patterns – since 1999

- % Central landings by northern vessels average 18.5% (range 10 to 27%).
- % Northern landings by central vessels average 6.5% (range 4 to 10%).

No clear pattern. Movement seems to be based on perceived opportunities.

Regional Landing Patterns – since 1999 (continued):

- % Non-resident landings in central average 6.5% (range 2 to 13%).
- % Non-resident landings in northern region average 12.2 % (range 7 to 17%).

Pattern seems to be towards increasing central (District 10) landings by non-residents.

Adding Value

(Hackett, et. al. 2004)

- Frozen sections picked out over year – 45-50% value-added.
- Live and fresh – ~30% value-added - market glut. Spreading out landings may enable increase in value-added in this market.

Suggestions (by 1/15/10)

- Clarify long term goals.
- Set up and fund structure (DCTF – like) to continue process.
- Be flexible.
- Consider management trial with evaluation.



Harvest Capacity

- If you want a significant reduction in capacity, how do you get there?



Longer Term Suggestions:

- If you want to slow things down, need to greatly reduce harvest capacity either through:
 - Significant reduction of trap numbers perhaps incrementally with target numbers.
 - Forming organizational structures that create incentives to reduce harvest capacity.
 - Guard against strategies to increase effort.

Longer Term Suggestions (continued):

- Examine and “cherry pick” from other similar fishery management schemes worldwide.



Longer Term Suggestions (continued):

- Consider other organizational structures, harvesting coops, marketing boards, industry-funded research.
- Consider exclusive access/allocation techniques. Could provide incentives to maximize profits. Include recreational sector.

Longer Term Suggestions (continued):

- Realize that you may have to fund or find funds for much of any management research and marketing programs. Need to consider potential costs/benefits.
- Keep up active participation next generation of DCTF.

Longer Term Suggestions (continued):

- Consider funding research to come up with proxies for TACs (i.e. pre-season surveys).
- Remember that perceived redistribution of profits is a potent barrier to change.



Cooperatives & Similar Organizations

- Ultimate example - Japan's cooperatives.
- Pacific Whiting and Bering Sea pollock – gains in efficiency.
- Chigniak Salmon – reduced overcapacity.
- Mexican and Chilean cooperatives – benthic invertebrates.

Industry Organizations Growing out of Exclusive Access

- New Zealand – marketing, research, development.
- B.C. shellfish organizations – creating internal IQs.
- San Diego Watermen – trying to form harvest coop within geographic area.

Key Points About Coop-like Structures

- Usually with small numbers.
- Usually within geographic boundaries.
- Usually with exclusive or limited access.
- Difficulty with outsiders.
- Need government – “non-interference” and cooperation.

