



# COUNTY OF DEL NORTE

## Fish and Game Advisory Commission

Advisory body to the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors  
on fish, wildlife, recreation, and natural resource issues

586 G Street  
Crescent City, CA 95531

Zack Larson,  
Chairman

Frank Galea,  
Vice-Chairman

District 1:  
Zack Larson  
Kathryn Murray  
District 2:  
Kirk Brown  
District 3:  
Chris Howard  
Rod McLoed  
District 4:  
Frank Galea  
Chris Hegnes  
District 5:  
Jeanne Holt

Secretary:  
Jacki Bennett

Ocean Protection Council  
c/o California Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

May 8, 2009


Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to inform you about an apparent disparity in California Dungeness crab fishing regulations that is causing confusion among local fishermen. Fish and Game Code 9012 (a) states, "No vessel may be used to take and land crab for both commercial and sport purposes in the same day," whereas the General Ocean Fishing Regulation Section 29.85 (6) states, "No vessel that takes Dungeness crabs under the authority of 29.80 [Gear Restrictions] shall be used to take Dungeness crabs for commercial purposes."

It is our understanding that FGC 9012 allows commercial vessels to take and land crab for sport purposes whereas Section 29.85 does not. Local commercial fishermen depend on the commercial Dungeness crab fishery for their livelihood and many who are also sportsman enjoy the bounty of our rich northern California coastal natural resources. However, the apparent conflict in regulations in conjunction with the recent extension of the Dungeness crab sport season to November 1<sup>st</sup> is raising concern that more pressure might be exerted on the crab resource than anticipated.

There is no maximum trap-size or trap limit required for sport Dungeness crab harvest and therefore, under FGC 9012, an unlimited number of traps may be deployed by commercial vessels during the sport season, which occurs one month before the commercial season. We strongly urge the Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee to determine the best and most expeditious approach to resolve the issue.

Sincerely,

  
Zachary S. Larson  
Chairman

Cc:  
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P.O. Box 944209  
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Del Norte County Board of Supervisors  
981 H Street  
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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
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