

# Maritime Services

BOATS-FISHERY PERMITS-VESSEL DOCUMENTATION-CONSULTING AND TRANSACTION REPRESENTATION

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## **Kenneth D. Boettcher**

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California Dungeness Crab Task Force  
C/o California Ocean Protection Council  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

January 21, 2010

### Re: Proposal by DCTF Processor Representatives to the California Dungeness Crab Task Force: Staged Development Plan

I would like to go on record as being in support of this plan.

I would like to propose that the minimum pot limit for any valid Dungeness Crab Vessel Permit be set at 250 pots by the Dungeness Crab Task Force. To set the bottom tier at 250 pots will give each permit holder a reasonable expectation of financial success for operations out of most California Ports.

I would like to also propose that the term Latent Permit is replaced with the term "Valid Inactive Permit" in all Task Force communications because there does not appear to be a legal written definition of the word "latent".

Valid Inactive Permits (VIP's) comprise approximately twenty seven percent of the total number of California Dungeness Crab Vessel Permits yet there is no designated representation for that tier class as required under statute. I agree with points in the May 25, 2009 letter from Mr. David Helliwell to TC Hoffman and Associates that there is "unfairly weighted representation concerning the elections of DCTF members".

Valid Inactive Permits have remained valid because the DFG vessel, license and permit fees have been paid every year since the state went to the Dungeness Crab restricted access fishery (limited entry). At no time during that period has there been a minimum landing requirement in order to maintain the validity of the permit. To reduce those permit holders to second class citizens at this time is not acceptable. Each permit holder has a substantial investment in years of paid license and permit fees which does not include costs of maintaining a vessel. To suggest that those valid permit holders are entitled to anything less than the established bottom tier is an injustice to those citizens.

In order to validate the activities of the DCTF, I suggest that you have no more meetings until you appoint a representative to represent the holders of Valid Inactive Permits. My suggestion is that you strongly consider the appointment of Tommy Ancona to that position. Tommy has been involved with the process from the beginning and could fit into the business of the committee with no delay. He will bring experience, dedication and validity to the process.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Boettcher