



## ~California Dungeness Crab Task Force~

<http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/>

*NOTE: This is a draft document for DCTF Executive Committee Discussion on May 19, 2015.*

TO: Kelly Corbett, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Caren Braby, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Heather Reed, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Dan Ayres, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

CC: California Dungeness Crab Task Force Members  
Christy Juhasz, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Pete Kalvass, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Carrie Pomeroy, California Sea Grant  
Dave Colpo, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: California Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) Executive Committee

DATE: May X, 2015

RE: Update and Information request for CA commercial Dungeness crab trap limit program

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The following provides an update on the work of the California Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) since May 2014, as well as a request from the DCTF Executive Committee (EC)<sup>1</sup>, a subcommittee of the DCTF, to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff for consideration. The EC appreciates the ongoing working relationship with our state partners in Oregon and Washington, and looks forward to continuing to work together in the future.

### Update on Recent DCTF Activities

- On May 9, 2014, the DCTF sent a [memo to the Dungeness Crab Tri-State Committee](#) (Tri-State) in response to Tri-State's request for information related to season openers, potential inclusion of District 10 in the Tri-State Agreement, crab quality testing protocols, fair-start clauses, and amending the pre-soak period. The memo outlined a number of recommendations for Tri-State's consideration during its May 2014 meeting.
- On January 15, 2015, the DCTF [submitted a legislatively mandated report](#) to the California legislature, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the California Fish and Game Commission that outlined a number of initial recommendations related to the California commercial Dungeness crab trap limit program. The report included the DCTF's recommendations in the May 2014 memo to Tri-State, and also addressed a number to follow up topics Tri-State directed to the DCTF at the May 2014 Tri-State meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> The EC was established as a DCTF subcommittee in April 2012. The EC acts as an advisory body that convenes periodically for conference calls between scheduled DCTF meetings and cannot make decisions on behalf of the DCTF. All discussion topics and ideas generated by the EC are reported back to the DCTF for full discussion and consideration.

- Since the DCTF's October 2014 meeting, DCTF Members have supported conversations regarding establishing a lost gear retrieval program in California. A localized effort to retrieve lost gear has been implemented with great success in some of the northern California ports and there is interest expressed to expand the program geographically and secure long-term funding. Although the details and mechanics of the program are still being considered, the Oregon and Washington gear recovery programs are being looked to as a model/reference for informing California's design of a suitable program for the state.
- On April 20, 2015 the EC held a conference call to discuss a number of topics identified as priorities by the DCTF, together with other items that have arisen since October 2014. An agenda and summary of the discussion points and outcomes of this call are available on the [DCTF webpage](#).

### **Information Request, Research and Monitoring**

During the October 2014 DCTF meeting, DCTF Members directed the EC to initiate discussions related to the newly implemented California commercial Dungeness crab trap limit program. In response to this request, the EC has begun initial conversations with leading researchers and evaluation experts in California. Since Oregon and Washington have longer-standing trap limit programs, albeit structured differently than the California program, and may have lessons learned that would be helpful to share with California, the EC has also developed questions for Oregon and Washington resource managers. Recognizing that Cyreiss Schmitt, ODFW, and Heather Reed, WDFW, provided an analysis of the Oregon and Washington programs in 2009 to the DCTF to inform the development of the California trap limit program, the EC is interested in again learning from ODFW and WDFW to inform California's analysis. There is a desire to learn what key questions were asked – or should have been asked – during the initial stages of the Oregon and Washington trap limit programs so that California can learn from these experiences and develop an effective and efficient evaluation of the California trap limit program. We would appreciate perspectives from Oregon and Washington on the following questions:

- In evaluating the short- and long-term impacts of your state's trap limit program:
  - What types of analyses (both disciplinary and methodological approaches) have produced useful information? Which have not? Why/why not?
  - What questions would have been worthwhile to explore, but were not asked in the initial 1-3 years?
- What monitoring and/or other research-related information is available on the Dungeness crab fishery in Oregon and/or Washington (and California)?
  - Are you aware of other monitoring and evaluation efforts that are not specific to this purpose/fishery that would inform this evaluation?

The EC welcomes the opportunity for ODFW and WDFW staff to work with the DCTF Admin Team, CDFW staff, and Dr. Carrie Pomeroy, CA Sea Grant scientist with expertise in fisheries, social science and marine policy, and non-voting DCTF Member, to discuss these questions. The DCTF Admin Team will contact ODFW and WDFW staff in the coming weeks to explore the possibility of setting up a conference call.

Please feel free to contact the Admin Team directly with any questions you may have at [info@dungenesscrab.com](mailto:info@dungenesscrab.com) or 805.845.9852.