

Crab quality testing protocol concepts by the DCTF Eureka High Tier Representative to the California Dungeness Crab Task Force for consideration at the April 22-23, 2014 meeting in Ukiah, CA

The narrative below contains suggested modification options for the commercial California Dungeness crab quality testing protocols to be considered by the Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF). This concept was prepared by fishermen and is expected to be discussed at the April 22 and 23 DCTF meeting in Ukiah.

Modifications to preseason testing protocol:

1. Short sample (less than 300 lbs.): Change protocol language to allow retention of short samples for processing and instruct test boat to reset test pots immediately to augment short sample. Permit test boat some latitude in resetting test pots in new location.
2. 10 day test interval: Add language requiring consultation and agreement between CDFW, processor reps and fishermen reps before shortening 10 day test interval.
3. Conform test protocol language: Modify language in CA statute to conform to test protocol language developed with Tri-State Crab Committee or vice versa.
4. Reduced testing: Change protocol to one preseason test prior to scheduled Dec. 1 opening. Test pots to be set about Nov. 15-17 with target date for completion of Nov. 22, decision to open or delay by Nov. 24. If delayed, next test to be scheduled for early Dec. Each port would need to meet minimum pick out standard (24.5%) to open.

This approach would: 1) reduce the number of preseason (Dec 1) tests from three to one; 2) provide for a straightforward, much simpler, single purpose quality test; 3) reduce the burden on CDFW staff; 4) reduce the burden on the processor and 5) bring CA testing protocol into conformity with OR and WA (Tri-State).