

Hi Rachelle,

I have sent an email out to Trinidad's crab boats as well as conversed with many Eureka crab boats concerning the following topic:

***RETAINING CRAB WHILE RETRIEVING AND RETURNING TO THE DOCK,
CRABPOTS OF A DISABLED CRAB VESSEL***

The response has been unanimously in favor of moving forward this rule to change the FandG code. Can you provide the EC/DCTF this concept ?

Current reality under fish and game code is if a vessel becomes disabled at a time when crab production is lucrative other crab vessels would be reluctant to assist in gear recovery due to the economic loss the retrieving vessel would sustain due to the many hours involved to perform this task instead of harvesting crab. Retaining for sale the crab in the retrieved gear offers economic incentive to perform this task.

Leaving unattended crab gear in the ocean increases the risk of the gear becoming derelict gear, lost, or stuck. This increases the chance of a whale entanglement. If this happens under RAMP rules, the consequences will likely be loss or curtailment of the crab season.

Changing this fish and game code help in keeping the ocean, both in and out of season clearer of derelict crab gear.

The retrieval can only be brought back to the dock and the local warden should be notified by a phone, email, or text before commencing to retrieve.

Thanks,
ZACH ROTWEIN
F/V MISS PHYLLIS TRINIDAD CA.