

Updates to the Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) Executive Committee
*Prepared by the DCTF Administrative Team, Ocean Protection Council staff, and
California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff
August 28, 2015*

The following was drafted by the DCTF Administrative Team (Admin Team), in partnership with Ocean Protection Council staff (OPC) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff, to inform discussions during a DCTF Executive Committee (EC) meeting held on September 2, 2015. This update will be posted to the DCTF webpage: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/>.

Admin Team Update

- Since the August 14, 2015 EC meeting, the Admin Team has:
 - Attended and participated in a public meeting to discuss whale entanglements off California on August 20, 2015 in Oakland (<http://www.opc.ca.gov/2015/08/public-meeting-to-discuss-whale-entanglements-off-california/>). The Admin Team will report outcomes from the August 20 discussion to the DCTF as soon as summary materials are available.
 - Worked with Jennifer Renzullo, SeaDoc Society and Cpt. Steve Riske, CDFW, to develop materials and inform a process design to support ongoing EC discussions about the long-term function of a statewide CA Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Program.
 - Continued to liaise with interested members of the public and others.

OPC Update

- Helped organize and convene a discussion on whale entanglements in California on August 20, 2015 in Oakland.

CDFW Update

- Whale Entanglements
 - Worked with OPC and NMFS to convene a public discussion on this topic on August 20, 2015 in Oakland.
- Domoic Acid
 - An unprecedented harmful algal bloom has been lingering on the West Coast since the spring. Last season, Washington closed part of their Dungeness crab fishery as a result. Although the California Department of Public Health has issued an alert for mussels in Humboldt and northern Del Norte Counties, none has been issued for Dungeness crab. Testing for Dungeness crab will be performed during the regular crab quality testing schedules from October-December to determine whether a similar health advisory is needed for the range of the Dungeness crab fishery.
- Data Requests

- No new requests were received since the August 14, 2015 EC meeting. If DCTF Members or members of the public have any new requests, please contact Christy Juhasz at (707) 576-2887 or Christy.Juhasz@wildlife.ca.gov.
- Enforcement
 - Staff is working with SeaDoc Society and the EC develop a long-term, statewide CA Lost Fishing Gear Retrieval Program.
 - Staff worked with a DCTF Member and the Coast Guard to address concerns related to crab lights and vessel traffic near the Golden Gate Bridge. A letter will be shared at the September 2 EC meeting and with the greater commercial Dungeness crab fleet.