

DCTF Executive Committee Public Comment

Received February 15-17, 2016

The following public comment was provided to inform the February 16, 2016 Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) Executive Committee Meeting. These comments were either provided prior to or during the conference call. Emailed comments received during the conference call are in the DCTF Executive Committee meeting summary.

Dungeness Crab Task Force members,

I am writing to express my support for a state wide crab opener. I believe we should hold fast with our original course of action, as this is best for California's crab fishery as a whole.

Opening separate districts and/or portions of districts will only degrade an already low public demand, allow areas to be overfished, increase risk of consumer illnesses, and drive markets prices and consumer confidence down.

A state wide opener would help; reduce gear concentrations to minimize chance of whale entanglements, reduce CDFW enforcement costs, level the playing field for fisherman and crews, promote good PR with the consumer/general public, and reduce the dilemma of boats choosing districts.

We have been waiting patiently for three painful months. A few more weeks will be hard to endure but will be beneficial in the long run.

Thank you for considering my opinion and devoting your time and effort to getting us back fishing.

Mike Peery

I would like to go crabbing, not wait for statewide opener- fvcaptjack@netzero.com

I represent five Ca Dungeness Permits and am in favor of fishing even if some areas remain closed. In other words I don't want to wait for state wide opener Bob Burchell

Good Morning, It needs to be conveyed to the Director and others that the task force is not association driven. It was developed by fishermen and every permit holder had a vote. Mr. Melz and co. were all for it at the time. As you know this is the first time all task force members have all agreed on an issue. It would be a shame to let a VERY small group of permit holders and vocal deckhands ruin a fishery that has been managed better than any fishery in the country for one hundred and twenty five years. Anyway that's how I and every crab fisherman I talk to feels. And I know a lot of guys up and down the coast. -Bob Maharry

Hello,

I just wanted to write and thank you for doing such a great job organizing this unorthodox crab season. I'm very thankful for all the intelligent, experienced and professional people that make up the task force.

With that being said I listened in to the meeting today and just wanted to let you know during public comment a few people that called in aren't who they say they're. A recognized a few

people, captains and deckhands that stated they owned or worked on boats out of California. I know this to not be true because I know a few of them personally.

Some of them have been fishing in Oregon since the opener and want the section of Point Reyes south to open so they can "double dip". These are guys that aren't hurting financially but want to take advantage of our situation.

I'm a crab fishermen based out of Sausalito, CA. I'm 29 and i just invested everything into the business. It would kill me to see just our section open and watch huge boats from up north comedown and mop up the biomass of crab in 48 hours. Out of state guy are praying we open so they can get richer. Our section of water can't withstand that kind of pressure. Once again I really appreciate all your doing for the industry. I've attached a link to a video on what the impact of the season has been to us personally.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=j40U0vWplyI>

Thanks again,

Christian Cavanaugh

In early November of 2015 during the Crab Task Force Executive advisory call, I do not believe that there was anyone who participated in that call who could of ever imagined that the whole coast would not be open to crab fishing today. Unfortunately we find ourselves in a position today that we could not have imagined than. Certainly all crab fisherman would prefer not to have district 10 cut in half or even have to be considering opening any area other than the whole State. The reality is that this cannot be done at this present time due to high test of domoic acid in certain parts of the State. It is the card that we have been dealt due to no fault of our own or anyone else.

While some fisherman have had to resort to food banks, some to applying for disaster SBA loans and all asking for Federal Government Disaster relief I thank the Dept. of Wildlife for thinking outside of the box enough to create opportunity for commercial fisherman to go back to work. While as previously stated, this is not an ideal situation, it is the best we can hope for under the current circumstances. I can see no reason why we would not be allowed to go back to work as soon as possible.

My hope is that today the Dept. does the common sense and legal thing and allow us to set gear early next week. It is also my hope the the Dept. will get the Health Dept. to get test results back in a more timely fashion. There are large areas of coast including the North Coast and Bodega Bay that are so close to being fishable. Test results are taking much to long to get back considering the jobs that are at stake.

Steve Moore
Cale Moore
Nate Moore
F/V Rose Mar
Half Moon Bay, Ca.
