



~California Dungeness Crab Task Force~

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

June 15, 2018

The Honorable Senator Mike McGuire, Chair
Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture
State Capitol, Room 5061, Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bills 1309 and 1310

Dear Senator McGuire,

The California Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) expresses its full support for Senate Bills (SB) 1309 and 1310. The DCTF strongly believes the clarifications and amendments outlined in these bills are necessary to ensure a safe and orderly Dungeness crab fishery, better address the pressing issue of whale entanglements, and implement a cost effective commercial Dungeness crab gear retrieval program.

The role of the DCTF, as established by the legislature, is to review and evaluate Dungeness crab fishery management measures and provide recommendations to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the Fish and Game Commission. On December 20, 2017, the DCTF provided a number of recommendations to the Legislature to ensure the continued operations and function of the California commercial Dungeness crab fishery. These included eliminating Fish and Game Code sections that were no longer relevant, extending the sunset dates of important commercial fishery regulations, and amending existing Fish and Game Code to support an orderly fishery. Recommendations were developed over the course of a three-day public meeting in October 2017 and informed by discussions with members of the Dungeness crab fishing industry in the years and months leading up to the October meeting. These discussions highlighted the urgency and necessity for these regulations to be addressed through legislation during this legislative session. SB 1310 is reflective of these recommendations.

SB 1309 also reflects recommendations forwarded by the DCTF specifically related to the issue of whale entanglements, including adding guidance to better understand the source of whale entanglements in California fishing gear. The DCTF supports the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group in its efforts to continue developing a Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP), and sees value in granting the CDFW Director limited, short-term authority to be responsive under emergency circumstances to entanglement risk. The DCTF looks forward to continuing to track SB 1309 as it continues through the legislative process.

The DCTF thanks Senator McGuire, Senator Hill, and Assemblymember Stone for their positive receipt and inclusion of the DCTF's recommendations. If you have any questions or require anything additional, please do not hesitate to be in touch with the DCTF's Administrative Team with any questions (info@dungenesscrabtaskforce.com or 805-845-9852) or visit our website at <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/> for more information about our work.

Sincerely,

The California Dungeness Crab Task Force

EC: The Honorable Jerry Hill (senator.hill@senate.ca.gov)
The Honorable Mark Stone (assemblymember.stone@assembly.ca.gov)
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