



~California Dungeness Crab Task Force~

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

Abridged Summary of California Dungeness Crab Task Force Votes October 26-27, 2015 DCTF meeting

This document provides a summary of action items and associated votes taken by the California Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) at its October 26-27, 2015 meeting in Ukiah, California. Any vote marked as “approved” will be forwarded as a recommendation to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (Legislature), the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), and Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in the DCTF’s January 2016 report.

The following voting protocol, described in the [DCTF Charter](#), was used to conduct straw polls and final voting:

Thumbs Down: I do not agree with the proposal. I feel the need to block its adoption and propose an alternative.

Thumbs Sideways: I can accept the proposal although I do not necessarily support it.

Thumbs Up: I think this proposal is the best choice of the options available to us.

Abstention: At times, a pending decision may be infeasible for a Member to weigh in on. Examples could include but not be limited to: a Member cannot get a consensus of his/her constituents and therefore cannot offer a proposal or opinion; and other similar conditions.

For more background about the October 26-27, 2014 meeting, please refer to the meeting summary at: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/>

DCTF Votes

ACTION: *Consideration and possible adoption of recommendation(s) related to the Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group.*

APPROVED: The DCTF supports the recommendations and approaches recommended by the Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group, which is charged with developing short-term strategies and long-term options to reduce the risk of whale entanglements in Dungeness crab fishing gear beginning in the 2015-16 fishing season. The DCTF requests the Working Group also consider the following:

- Expand the entanglement response trainings to be coast-wide and include both recreational and commercial fishermen.
- Increase communication between fishermen and federal agencies heading up the whale entanglement response teams along the entire West Coast, as well as improve coordination along the entire west coast including Oregon, Washington, and Alaska on addressing whale entanglement concerns.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
19	0	0	0	3



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Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):

Thumbs up (19): Anderson, Atkinson, Bettencourt G., Bettencourt T., Blue, Cannia, Cunningham, Doyle, Fahning, Gilmore, Gorelnik, Goucher, Helliwell, Hemmingsen, Horner, Johnson, Lawson, Whaley, Yarnall

Thumbs sideways (0): None

Thumbs down (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (3): Collins, De Solenni, Thomas

ACTION: *Consideration and possible adoption of recommendation(s) related to the Dungeness crab commercial trap limit program including, but not limited to, future data needs, monitoring and evaluation of the commercial Dungeness crab trap limit program, and the need for replacement tags in-season and between seasons.*

NOT APPROVED: In this year of unprecedented, high domoic acid levels, if Dungeness crabs continue to have high levels of domoic acid in any management area (i.e. north and south of Point Arena), the DCTF recommends:

- The management areas south of Point Arena participate in testing for domoic acid during the 2015-16 fishing season.
- Sport and commercial Dungeness crab fisheries in both management areas should delay until the crabs are “clean” (as per the Department of Public Health guidelines).
- To open the Dungeness crab fishery, the DCTF recommends the following:
 - The recreational fishery should open by management area as soon as the “all clear” is received from Department of Public Health.
 - The commercial fishery presoak will be permitted by management area one week after the recreational opener.
 - If the management area south of Point Arena is delayed past November 15, a 30-day fair-start clause will be employed for those fishing outside the area prior to the opener. If the management area north of Point Arena is delayed past December 1, a 30-day fair-start clause will be employed for those fishing outside the area prior to the opener.

Note: Following the October 26-27, 2015 meeting, the DCTF directed the Executive Committee to discuss this topic further. Visit DCTF webpage for more information.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
6	8	5	0	3

Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):

Thumbs up (6): Anderson, Bettencourt G., Blue, Gilmore, Helliwell, Lawson,

Thumbs sideways (8): Atkinson, Cunningham, Fahning, Gorelnik, Goucher, Hemmingsen, Horner, Yarnall

Thumbs down (5): Bettencourt T., Cannia, Doyle, Johnson, Whaley

Abstain (0): None



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Absent (3): Collins, De Solenni, Thomas

ACTION: *Consideration and possible adoption of recommendation(s) related to the design, funding, and/or implementation of a California lost Dungeness crab fishing gear program.*

APPROVED: The DCTF recommends the establishment of a statewide, industry funded lost fishing gear recovery program that contains the following elements:

- Dungeness crab permit holder obtains a permit from CDFW to retrieve gear after season ends.
- Retrieval period begins and ends as per Section 132.2(a) Title 14, CCR.
- Retrieved gear must be delivered to CDFW by retrieval boat/crew.
- Fees (e.g., paying boat, covering CDFW storage and administrative costs, scrapping traps, etc.) will be added to Title 14, CCR.
- Owners notified will be after gear impounded. Details about notification process and timeframe for holding [TBD].
- Owners responsible for retrieval, impound, disposal fees. If owner does not pay fees, owner cannot renew permit until fees have been paid.
- The DCTF supports CDFW issuing citations in addition to fees for recovery of gear, which would require better coordination between those fishermen retrieving gear and CDFW enforcement.
- The industry does not tolerate strings of gear in the ocean after the season closes. This program is a successful way to retrieve traps from ocean, as there will be less stray gear because owners take it upon themselves to remove.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
14	3	1	0	4

Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):

Thumbs up (19): Anderson, Atkinson, Bettencourt G., Bettencourt T., Blue, Cannia, Cunningham, Doyle, Fahning, Goucher, Helliwell, Hemmingsen, Lawson, Whaley

Thumbs sideways (3): Gilmore, Gorelnik, Yarnall

Thumbs down (1): Horner

Abstain (0): None

Absent (4): Collins, De Solenni, Johnson, Thomas

ACTION: *Consideration and possible adoption of a recommendation regarding the long-term functioning and/or organizational structure of the Dungeness crab fishery including, but not limited to, a request for the DCTF or an alternative group to investigate options for the industry's review and consideration.*

APPROVED: The DCTF sees value in continuing to inform the management of the Dungeness crab fishery in partnership with CDFW. There are benefits in maintaining a DCTF beyond 2017, however updates/adjustments (including, but not limited to, the composition of the DCTF, process for appointing alternates, process for replacing members, etc.) may need to be



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considered. The DCTF looks forward to providing a recommendation on the future, long-term structure of the DCTF to the legislature in the 2017 report.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
11	7	0	0	4

Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):

Thumbs up (11): Bettencourt T., Blue, Cunningham, Doyle, Fahning, Gilmore, Goucher, Helliwell, Hemmingsen, Horner, Lawson

Thumbs sideways (7): Anderson, Atkinson, Bettencourt G., Cannia, Gorelnik, Whaley, Yarnall

Thumbs down (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (4): Collins, De Solenni, Johnson, Thomas

APPROVED: The DCTF would like OPC to consider continuing to administer the DCTF beyond 2017. Excess funds from the trap tag program or other sources could be used to pay for the DCTF and its administrative costs, including OPC staff time, beyond 2017.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
16	2	0	0	4

Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):

Thumbs up (16): Anderson, Atkinson, Bettencourt G., Bettencourt T., Blue, Cannia, Cunningham, Doyle, Fahning, Gilmore, Goucher, Helliwell, Hemmingsen, Horner, Lawson, Whaley

Thumbs sideways (2): Gorelnik, Yarnall

Thumbs down (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (4): Collins, De Solenni, Johnson, Thomas

ACTION: *Consideration and possible adoption of recommendation(s) related to the Dungeness crab commercial trap limit program including, but not limited to, future data needs, monitoring and evaluation of the commercial Dungeness crab trap limit program, and the need for replacement tags in-season and between seasons.*

APPROVED: The DCTF recommends reducing/reevaluating the \$1,000 biannual crab trap limit permit fee as a result of CDFW accounting indicating a large surplus of funds remaining in the Dungeness crab account.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
14	3	0	0	5



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Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):

Thumbs up (14): Anderson, Atkinson, Bettencourt G., Blue, Cannia, Cunningham, Doyle, Fahning, Gilmore, Goucher, Hemmingsen, Horner, Lawson, Whaley,

Thumbs sideways (3): Bettencourt T., Helliwell, Yarnall

Thumbs down (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (5): Collins, De Solenni, Gorelnik, Johnson, Thomas

ACTION: *Consideration and possible adoption of recommendation(s) related to waivers or modifications to the “96-hour rule.”*

NOT APPROVED: Modify the 96-hour rule including, but not limited to, eliminate the 96-hour rule, extend the timeframe to tend gear, and/or allow waivers for those unable to tend their gear within 96.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
0	6	9	3	4

Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):

Thumbs up (0): None

Thumbs sideways (6): Anderson, Doyle, Gilmore, Goucher, Helliwell, Lawson

Thumbs down (9): Atkinson, Bettencourt G., Blue, Cannia, Fahning, Gorelnik, Hemmingsen, Horner, Whaley

Abstain (3): Bettencourt T., Cunningham, Yarnall

Absent (4): Collins, De Solenni, Johnson, Thomas