

**Public Comments Provided to the Dungeness Crab Task force (DCTF) for the April
22-23 DCTF Meeting
Updated April 28, 2014**

Public Comment

I am a CPFV operator and owner of the Hulicat out of Pillar Point harbor in San Mateo County. I believe that the Dungeness crab limit should be uniform for every recreational angler at 10 crabs. All recreational anglers pay the same amount for their fishing licenses, but they are not treated equally when it comes to the Dungeness crab bag limit.

Recreational anglers on private boats have a bag limit of ten throughout the state. The same limit applies to anglers accessing the resource using the services of a CPFV operator north of Sonoma county. However, recreational anglers in Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties without access to private boats have a bag limit of only six crab.

Not only is this unfair to many recreational license holders, it disadvantages CPFV operators in those five counties. Anglers are more likely to book a trip on a CPFV with a ten-crab limit than a six-crab limit. Moreover, anglers with the option of riding on a private boat with a ten-crab bag limit will not likely jump on a CPFV vessel for six crab even if they would otherwise prefer the greater comfort, safety and professionalism.

The Dungeness crab resource is healthy. There is no limit on total allowable catch. There is no conservation reason whatsoever to discriminate against recreational anglers who access the resource using the services of CPFV operators in five California counties.

Tom Mattusch
Huli Cat

Public Comment:

To whom it may concern

My name is Duane Winter and I am the owner / operator of a Six Pack CPFV called Mooch Better out of Pillar Point Harbor in San Mateo County. I think it is unfair that CPFV boats out of Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties are restricted to only 6 crab per person while all other recreational anglers are allowed 10 per day. Recreational anglers should be allowed 10 per day whether it be from a private boat or a chartered boat as it is north of Sonoma county.

Anglers would more likely book a trip on a CPFV if they were allowed the same 10 crab limit that they can get from private boats. With the 6 crab limit it is a great disadvantage to us CPFV boats in those five counties.

There is no reason to limit recreational anglers that want to use the services of a CPFV operator. The Dungeness crab resource is healthy and there is no limit on the total

allowable catch.

Please stop discriminating against recreational anglers that want to use the services of CPFV operators.

Captain Duane Winter
Mooch Better Fishing

Public Comment

I am the owner/operator of the charter boat Que Sera Sera out of Pillar Point Harbor. I am writing to protest the discriminatory treatment of recreational fishermen who fish for crab off the coast of San Mateo County as well as Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco and Monterey Counties. Restricting their catch to six crab is a blatant discriminatory policy that is strictly political and serves no supportable scientific purpose. The ten allowable catch of crab for recreational fishermen should be the catch limit for all recreational fishermen no matter what boat they are fishing aboard.

Let's do what is ethically right by stopping the discriminatory policy.

Sincerely,
Captain Dale Walters
USCG Licensed Captain For 45 years

Public Comment

Berkeley Charter Boats

Captain Robert Gallia
3043 Deseret Drive
Richmond Ca, 94803

April 22, 2014

Re: Dungeness crab Review, for CPFV

Dear Rachelle:

This letter is to address the inequality in the California Fish and Game Commission regulations regarding the Dungeness crab fishery.

There are currently 6 CPFV owner/operators who (Inspected Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel) provide sport caught Dungeness crab fishing trips from the Berkeley marina.

Under current rules:

All of the Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels that provide these trips, under current Fish and Game regulations are experiencing a unfair hardship due to the double standard being applied to a person with a valid Sport fishing License. The rules dictate that a person with a valid California Sport Fishing license, who fishes aboard a private or uninspected vessel, may possess 10 Dungeness crab, but if that same individual chooses to fish aboard a CPFV, he may keep in his possession only 6 crabs.

The current rules put the Captains of CPFV in considerable disadvantage, when we are already experiencing financial losses.

There is no reasonable explanation for this double standard, in a fishery that appears to be vibrant.

The 6 captains of the Berkeley fleet are requesting that these rules be standardized so as to provide equality to all who work in this industry.

The rules governing this type of sport fishing need to reflect fairness and clarity and an equal standard to all licensed captains who support the rules and regulations throughout the coast of California.

Sincerely,
Captain Robert Gallia / EL Dorado

Public Comment

Rachelle –

I understand that you are a facilitator for the Dungeness Crab Task Force. I would like to share my perspective as a recreational crab fisher. Living 35 miles east of Sacramento, a crab trip for my son and me means an overnight stay in Half Moon Bay, coupled with meals at local restaurants and a run to the local grocery store (my teenage boy eats a lot!). Of course, we also fuel up the boat and truck in Half Moon Bay, and buy fishing tackle and marine supplies at local shops.

Last year before opening day of crab season, I had some new electronics installed by a shop at Santa Cruz harbor, and my boat is currently at a yard there undergoing repairs and upgrades. This is all in the name of recreation and spending precious time with family and friends. I forgot to mention that I invite friends down to crab with us sometimes. Usually they end up buying a fishing license and getting a motel room as well. Their non-fisher family members typically spend the day enjoying Half Moon Bay as tourists, and we all love the local clam chowder!

None of this spending would be worthwhile if we had our crab fishing opportunities curtailed through regulation. The twenty crab that my son and I bring home wind up costing about \$20 apiece in trip costs such as the aforementioned food, lodging, fuel, and supplies. This does not include the capital cost and ongoing ownership costs of the boat itself, not to mention the necessary big truck to tow it. Part of the “justification” that I needed to convince myself and my spouse to buy a very expensive boat and diesel truck was that we could go crabbing after the summer fishing season had closed. Of course, my boat dealer is very happy that I bought a boat from him, as is the Placer County Tax Collector, the boat storage facility, and the local small business that services the boat and outboard motor.

Were I to throw in the towel and say “it’s not worth it!” due to reduced recreational crab opportunities, I would sell my boat, cut back on my work efforts, and stop spending money on fishing. Boo hoo for me, right? I would sorely miss fishing, but there are plenty of less expensive ways to amuse myself. However, who is going to fill the motel

rooms, eat in the restaurants, and buy boats, tackle, electronics, trucks, etc? How is the outboard repair shop going to pay its taxes and rent if we recreational fishers give it up?

A recreationally caught crab has a very high economic multiplier effect. It is good for local communities, and it is good for the State of California.

Thanks for listening,

Tom Lagerquist
Loomis, California

April 14, 2014

California Dungeness Crab Task Force
c/o Valerie Termini, Ocean Protection Council
1416 9th Street, 13th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the California Dungeness Crab Task Force,

I am requesting the DCTF to consider a trap tag fee waiver for disabled fishermen. I officially became disabled in October of 2013 as a result of Late Stage Lyme's Disease. I received the tick bite many years ago while turkey hunting. The disease slowly spread to my brain and nervous system causing a multitude of physical and cognitive problems including severe fatigue, pain and memory loss so bad that at times I am unable tie on a fishing hook. My condition is improving slowly. I can now drive most of the time but minimal physical activity will wipe me out for days. My doctors are saying my condition may improve to the point that I can work again in 3-5 years. The whole ordeal has been hard on my family both emotionally and financially.

Currently I have my boat leased for the remainder of this crab season but I don't have a plan beyond that. I don't want to sell my boat anytime soon in case my condition improves to the point I can work season end. I would like the DCTF to recommend that Title 14 of the Fish and Game Code be changed to allow a waiver of trap tag fees for disabled fishermen providing that the boat is not fishing.

Statistically 3 out of 10 workers become disabled before reaching retirement age. There should be a provision in the law to address these situations.

If you would like to discuss this further I can be reached at lucky50@suddenlink.net or 707-499-0930. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Zamboni
F/V Lucky 50