

Hi Rachelle

I would like to submit this letter to the DCTF as part of the public record:

I live in the San Francisco area, Dist. 10, and due to the high fishing pressure in the area to meet the demands for the Thanksgiving crab market, we were unable to fish for crab in the area to satisfy the Christmas market. You have heard all the debate about the pressure in the region due to the early season opener; apparently, there is no consensus for a change.

The fishery is changing with a trend of faster boats with bigger capacity and the poor crabs are swept up faster every year. If efficiency is the goal we might need a new definition for the word. If the goal is the health of the fishing communities along our coast this derby style fishery is not the working model for the future. Ten boats could do what four hundred do now, and that would be the most efficient method of harvest if efficiency were the only goal.

The way it is now, those that stay in Dist 10 after the northern ports open, like me, are left with virtually nothing for the remainder of the season and every year it happens quicker.

Pot limits have not addressed this early season pressure in Dist.10 and the derby style fishing is only working for a minority of fishermen. I would appreciate it if the DCTF would explore some creative solutions to address this issue at an upcoming meeting. I would also be open to working with my local DCTF representatives to come up with some ideas and proposals.

Thanks for your help,  
Josh Churchman