



## ~California Dungeness Crab Task Force~

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

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### Abridged Summary of California Dungeness Crab Task Force Votes June 5-6, 2018 DCTF Meeting

This document provides a summary of action items and associated votes taken by the California Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) at its June 5-6, 2018 meeting. Any vote marked as “approved” will be forwarded as a recommendation to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (Legislature), Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), and/or included in the DCTF’s next report to the Legislature, CDFW, and Commission. Additionally, there are recommendations below to help inform discussions with the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee and the DCTF is not recommending regulatory changes on these topics at this time.

The following voting protocol, described in the [DCTF Charter](#), was used to conduct administrative votes, 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 additional information about the June 5-6, 2018 meeting, including a more detailed accounting of each recommendation developed by the DCTF, please refer to the meeting summary at: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/>.**

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#### **Summary of DCTF Votes**

*Note: A list of DCTF Members and Alternates present at the meeting is available on Page 8*

**Administrative Vote:** *Consideration and possible adoption of a final 2018-19 DCTF Work Plan.*

**APPROVED:** The DCTF adopts the 2018-19 Work Plan with the following amendments:

- Add new objectives focused on improving opportunities for new/younger fishermen to enter the fishery while supporting a sustainable and economically viable fishery.
- Remove fair start from the list of high priorities.

- Add investigating changing the Central Management Opener to the first or second Tuesday of November and investigation and consideration of evisceration orders to the low priority list.

The priorities listed in the work plan may continue to be informed and updated via guidance by the DCTF Executive Committee and DCTF. New priorities may also be brought to the attention of the DCTF for consideration through the [Guidelines to Submit Requests DCTF & Executive Committee Agenda Items](#).

The DCTF supports adjusting the work plan, including the DCTF meeting schedule, based on the progress of Senate Bill (SB) 1310, elections/appointments, and any other needs that may arise.

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

*Note: Roll call is not taken for administrative votes.*

**NOT APPROVED:** The DCTF would like to convene a conference call to discuss and vote on recommendations related to how CDFW should distribute disaster relief funding.<sup>1</sup>

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
0	6	13	3	0

*Note: Roll call is not taken for administrative votes.*

**Administrative Vote:** *Consideration and possible modification of the Executive Committee, including, but not limited to, the membership.*

No Vote Taken

**ACTION:** *Consideration and possible adoption of letter(s) of support for SB 1310.*

**APPROVED:** The DCTF requests the Administrative team develop a letter on their behalf thanking Senator McGuire and the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture for their support of the recommendations in the DCTF’s December 20, 2017 report and offers their support for SB1310.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
21	1	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Note: CDFW may convene a public conference call in place of a DCTF call to discuss disaster relief.

*Note: This vote was deemed as administrative in real-time during the meeting. Roll call is not taken for administrative votes.*

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**ACTION:** *Consideration and possible adoption of recommendations to CDFW on Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Program regulations.*

**APPROVED:** The DCTF approves CDFW’s recommended Title 14 regulations package adding Section 132.7 as presented to the DCTF on June 5, 2018 with the following amendments:

- Add “and” in Section(c)(4)(A) between (1)-(3).
- Remove such as “possession of an Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels License” in Section (c)(4)(A)(1).
- Remove the 48-hour notification in Section (d)(2).
- Require all permittees/coordinators have access to a pump.
- Amend Section (f) to require permittees to do their due diligence to contact the trap owner by both phone and regular mail at a minimum.

The DCTF believes they have had sufficient opportunity to review these draft regulations and does not need a full 60 days to provide additional feedback. The DCTF looks forward to CDFW taking steps to continue moving the program’s regulations forward in a fashion that is consistent with the intent of the DCTF.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
20	2	0	0	0

*Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):*

Thumbs up (20): Adams, Anderson, Atkinson, Beardon, Bettencourt, Blue, Bradshaw, Cannia, Capra, Collins, Cunningham, Doyle, Gilmore, Helliwell, Lawson, O’Donnell, Pomilia, Whaley, Wickliffe, Yarnall

Thumbs sideways (2): Carvalho, Powers

Thumbs down (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (0): None

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**ACTION:** *Consideration and possible adoption of letter(s) of support and/or recommendations for amendments to active legislation and rulemaking packages, including, but not limited to, SB 1309.*

**APPROVED:** Following the passage of SB 1310, the DCTF recommends the Ocean Protection Council, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Legislature consider conducting elections in one-third of the commercial fishing ports. This first election should focus on those ports that require changes in representation as indicated by SB 1310, including Crescent City and south of Half Moon Bay. Trinidad should also be included in the first election.

The DCTF recommends annual elections in one-third of the ports as legal interpretations allow.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
22	0	0	0	0

*Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):*

Thumbs up (22): Adams, Anderson, Atkinson, Beardon, Bettencourt, Blue, Bradshaw, Cannia, Capra, Carvalho, Collins, Cunningham, Doyle, Gilmore, Helliwell, Lawson, O’Donnell, Pomilia, Powers, Whaley, Wickliffe, Yarnall

Thumbs sideways (0): None

Thumbs down (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (0): None

**APPROVED:** The DCTF supports SB 1309, and specifically those sections related to whale entanglements. The DCTF recommends the following:

- Amending section 9005 to require all California fixed-gear fisheries to have standard gear marking. This regulation will be instrumental in helping to inform the source of whale entanglements in California waters.
- Retaining section 8276.1 that identifies the development of a risk assessment and mitigation program (RAMP) developed by the Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group.
  - Should the bill include a provision to authorize the CDFW Director with the ability to respond to emergency whale entanglement events, the DCTF recommends “bounds” be placed on that authority. The DCTF supports the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Association suggested amendments that include a two-year bill sunset and utilizing Potential Biological Removal (PBR) as the threshold by which emergency action can be taken by the Director in the short-term.
  - The DCTF recommends the Legislature and Director consult with the industry, specifically the Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group, at all stages of the Director’s decision making process.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
15	7	0	0	0

*Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):*

Thumbs up (15): Beardon, Blue, Bradshaw, Caito, Cannia, Capra, Collins, Cunningham, Gilmore, Helliwell, Lawson, Rotwein, Whaley, Wickliffe, Yarnall

Thumbs sideways (7): Anderson, Atkinson, Bettencourt, Doyle, O’Donnell, Pomilia, Powers

Thumbs down (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (0): None

**APPROVED:** The DCTF supports CDFW’s draft rulemaking package to amend Title 14 regulations and add Section 132.6 with the following amendments:

- Allow up to two trailer buoys on gear set-ups at depths less than 35fm.
- A clarification should also be added that the total length of the surface gear should not exceed 24ft from the leading edge of the main buoy to the after edge of the last trailer buoy.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
18	3	0	0	1

*Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):*

Thumbs up (18): Anderson, Atkinson, Beardon, Bettencourt, Blue, Bradshaw, Caito, Cannia, Capra, Collins, Cunningham, Doyle, Gilmore, Helliwell, Lawson, Pomilia, Rotwein, Whaley

Thumbs sideways (3): Powers, Wickliffe, Yarnall

Thumbs down (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (1): O’Donnell

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**ACTION:** *Consideration and possible adoption of recommendations related to whale entanglements and/or the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group.*

See vote above regarding SB 1309

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**ACTION:** *Consideration and possible adoption of recommendations of Dungeness crab fishery management measures or policy statements related to topics including, but not limited to, Tri-State crab quality and domoic acid testing protocols, season opener dates, fair start regulations, California testing locations, etc.*

**Note:** *The following votes below were taken to support the California representatives’ participation at the July 24-25, 2018 Tri-State Dungeness Crab Meeting and are not recommendations for changes in California regulations at this time.*

**APPROVED:** The DCTF recommends the following considerations for the California representatives at the July 24-25, 2018 Tri-State Dungeness Crab Meeting:

- The DCTF is interested in establishing consistent processing protocols (e.g., time from cooking to picking) across all three states for preseason crab quality testing. The DCTF recommends the processors develop standardized protocols for testing and suggests

crabs be picked no more than 48 hours after cooking and the product not be frozen during the testing process.

- The DCTF is interested in having more flexibility in delaying the season in California beyond January 15 if quality testing results do not meet Tri-State standards at that time. The DCTF showed strong support for allowing a delay until February 1 and general support for delaying until February 15 if crabs do not meet Tri-State standards. DCTF Members expressed concern about the increased risk of whale entanglements if the fishery is delayed beyond February 1.
  - Should the opener be moved beyond January 15, the DCTF supports extending quality testing to help address concerns associated with the waste of soft crab.
- The DCTF supports the state continuing to implement crab quality testing using the Tri-State standards beyond the opener (e.g. if the season opens on January 15, crabs should continue to be tested in California until they meet Tri-State standards).

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent
17	5	0	0	0

*Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):*

Thumbs up (17): Anderson, Beardon, Bettencourt, Blue, Bradshaw, Caito, Cannia, Capra, Collins, Cunningham, Lawson, O'Donnell, Pomilia, Rotwein, Whaley, Wickliffe, Yarnall

Thumbs sideways (5): Atkinson, Doyle, Gilmore, Helliwell, Powers,

Thumbs down (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (0): None

**APPROVED:** The DCTF recommends the following considerations for the California representatives at the July 24-25, 2018 Tri-State Dungeness Crab Meeting:

- The DCTF supports consistent meat recovery standards throughout the three states. The DCTF recommends the pick rate for all areas (all states) be 24% before opening. Lower meat recovery rates will reduce the possibility that the season will open late and increase the risk of whale entanglements. However, the DCTF can live with status quo (23% north Cascade; 25% south).
- The DCTF is not ready to recommend lines/blocks with separate opening dates based on crab quality in the Northern Management Area, but are interested in continuing to explore the possibility.
- The DCTF would like to retain its current preseason quality testing schedule and timelines as outlined in California statute (Fish and Game Code section 8276.2), which indicates the first test in the Northern Management Area will occur on or around November 1 and, if necessary, a second test be conducted so sample results are available by November 15.

Thumbs up	Thumbs Sideways	Thumbs Down	Abstained	Absent

16	6	0	0	0
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*Vote of all DCTF Members (nonvoting Members abstained):*

Thumbs up (16): Beardon, Bettencourt, Blue, Bradshaw, Caito, Cannia, Capra, Collins, Cunningham, Doyle, Lawson, O'Donnell, Pomilia, Whaley, Wickliffe, Yarnall

Thumbs sideways (6): Anderson, Atkinson, Gilmore, Helliwell, Powers, Rotwein

Thumbs down (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (0): None

**DCTF Members and Alternates Present — June 5-6, 2018**

Rod Adams, Alternate for Mike Zamboni, Trinidad- *Present on day 1 only*  
Jim Anderson, Half Moon Bay, Low Tier  
John Atkinson, Jr., San Francisco, High Tier  
John Beardon, Crescent City, Low Tier  
Geoff Bettencourt, Half Moon Bay, High Tier  
Bill Blue, Half Moon Bay South  
George Bradshaw, Crescent City, Low Tier  
Joe Caito, Alternate for Bill Carvalho, Crab Processor- *Present on day 2 only*  
Tony Cannia, Fort Bragg, Low Tier  
Mark Capra, Alternate for Marc Gorelnik, Sport Fishing  
Bill Carvalho, Crab Processor- *Present on day 1 only*  
Larry Collins, San Francisco, Low Tier  
Mike Cunningham, Eureka, High Tier  
Vince Doyle, Fort Bragg, High Tier  
Keith Gilmore, Fort Bragg, Low Tier  
David Helliwell, Eureka, Low Tier  
Christy Juhasz, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Chris Lawson, Bodega Bay, High Tier  
Matthew O'Donnell, Alternate for Brett Fahning, Crescent City, High Tier  
Carrie Pomeroy, CA Sea Grant  
Victor Pomilia, Alternate for Gerry Hemmingsen, Crescent City, High Tier  
Rick Powers, Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel  
Cpt. Bob Puccinelli, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Zach Rotwein, Alternate for Mike Zamboni, Trinidad- *Present on day 2 only*  
Todd Whaley, Nonresident  
Jim Yarnall, Sport Fishing

**DCTF Members and Alternates Absent**

David Crabbe, Nongovernmental Organization  
Vacant Seat, Nongovernmental Organization