



Proposed objectives for future management of the Dungeness crab fishery

SB 1690 mandates that the Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) recommend short and long term objectives for future fishery management. At meeting 3 in Ukiah, CA, the DCTF voted in a non-binding straw poll on a set of consolidated objectives. The objectives listed below are based on the previous work of the DCTF, including the results of the straw poll, and will be voted on during meeting 5 (Ukiah) on February 17th and 18th, 2010. Subsequent to the vote at meeting 5, the objectives will guide discussions on proposed management measures. Prior to the meeting, Members are encouraged to solicit feedback from their constituents on the following proposed objectives.

Capacity

- Maintain existing capacity of the commercial fleet
- Reduce existing capacity of the commercial fleet
- Define and clarify “latent permit”
- Reduce the potential threat of latent permit activation
- Eliminate the potential threat of latent permit activation
- Prevent further vessel expansion under existing permits
- Prevent transfer of permits to processors

Effort

- Minimize effort shift within California
- Minimize effort shift between California, and Oregon and Washington
- Spread the commercial harvest over a longer period of time
- Improve safety

Economics

- Increase profitability throughout the supply chain of the fishery
- Reduce gear loss for fishermen

Data

- Establish the number of pots currently used in the commercial fishery
- Increase/improve associated data collection and analysis for future management of the fishery

Future management

- Refine commercial and sport regulations to reduce ambiguity in interpretation of the regulation
- Improve enforceability of the commercial and sport regulations
- Members of the fishery will inform future management, policy and marketing
- Create a cooperative management approach to allow efficient and transparent management of the fishery
- Create an equitable and even playing field for all California fishermen
- Exempt the commercial and sport Dungeness crab fisheries from marine protected area designations