



~California Dungeness Crab Task Force~

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

The California Dungeness Crab Fishery

Straw problem statements and objectives for future management of the sport fishery

Based on the findings from the Facilitation Team's June 2009 Situational Analysis, the outputs of the May 26-27, 2009 Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) meeting in Eureka, CA, and key issues identified in published literature and other sources, the DCTF Facilitation Team has prepared the following:

- Draft problems statements facing the fishery and,
- Straw objectives for review and revision.

These problem statements and very preliminary objectives are intended to guide DCTF workgroup discussions and be refined to ultimately reflect shared meaning among DCTF members.

The Sport Fishery

Straw Problem Statements:

- Poorly written, difficult to enforce, and/or unenforceable recreational laws have resulted in fishermen harvesting commercially while operating under the guise of sport fishermen, and thus abiding by sport and not commercial rules.
- CPFV vessels must abide by rules that do not apply to sport fishermen (e.g., number of crabs harvested; geographic disparity in rules).
- Commercial and sport regulations are inconsistent (e.g., different season start and end times, sport fishermen can catch females, differences in the minimum catch sizes).
- There is concern about the growing impact of the sport harvest, particularly on reproductive females.

Straw Objectives:

- Reduce non-compliance (e.g., change existing sport rules to improve enforcement capability).
 - Create equity between commercial and sport fishing rules to reduce or eliminate commercial fishing under sport rules.
 - Create equity between CPFV and sport rules for areas north and south of Point Arena.
- Ensure appropriate biological data is being collected to inform policy and management.