

Updates to the Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) Executive Committee
*Prepared by the DCTF Administrative Team, Ocean Protection Council staff, and
California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff
August 14, 2015*

The following was drafted by the DCTF Administrative Team (Admin Team), in partnership with Ocean Protection Council staff (OPC) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff, to inform discussions during a DCTF Executive Committee (EC) conference call held on August 14, 2015. This update will be posted to the DCTF webpage: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/>.

Admin Team Update

- Since the May 19, 2015 EC meeting, the Admin Team has:
 - Continued to consult and collaborate with DCTF Members and the OPC, CDFW, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the topic of whale entanglements. This included providing OPC, CDFW, and NMFS a series of questions that have been raised by DCTF Members regarding this topic. A public meeting to discuss whale entanglements off California has been scheduled for August 20, 2015 in Oakland (<http://www.opc.ca.gov/2015/08/public-meeting-to-discuss-whale-entanglements-off-california/>). The Admin Team will be present on August 20 and will report the discussion outcomes to the EC and DCTF.
 - Contacted DCTF Members to ask about availability for in-person discussions in September and for a DCTF meeting in October 2015, and to confirm Members are receiving Admin Team emails and shared materials.
 - Consulted with Jennifer Renzullo, CA Lost Fishing Gear Retrieval Program, and Lt. Steve Riske, CDFW, on the process for convening a working group to identify mechanisms to secure the long-term function of a gear retrieval program in California.
 - Spoke with Oregon and Washington on behalf of the EC to learn about each state's efforts to evaluate their respective trap limit programs to inform the evaluation of California's Commercial Dungeness Crab Trap Limit Program (DCTLP).
 - Consulted with Christy Juhasz, CDFW, and Carrie Pomeroy, California Sea Grant, to begin work on the DCTLP evaluation for the EC and DCTF's review and consideration.
 - Continued to liaise with interested members of the public and others.
 - Worked with CDFW to full fill data requests from DCTF Members and the public. The most recent data requests are available on the [DCTF webpage](#).

OPC Update

- Has been collaborating with NMFS and CDFW on the whale entanglement discussion, and has helped to organize and convene a discussion on whale entanglements in California on August 20, 2015 in Oakland.

CDFW Update

- Whale Entanglements
 - Whale entanglements have been identified as a high priority topic for CDFW. We have been working with OPC and NMFS to mine available data and have taken steps to convene a public discussion on this topic on August 20, 2015 in Oakland.
- Trap Limit Program
 - We have been working with the Admin Team and Carrie Pomeroy, California Sea Grant, on the DCTLP evaluation.
- Data Requests
 - The Admin Team relayed a public request for data related to gear loss and retrieval rates of lost gear to CDFW. CDFW compiled the information and it has now circulated to the DCTF and is also available on the [DCTF webpage](#). If DCTF Members or members of the public have questions about that data or have any other requests, please contact Christy Juhasz at (707) 576-2887 or christy.Juhasz@wildlife.ca.gov.
- Enforcement
 - Staff is working with CA Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project to establish a work group to develop a long-term lost gear retrieval program.
 - Staff has been working with a DCTF Member and the Coast Guard to address concerns related to crab lights and vessel traffic near the Golden Gate Bridge.