

February 15, 2016

Director Chuck Bonham -California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Stafford Lehr- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sonke Mastrup- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Craig Shuman- California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Via: Email

At this point in time we are not in favor of creating a commercial crab management zone from Pt. Reyes south and subsequently opening the season there. The reason is that this conflicts with traditional and historic management of the commercial crab fishery as it relates to effort shift and 30 day protection clauses. The splitting of the district 10 management zone will result in the port of Bodega Bay without 30 day protection and resulting in immediate effort shift once their crabs are deemed safe by the Department of Public Health.

We expect Bodega Bay to continue to retrieve samples of crabs in a timely manner for the Department of Public Health in hopes that their area may soon be deemed safe and their commercial season may open along with the rest of district 10. Additionally, we expect districts 6-9 to continue to test with the anticipation that these areas will also provide clean results. This would allow for broader area openings, further disbursing effort, thus benefiting all crab fishermen.

We understand that the Dungeness crab fishery has never seen closures of this magnitude. We recognize it is important to be flexible and open-minded throughout this process. Our goal continues to be to open our season as soon as possible with the least amount of negative impact on all ports.

We have full confidence and complete support for the Department of Public Health. We believe they will continue to do their job to insure the health and safety of the public. We are confident that once the Department of Public Health, in conjunction with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, deems an area safe, those crabs are 100% safe for public consumption.

Thank you for your consideration:

Crescent City Commercial Fishermen's Association
Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association
Trinidad Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association