

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
May 18, 2015*

The following was drafted by DCTF Administrative Team (Admin Team), in partnership with Ocean Protection Council staff (OPC) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff, to inform DCTF Executive Committee (EC) discussions during a conference call held on May 19, 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 April 20, 2015 EC meeting, the Admin Team has:
 - Developed a draft process design document to inform the whale entanglement discussion. That document has been reviewed and informed by OPC, CDFW, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
 - Continued to consult and collaborate with OPC, CDFW, and NMFS on the whale entanglement discussion.
 - Drafted a document comparing the three options identified at the April 2015 EC meeting and shared it with CDFW and the CA Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project to inform their efforts to develop a work group to further discuss the lost gear retrieval program.
 - Drafted a memo to Oregon and Washington on behalf of the EC to be discussed on the May 19, 2015 EC conference call.
 - Continued to reach out to EC and DCTF members to inform the DCTF's conversations and process design.

OPC Update

- OPC looks forward to collaborating with NMFS, CDFW, the DCTF, and other fisheries on the whale entanglement discussion and help to organize an upcoming workshop.

CDFW Update

- Trap Limit Program
 - All appeals to the trap limit program have been concluded. As a result, 15 permit upgrades and 1,050 added traps to the program. Two appeals that were pursued by permit holders to overturn their Office of Administrative Hearing decisions are still unresolved with one [scheduled for June and the other heard in January with the result still pending](#).
- Data Requests
 - CDFW received request a data request from a commercial Dungeness crab fishermen. CDFW staff shared the data with the Admin Team who circulated it to the DCTF on our behalf. The data is available on the [DCTF webpage](#). If you 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 set up a work group to develop a lost gear retrieval program. We are still working out the process to determine how the work group will be seated and hope to convene our first meeting in late-June 2015.
- Whale entanglements have been identified as a high priority topic for CDFW. We hope to work with DCTF and other fisheries to address this issue. Conversations and coordination with OPC, NMFS, and others is ongoing.
- CDFW looks forward to continuing to discuss other items raised by the EC (e.g., potential changes to the 96-hour, eliminating in-season replacement tags, requiring buoy tags to include name of vessel, etc.) during a future call.