



~California Dungeness Crab Task Force~

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

TO: California Dungeness Crab Task Force

FROM: Dungeness Crab Task Force Administrative Team
Christy Juhasz, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Carrie Pomeroy, California Sea Grant/DCTF ex-officio member

DATE: October 22, 2015

RE: Draft Questions: Dungeness Crab Commercial Trap Limit Evaluation
Informational handout for the October 26-27, 2015 DCTF Meeting

The California Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) is tasked with evaluating the California commercial Dungeness crab trap limit program (trap limit program). The DCTF Administrative Team, along with Carrie Pomeroy, California Sea Grant/DCTF ex-officio member, and Christy Juhasz, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)/DCTF ex-officio member, have been working together to address the DCTF's legislatively mandated evaluation of the recently implemented trap limit program. Drawing on DCTF and Executive Committee discussions, along with recent conversations with Oregon and Washington agency staff, a draft set of topics and associated questions have been developed to inform the evaluation. The following document summarizes these topics and provides a sampling of the questions that could be included in the evaluation, which will be discussed during the October 26-27, 2015 DCTF meeting.

For additional background information, including summaries from past meetings that have discussed evaluating the trap limit program, visit the DCTF's webpage: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/>.

Considerations for Reviewing the Topics/Questions

It is important to keep in mind that multiple environmental, regulatory and socioeconomic factors affect the fishery, and that the trap limit program may or may not have directly (or solely) affected fishery activity and outcomes. To maintain neutrality in the evaluation, the questions focus on identifying changes in fishery activity (e.g., participation, landings, revenue), and determining what factors have contributed to those changes. Variations and changes in the fishery can be evaluated and compared pre- and post- trap limit program. Additionally, several of the questions can be answered using CDFW landings, vessel, license and permit data, while others require additional information from other, potentially less-accessible sources.

All questions are framed considering the 2013-2014 commercial fishing season as the first record of the trap limit program. In questions where six seasons of data are requested, three seasons pre-implementation of the program and three post-implementation will be examined.

Dungeness Crab Trap Limit Program Topics and Sample Questions

Theme 1: Access¹ to the fishery

- Has access to the fishery changed over the past six seasons? If so, why?
 - Has the availability of permits changed?*
 - Has the permit fee changed?
 - Has the cost of a permit (purchased from a permit holder) changed?
 - Have transfer fees changed?
 - Has permit transfer activity changed within or across tiers?
 - Has the number of permits lost to attrition changed?

Theme 2: Distribution of trap permits among tiers over time

- Has the number of active permits changed over time? If so, why?
- Has the distribution of permits among tiers changed since the program was implemented? If so, why?
- Has the distribution of *active* permits among tiers changed over the past three seasons? If so, why?

Theme 3: Fishing Capacity

- Has fishing capacity changed over the past six seasons? If so, why?
 - Have landings per vessel changed over time? If so, why?
 - Has activity of vessels with Tier 7 permits changed over time?
 - To what extent have Tier 7 permits that were once inactive become active?
- Has gear use changed over the past six seasons? If so, why?
 - How has the total amount of gear (i.e., number of traps) used in the commercial fishery changed?*
 - How has the amount of gear each fisherman uses changed?*

Theme 4: Effort/catch trends over space and time

- Have commercial Dungeness crab fishery patterns and trends changed over the past six seasons? How so?
 - How have effort, timing, catch, and price changed by vessel, location, tier, and overall?
 - Has the overall distribution of landings within the fleet changed?
 - Has the Dungeness crab fleet's participation in this and other fisheries changed? How so?*

THEME 5: Direct and indirect economic impacts

- Have ex-vessel prices for Dungeness crab changed over the past six seasons? How so?
- Has the timing and location of receiving/processing over the course of the season changed over time? If so, why?

¹ "Access" is defined as the factors that affect one's ability to enter and participate in the fishery. The bulleted items below this header capture some of the various aspects of access.

* Questions marked with an asterisk require additional data that is not available through landings, license and DCTLP data from the CDFW database.

- Have costs and revenues for fishing operations, receivers/processors, and other support businesses changed? If so, why? *
- Have markets (demand and price) for Dungeness crab changed? If so, why? *

THEME 6: Program operation and effectiveness

- Does the fleet require or desire flexibility in the trap limit program? *
 - If yes, is the current program flexible enough to fit the needs of the fleet? *
- Has the program affected the quality and/or speed of data collection for the fishery? *
- Are replacement tag procedures (in-season, between seasons) needed by fishermen? *
 - What are the potential concerns associated with replacement tag procedures? *

THEME 7: Program costs and resources (financial & human capital)

- What are the revenues generated by the program?
- What are the costs, including staff time, materials, etc., associated with the program?