



# TRI-STATE DUNGENESS CRAB QUALITY TESTING PROGRAM

*Executive Committee DCTF Meeting - July 13, 2023*

## **PRESENTED BY:**

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# California Quality Testing Program - Outline

- Entities & Roles
  - Legislature
  - Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee
  - CDFW
- Quality Test
  - Challenges
  - Solutions
    - 2023 Season
    - Future Seasons
  - Quality Test Updates Timeline

# California Quality Testing Program – Entities & Roles



- CA State Legislature
- Fish and Game Authority  
Code Section 8276.2



- PSMFC's Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee under MOU and consensus process
- Tri-State testing protocol includes **meat recovery percentage**



- State agency who work with industry
- In state test areas and target depths

# CA State Legislature – Fish and Game Code

- Sets Area, Target Date for Completion and Delay Increments
  - Northern CA (Fishing Districts: 6, 7, 8 & 9)
  - Specifies delays in 15-day increments until Jan. 15
- References Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) testing guidelines
- Authorizes that revenue of crab meat sold can be deposited in to PSMFC-managed fund

# Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee

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PSMFC oversees Tri-State

Under an MOU, three west coast fishery agencies recognize need for interstate cooperation of the Pacific Coast Dungeness Crab Fishery regarding soft-shelled crab at the beginning of the winter season.



# Pre-Season Dungeness Crab Quality Test Protocol

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Packed Weight

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Boat Weight

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**Meat Recovery  
Percentage %  
(24%, no rounding)**

- Test areas = 1-3 test station
  - 18 pots per test station (6 trap strings in 3 depth ranges)
  - ~24-hour soak time
  - All legal-sized male crab taken, regardless of condition
  - Crab combined from test stations for **boat weight** (30 min after drain and offload)
- Processing procedures
  - Describes cooking, storing and picking of crab to arrive at **packed weight**
  - Pick-out should be observed by state agency staff or persons approved (i.e., observer)

# CDFW - Test Locations

- 3 Test areas w/2 test stations (3 target depths)
- 1<sup>st</sup> day of test:
  - Traps baited and set
- 2<sup>nd</sup> day of test:
  - Traps and crab retrieved
  - CDFW staff or designated observer on board

Northern Ports	Collection Site
Crescent City	1. Klamath River 2. George Reef
Trinidad	1. Lagoons 2. Trinidad Head
Eureka	1. LP Eureka (Samoa) 2. Eel River
<i>Ft. Bragg (no longer testing since 2014)</i>	1. <i>Usal</i> 2. <i>Manchester</i>

Central Ports (Optional since 2011)	Collection Site
Bodega Bay	1. Russian River 2. Pt. Reyes
Half Moon Bay/SF	1. Duxbury 2. Pillar Pt/Half Moon Bay

# Quality Test Challenges



- Test procedures and results
- Lack of observers at processing facilities since 2020 (post-COVID)
- Limited pool of processors in CA
- Public sharing of crab test by participating vessel
- Issues between crab quality and market price negotiations



# Potential Improvements – 2023-24 Season



- Port members select internally vetted test vessels for each test round
- Observer on first day
- CDFW observer will measure and discard all short crab
- Ensure observer coverage processing facility
- Any others?

# Potential Improvements – Future Seasons



- Adjust meat recovery percentage for CA
- Revisit Dungeness crab sampling (e.g., first 100 crab are kept)
- Include Central management area (District 10 south)
- Any others?



# Quality Test Updates Timeline



- 2023-24 Season: Incorporate non-regulatory improvements
- Oct 2023: Discuss proposed Tri-State protocol changes at DCTF meeting
- ~Spring 2024: Refer DCTF recommendations to Tri-State
- 2024-25 Season: Incorporate any new Tri-State testing protocols

# Thank you

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