



~California Dungeness Crab Task Force~

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

2021-23 DCTF Work Plan

Dungeness Crab Task Force

Draft September 2021

Confirmed October 27, 2021

Work Plan Period: November 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023

Overview

The California Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) is directed by Fish and Game Code section 8276.4 to review and evaluate Dungeness crab fishery management measures and provide its recommendations to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the Fish and Game Commission (FGC). This work plan provides an overview of how the DCTF will achieve a number of CDFW's objectives over the next nineteen months to improve the DCTF's efficiency, specifically:

- Discuss CDFW and DCTF priorities, determine the process for arriving at agreement, and identify areas of alignment (i.e. supporting an orderly fishery among the fleet)
- Facilitate and coordinate DCTF in-person meetings and discussions
- Review and develop recommendations on priority commercial Dungeness crab management issues, including but not limited to issues surrounding marine life entanglements, biotoxin management, Tri-State and the pre-season quality testing protocol, and any proposed legislative bills and regulatory changes
- Work in collaboration with the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group to reduce the risk of whale entanglements in Dungeness crab fishing gear
- Serve as a conduit of information to/from the fleet to the Legislature, CDFW, and FGC
- Increase communications between the DCTF and broader industry (fishing participants, port associations, processors, etc.)

This work plan includes a general approach and schedule, including quarterly milestones, from November 2021 through June 2023 to ensure all CDFW priorities are addressed. This work plan will be reviewed by the DCTF prior to its implementation. Revisions and updates may be made by CDFW in direct consultation with the DCTF on an as needed basis evaluated against CDFW and DCTF priorities (see below). The work plan may also be modified based on progress made in achieving objectives to date, and needs for flexibility to address unforeseen issues that may arise.

Proposed/Draft CDFW Priorities for the CA Dungeness Crab Fishery

The following list of issues have been prioritized for the DCTF to address in 2021-2023. This list is intended to act as a starting place for DCTF agenda development to help ensure key deliverables and recommendations are arrived at in a timely, focused manner. Should urgent matters arise, this list may be adjusted accordingly after consultation with CDFW and the DCTF Executive Committee.

Top Priorities for 2021-2023

- Review and discuss topics related to marine life entanglements, California's Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP), and California's draft Conservation Plan.

- Work with CDFW on implementing and informing the California’s Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) and future iterations of the RAMP including, but not limited to, informing the scoring of entanglements in unknown gear types, informing CDFW’s electronic monitoring efforts, providing recommendations to improve the RAMP, helping the Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group, informing data collection efforts, etc.
- Review and inform commercial fishing regulations including, but not limited to, active legislation, the California Dungeness Crab Trap Limit Program, etc.
- Identify long-term fishery goals and generate strategies that will support the Dungeness crab fishery in achieving those goals
- Continue exploring California’s involvement in the Tri-State Dungeness Crab agreement, especially with respect to the Central Management Area’s role in the Tri-State agreement and quality testing

As topics are identified by the DCTF and public, the DCTF’s Executive Committee will prioritize topics and identify which will be included in the upcoming DCTF meeting agenda. Those topics that have either been previously discussed with little to no change in DCTF’s recommendation or they are not as pressing at present will continue to reside with the Executive Committee until a DCTF discussion is warranted so they do not detract from the other high priority issues. Such topics will be added to Executive Committee meeting agendas and the Executive Committee will try to advance conversations on those topics and add them to the next DCTF meeting agenda at the appropriate time.

Approach

A number of tools will be utilized to ensure this work plan will be efficiently executed.

DCTF In-Person Meetings: A minimum of one (1) DCTF meeting is anticipated to be convened annually to discuss the topics above and to confirm this work plan. DCTF recommendations resulting from those meetings will be forwarded to the appropriate entities via memorandums to inform the Legislature, the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee, CDFW, and FGC in their efforts to manage the Dungeness crab fishery. *Timing:* Meeting dates are pending, but are anticipated to take place in October 2021 and October 2022.

Executive Committee (EC) Conference Calls: Up to six (6) EC conference calls (i.e., three calls per year) will be utilized for continuing discussions on priority topics as well as scoping other DCTF agenda items with the goal of developing draft proposals, options, and considerations for review at the DCTF meetings. *Timing:* Conference call dates are yet to be determined but are anticipated to take place between February-October of each year.

Emails and Other Electronic Communications: Regular emails will be circulated to the DCTF public email list and to all DCTF Members to share Dungeness crab fishery updates, circulate materials that may inform DCTF discussions, and follow up on DCTF business. The [DCTF webpage](#) will also be regularly updated to ensure all materials, summaries, and memos/reports are available. *Timing:* Ongoing.

Internal Planning: The Admin Team will maintain regular communications with CDFW, in partnership with the OPC, to ensure this work plan is successfully completed. *Timing:* Ongoing.

Background Research: The Admin Team will investigate all topics to the extent feasible and will provide background information to DCTF deliberations. *Timing:* Ongoing.

DCTF Follow Up: In addition to email communications, the Admin Team will conduct semi-regular phone calls with DCTF Members to ensure emails are being received and make sure all Members are up-to-date on DCTF business. *Timing:* Ongoing.

Milestones and Timeline¹

Milestone	Timing
EC Conference Call 1	Completed September 23, 2021
DCTF Meeting 1	Completed October 27-28, 2021
DCTF 2021 Report	TBD- Anticipated January 2022
DCTF Elections - Group 1 Ports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crescent City (includes all California ports north of Trinidad) ● Trinidad ● Fort Bragg (includes all ports in Mendocino County) ● San Francisco (includes ports in Marin County and within San Francisco Bay) ● South of Half Moon Bay (includes all ports from Santa Cruz south) 	Winter-Spring 2022
EC Conference Call 2	TBD- Anticipated Spring 2022
EC Conference Call 3	TBD- Anticipated Summer 2022
DCTF Meeting 2	TBD- Anticipated October 2022
DCTF 2022 Report	TBD- Anticipated January 2023
DCTF Elections - Group 2 Ports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eureka (includes Shelter Cove and all ports within Humboldt Bay) ● Bodega Bay (includes Bolinas and all ports within Tomales Bay) ● Half Moon Bay ● Non-resident California Dungeness crab permit holder (includes all out of state vessel port registrations designated as Unknown) 	Winter-Spring 2023
EC Conference Call 4	TBD- Anticipated Spring 2023

Deliverables

All interim and final reporting of all deliverables will be developed by the Admin Team on behalf of the DCTF. DCTF Members will be provided an opportunity to review all meeting summaries, memos, and reports, before they are finalized.

- *Meetings and Conference Calls*

¹ Meeting topics to be informed by EC; Reports informed by DCTF recommendation

- Agendas for DCTF meetings and EC conference calls to be posted on the DCTF webpage no later than 10-days prior to the scheduled meeting in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act.
 - High-level summaries of DCTF meetings and EC conference calls will be posted on the DCTF webpage as they are available.
 - Materials developed to inform DCTF/EC discussions (e.g. options documents, public comment letters, presentations, etc.) will be circulated as soon as they are available and posted online, as appropriate.
 - Calls will be made to DCTF Members to confirm participation, bring folks up to speed, and inform meeting agenda development.
- *Reports*
 - Reports summarizing DCTF recommendations will be posted on the DCTF webpage and shared with the appropriate entities.