

SeaDoc Society Poll, In-Season Trap Recovery Preliminary Results for the DCTF Executive Committee

August 2017

In August 2017, the SeaDoc Society polled a number of commercial Dungeness crab fishermen across California to discuss options related to the design and implementation of [SB1287](#)¹. SeaDoc's included a question in the survey intended to complement the post-season gear recovery efforts identified in SB1287 and identify options that allow fishermen to pump stuck gear during the season. The following responses to that question are being shared to help inform the August 25, 2017 Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) Executive Committee conference call. SeaDoc Society will circulate the complete results of the poll to the DCTF and its Executive Committee in the coming months.

Background: There has been some interest within the commercial Dungeness crab fishery to revisit Title 14 CCR § 132.2 which states “No more than six (6) derelict Dungeness crab traps may be retrieved per fishing trip” during the season without a waiver from CDFW.

Informed by discussions with commercial Dungeness crab fishermen throughout California, the Seadoc Society has identified a number of possible options, together with the number of survey participants in support of a given option, for how to revisit the in-season six derelict trap allotment. Each option identifies the number of survey participants:

- In-season allotment for having gear belonging to another vessel on board your boat should be increased from 6 to 20 during the last 2 months of the season. *5 respondents in support*
- Commercial fishermen should be able to retrieve crab pots while sport fishing. *3 respondents in support*
- In-season allotment for having gear belonging to another vessel on board your boat should be increased from 6 to 30 throughout open season. *30 respondents in support*
- In-season allotment for having gear belonging to another vessel on board your boat should be increased from 6 to 30 throughout open season, but should be unlimited during last 2 weeks of season. *5 respondents in support*
- In-season allotment for having gear belonging to another vessel on board your boat should be increased from 6 to 20 throughout open season. *1 respondent in support*
- In-season allotment for having gear belonging to another vessel on board your boat should be increased from 6 to 30 after the first month of the open season. *1 respondent in support*

For more information about the SeaDoc Society and this poll, please contact Jennifer Renzullo (jrenzullo@ucdavis.edu).

¹ Note: This study is not affiliated with the DCTF or Executive Committee. The results are being shared as a courtesy to support EC discussions during its August 25, 2017 conference call:

<http://www.opc.ca.gov/2017/08/dctf-executive-committee-conference-call-friday-august-25-2017-at-1100am/>.

