

Email received by DCTF Admin Team, July 1, 2016¹

To All Involved,

Rachelle, can you please make sure this email gets sent to everyone? All DFG, ALL organizations involved in the commercial fishing industry. The commercial fisherman's perspective needs to be heard more clearly. Thanks, and please confirm that you will.

As a 30 year old successful business owner, manager of people, and commercial fisherman, I'd like to say that YOU AND ALL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES!!!! IS THERE NOTHING TO MEET ABOUT?! NOTHING TO DISCUSS!!?? Was there nothing to discuss when the last meeting on May 6 was canceled? LOL. WOW. Is there no one breathing down your necks requesting when the next meeting will be to discuss the situation you, mother f-ing nature, and all of the other organizations involved have caused???? GET OFF YOUR ASSES AND SET A MEETING!! SET A MEETING!! SET A MEETING!!! It's past the time to discuss what has happened, what the results were, what we can learn from this crap, and what will happen next season... In case you can't find the time to create an "agenda", I'll go ahead and create it for you. Since I've heard NOTHING in these regards over the past 2 months of commercial fishing HELL...

All I get is an email yesterday at 3pm reminding us fisherman, mind you only those fisherman with computer/email access/ability, that all pots need to be out of the water YESTERDAY in order to help save the wales... Welllllllll, I've got news for you, we aren't going to risk our lives or our boat in this weather to save the wales!!! Yeah, we now have to wait until the ocean calms down to go out and find our pots, empty our income back into the water since the season is now closed, and then save the wales. So, how about we penalize the fisherman for allowing a wale to drag our pot ½ mile away? What a great idea... Ever found a needle in a haystack!?

Regardless of yours and all other "finger pointing" organization's inability to properly communicate, you may just still be able to redeem yourselves. And remember, I'm speaking from a logical thinking process and unbiased perspective, because I am not involved in CA crab industry decision making and nor do I catch crab as a significant source of income, I'm just "the paperwork guy"... I bought a crab boat in order to help some friends. And holy smokes, what a politically driven, corrupt, mismanaged, biased, and unreasonable mess that has been caused.

So, since you can't seem to create an agenda, I'll go ahead and make one for you:

1. **Domoic Acid**
 - a. Historical Research vs. Today's research (The truth would be great please)
 - b. Is 30 ppm practical or was this a "typo"? A lot of destruction for an unjustified threshold... BTW did anyone die?! Because 45 ppm sure tastes good with butter...
 - c. Future research efforts
2. **Next Season**
 - a. How will testing be handled in a timely matter so that fisherman won't continue to be screwed by our lovely state's planning abilities?
 - b. What procedure will occur if domoic acid levels are higher than "normal". Haha, define "normal" you silly over-paid scientist. How do you sleep at night?!
 - c. What grants/subsidies will be provided for fisherman when natural disaster occurs again. Haha, not gonna let you get by avoiding that info again...
3. **Government subsidies owed for this past season that will help restore the lives of crab fisherman, a necessary economy, and the commercial fishing industry all together**
 - a. What's up with Bill?? Who's Bill? I dunno some guy that begged for money I

¹ Admin Team emailed a response on July 6, 2016.

think?? Yeah, what's the status with our money...??

- b. What's the status with our money??
- c. What's the status with our money??
- d. Why the hell should any other industry get bailed out of natural disaster by our government, and commercial crabbers be denied of surviving in this lovely state??

4. **Consequences that have Occurred**

- a. Ruined Lives
- b. Wale entanglements INCREASE due to the late season opening
- c. Was it really worth it?!! Did everyone make enough money to survive? Haha, nope.
- d. Consequences? There are no consequences for our government. They can do or say whatever they want, and no consequences will ever be enforced on our government organizations. I love how each letter or email written is addressed from ALL organizations involved. Because, in that case, it's no one's fault right?!! LOL

5. **Wale Entanglements**

- a. Of course, NO ONE WANTS TO HURT WALES!!! But let's go ahead and discuss some logic behind creating penalties for crab fishermen that lose a pot due to wales that drag pots, ships that drag pots, swells that drag pots, etc.
- b. I wish I could speak from experience, but for God sakes, wale entanglements can only be reduced, not avoided entirely, it is part of life. The food chain. Survival of the fittest. Cost of doing business. Perhaps we should go tell Mr. Lion to please stop eating all of our Gazelles?? Please Mr. Lion??!!
- c. To me, the only thing that will avoid this situation is to create a tracking devise for each buoy.... Even then, Mr. Lion will still need to eat a couple gazelles once in a while...
- d. Let's get creative. I can think of some ideas for helping, but heck you got it all figured out right?... LOL

Although there are other things to discuss, this agenda ought to be enough to make someone late to their lunch time nail appointment... Don't EVER act like their isn't enough time to discuss these matters promptly. I've got more going on in my life than most anyone that I know, and I'm pissed that I haven't taken the time to write this earlier. And I'm pissed that NONE of you have made an effort to arrange a meeting to discuss these important topics. You are paid to keep this industry in order, so I suggest you do so please. If not, then we might as well kiss this industry in California good bye. YOU SHOULD ALL BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES. If anyone of you were a young commercial fisherman trying to survive and provide for your families, you wouldn't have scheduled that nail appointment. You wouldn't worry about gazelles. Hello?? Is there anyone in there?? Where did the "task force" go??!! I represent the younger folks in this industry, the future of this industry, and if it weren't for young guys like us, California would have her way with all that is tradition and a way of life.

Thanks for listening, I'm not just trying to "make a comment". I'm trying to get some answers that hundreds of families deserve to hear. So, please provide us with some answers...

Thank You,
Gordon Fowler

Email received by DCTF Admin Team, July 7, 2016

Rachelle and Kelly,

Thank you for your response. This does help. In regards to sharing my email with additional

groups/places, yes, I think it best for those who treat this like it is just a job, to see our frustration. The fact is, fisherman have bills to pay and families to feed. With this type of delay/postponement/mystery on these matters, it shows us commercial fisherman that our leaders and their system is a mess. As a result, the fleet continues to die... While it takes weeks and months for this stuff to develop, we continue to suffer. So, some type of update on these items should have been mentioned to the fleet 2 months ago... And I guess I'm more in shock than anything. So, my intention was to light a fire under someone's ass and get some answers. Please encourage anyone else to contact me in response to my email. Not that I have any control, but yeah, I'd take some more time to "start some more fires". More importantly, can you please see to it that some type of letter goes out from CDFW or from DCTF which set's a date for the next meeting, explains the agenda, and also provides an update on disaster relief??

I understand this all is no one person's fault, however, someone needs to grab the bull by the horns and stay connected to the fleet and keep them informed, this is silly. This is the LEAST our screwed up state can do to help. If this were a business, someone would have been sued a long time ago... Damages beyond damages. If my office building burned down to the ground, our insurance company would pay for a new building. Well, this office burned down... We've heard nothing, not even an update for whether or not the season was going to be extended. Why wouldn't that be a concern of the fisherman on a year like this? On a year when every crab counts. Although we suffered natural disaster, we suffered human incompetence disaster too. What's done is done, and none of these people will ever suffer the consequences. However, we need to be informed NOW, before fisherman lose their careers, seek other ways to survive, and an industry becomes destroyed. What am I even talking about?? I should have never even touched this stupid industry. Is Oregon and Washington just as unorganized?? I speak from the heart that hurts for those that I see firsthand, suffering. I speak for those people too afraid to ask. This industry isn't just a bunch of old retired guys... That seems to be the only perspective that is heard. Blah blah blah. Thanks for your response, looking forward to seeing some progress =)

-Gordon