



# TRI-STATE DUNGENESS CRAB QUALITY TESTING PROGRAM

*DCTF Meeting – Nov 2-3, 2023*

**PRESENTED BY:**

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# California Quality Testing Program - Outline

- Quality Test
  - Test Locations
  - Protocol Overview
  - Challenges
  - Solutions
    - 2023-24 Season and update
    - Future Seasons
  - Quality Test Updates Timeline

# 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 Protocol Overview

$$\frac{\text{Packed Weight}}{\text{Boat Weight}} =$$

**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)



# 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?

# 2023-24 Quality Test Plans



- First round scheduled week of Nov 6
- Incorporate seasonal improvements
- Three northern ports will be tested; each port must pass criteria of 24% (no rounding)
- Results posted here:

<https://www.psmfc.org/crab/>



# Quality Test Updates Timeline



- ✓ Nov 2023: Discuss proposed Tri-State protocol changes at DCTF meeting
- ✓ 2023-24 Season: Non-regulatory improvements added to quality test
- ❑ ~Spring 2024: Refer DCTF recommendations to Tri-State
- ❑ 2024-25 Season: Incorporate any new Tri-State testing protocols

**Appendix E: Fair Start Clarification Table**

		Washington	Oregon	California
1	Is the fair start waiting period 30 days?	Yes*		
2	Is an area declaration required?	No	Yes (on hold inspections)	No
3	Is fair start applied to areas delayed due to low meat pickout?	Yes		
4	Is fair start applied for areas delayed due to elevated domoic acid?	Yes		
5	Is fair start applied to all individual area openings within the Tri-State region (i.e. not first opening within each state)?	Yes		
6	What is the day and time vessels subject to fair start can start crabbing in a delayed area that opened?	12:01AM 30 days after first gear retrieval day for delayed area (including the first gear retrieval day)		
7	What is the earliest a vessel can set gear in an already open area and NOT be subject to fair start in a delayed area?	First gear retrieval day and time for delayed area		
8	Can a vessel subject to fair start transport crab into an area that opened on a later date during the 30 day fair start period? Any notification procedures?	Yes; notification required	Yes; no notification required	No
9	Are vessels that only set pots for another vessel during the presoak period (aka 'barging') subject to fair start provisions?	NA; crab permitted vessels prohibited from barging	No	NA; crab permitted vessels prohibited from barging
10	Can a crab permitted vessel help barge pots in Oregon (only state that allows crab permitted vessels to barge) in an open area and then use that vessel to participate in an area that opens later within the same crab season and not be subject to fair start?	Yes		

\* 35 days fair start period for tribal delays in WA north of Point Chehalis

# FAIR START PROVISION

(UNDER CURRENT **STATUTE**)

## APPLIES WHEN FISHING AREAS DELAYED:

- Vessels that have participated in the Dungeness crab fishery in WA, OR or CA prior to the delayed area opener are subject to Fair Start when area opens
- Fair Start refers to wait period when a vessel is not allowed to take, possess nor land crab for 30 days after area opens

## HOW AREAS ARE DEFINED

### IN CALIFORNIA:

- Under Quality Testing Delay - applies to entire area north of the Sonoma/Mendocino county (Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9); barring domoic acid delays; once delayed beyond Dec. 1 no landing allowed
- Under Domoic Acid Delay - applies to any Biotoxin management area that has been delayed and 30-day wait period starts when delayed area first opens
- Under RAMP Delay - applies to any RAMP Zone that has been delayed and 30-day wait period starts when delayed zone first opens

### IN OREGON & WASHINGTON, IF DECEMBER 1 OPENER DELAYED:

- 30-day wait period starts when any part of OR state or WA state first opens to general Dungeness crab fishing (non-tribal fisheries)\*



# Thank you

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