

California Dungeness Crab Task Force Meeting

October 15-16, 2025

DCTF Task Force

supported by the DCTF Admin Team:

Rachelle Fisher, Principal, Strategic Earth

Kelly Sayce, Founder & CEO, Strategic Earth

Priya Shukla, Associate

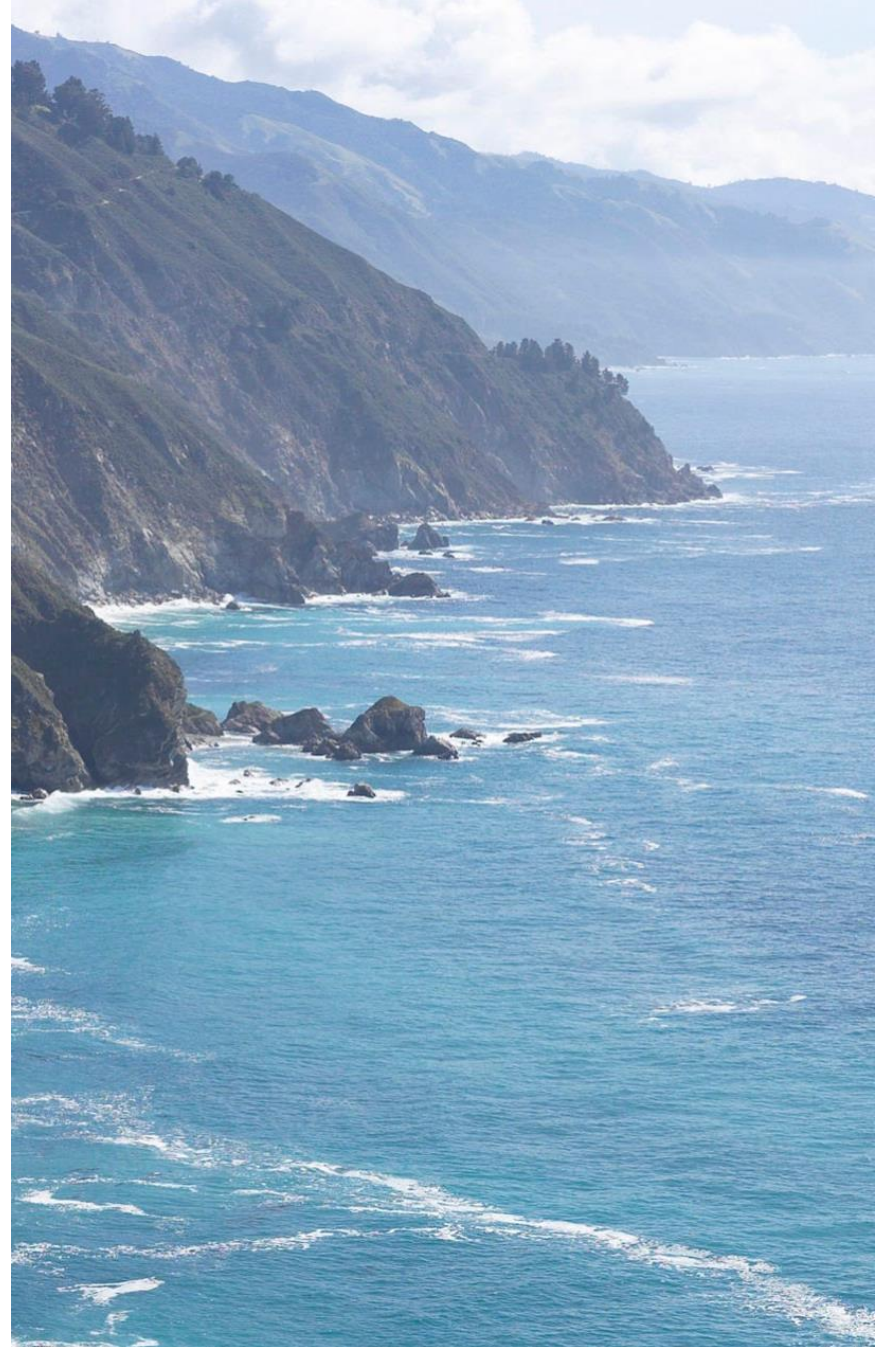


1-2 Sentence Hellos

- If you could go back to your first season of crabbing (or start of your career), what's one piece of advice you'd give yourself?

or

- What is the most superior dessert?



DCTF Meeting Agreements

- Arrive promptly and be prepared.
- Stay for the duration of the entire meeting & inform the Administrative Team if this is not possible.
- Minimize actions that could be distracting to discussions.
- Participate in a problem-solving approach based on respectful and constructive discussion, where the interests of all participants and the public are considered in developing proposals and recommendations.
- Listen for understanding and openly discuss issues with others who hold diverse views; acknowledge and seek clarification of others' perspectives; and verify assumptions when necessary.
- Please remain quiet until it is your turn to speak.
- Personal attacks and inappropriate language will not be tolerated.



General Public Comment

1. State your name and affiliation clearly
 2. Public will have 3 minutes to speak
- DCTF is also able to call on members of the public during DCTF discussions
 - Clarifying questions are permitted
 - Email info@dungenesscrabtaskforce.com
 - Text Kelly at 310-738-2665
 - Please wait for a DCTF member or Admin Team to call on you



Anticipated Outcomes/Outputs



- DCTF informed on topics directly related to the fishery
- Meeting summary (recording also available)
- Report to CDFW, FGC, and Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture



Meeting Agenda - Day 1

- Welcome and introductions
- Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
- Address administrative items
- Updates
 - Follow up on 2024 recommendations - lost fishing gear
 - RAMP 2.0 + Marine Life Entanglements
- Sunsetting Fish and Game code sections
- Review Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness
- Review Agenda Topics for Day 2
- Adjourn



Meeting Agenda – Day 2

- Recap of Day 1
- Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
- Revisit Day 1 Discussions and vote
 - Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness Executive Order and public comment period.
 - Sunsetting Fish and Game code sections - incl Dungeness crab trap limit program, limited entry, crab quality testing, etc.
 - Whales/RAMP
 - Funding priorities
- Next Steps
- Adjourn



Voting - Final & Straw



I think this proposal is the best choice of the options available to us.



I can accept the proposal although I do not necessarily support it.



I do not agree

Abstention: Infeasible to weigh in on.

2/3 or 14 thumbs up/sideways = recommendation



2. General Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)



3. Address administrative items,
including review and confirm
updated Charter, confirm EC
composition, etc.





DCTF Charter

- Background
- Purpose, Deliverables, and Process
- DCTF Organization, Roles and Responsibilities
- Decision-Making and Voting Procedures
- Communication Protocols
- Charter Amendments
- Ground Rules
- Appendix A - DCTF Executive Committee Operating Procedures

DCTF Charter - Changes (1 of 2)

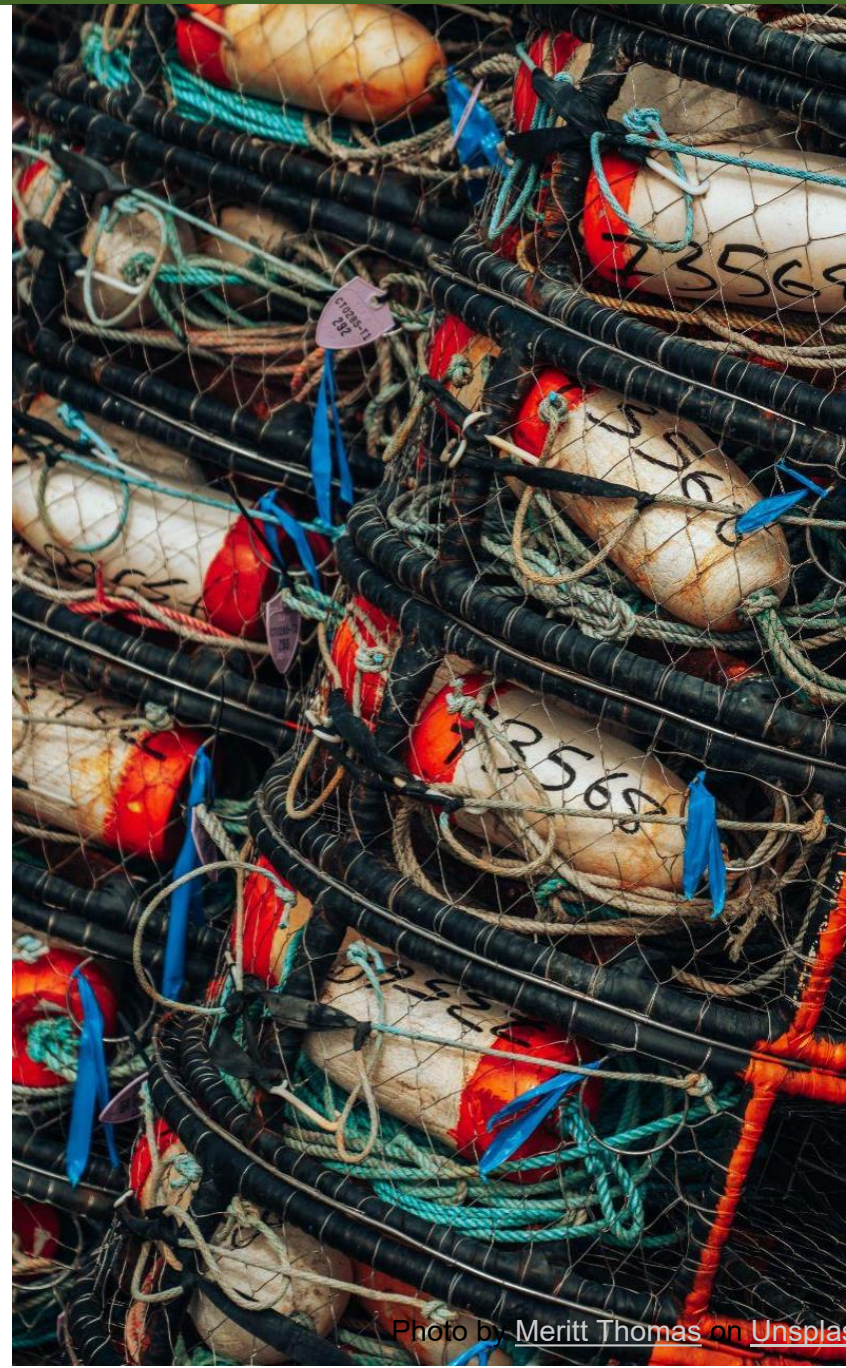
Port Complex	Production Level	Commercial Fishing Representative
Crescent City	Lower Production Level	Vito Pomilia
Crescent City	Upper Production Level	Ben Platt
Crescent City	Not Specified*	Randy Smith
Trinidad	Not Specified*	Zach Rotwein
Fort Bragg	Lower Production Level	Andrew “Boomer” Schlafer
Fort Bragg	Upper Production Level	Tom Estes Jr.
San Francisco	Lower Production Level	Shawn “Chenzo” Flading
San Francisco	Upper Production Level	Sean Hodges
South of Half Moon Bay	Lower Production Level	Tim Obert
South of Half Moon Bay	Upper Production Level	Richard Axelson

DCTF Charter - Changes (2 of 2)

Interest Group	Name
Crab Processing (voting)	Kenny Belov, TwoXSea
Sport Fishing (voting)	Ross Taylor, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
Sport Fishing (non-voting)	Dave Kasheta, Coastside Fishing Club
Nongovernmental Organization (non-voting)	Melissa Mahoney, Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust

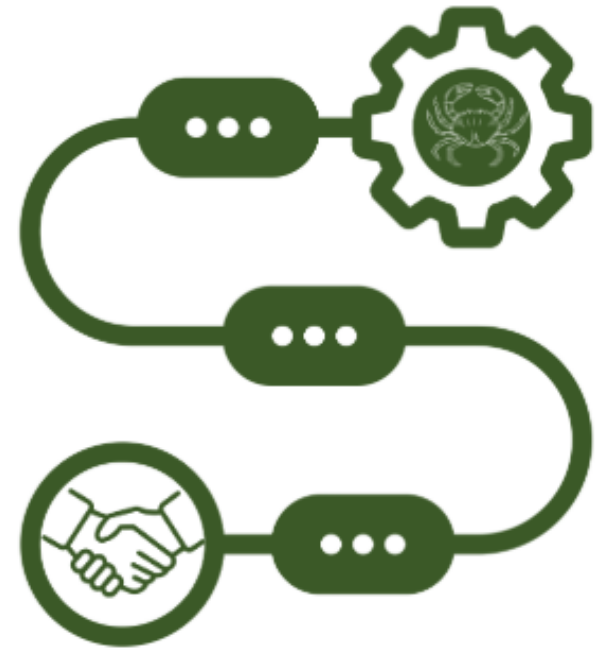
DCTF Executive Committee 2022-25

- Geoff Bettencourt
- Bill Blue
- Mike Cunningham
- Nick Krieger
- Dick Ogg
- Zach Rotwein
- Randy Smith
- Troy Wakefield



DCTF Charter: Questions

- Clarifying questions?
- Confirm DCTF Members are willing and able to operate within the DCTF Charter as outlined?
- Who would like to serve on the 2025-26 Executive Committee?



4. Receive updates and discuss California commercial Dungeness crab fishery topics.



CDFW Updates



COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY INFORMATION FOR 2025-26

CONTENTS

Updates to the Risk Assessment Mitigation Program

- *Commercial Line Marking*
- *Electronic Monitoring*
- *Bi-Weekly Reporting*
- *Fishing Zone Map Update*
- *Entanglement Numbers Accounting*
- *Alternative Gear*

Recovery of Lost Gear Reporting

Season Opener Process

2024-2025 Season Summary Table

Summary Table of Landings by Experimental Fishing Permits

Line Marking Prohibition for Other Fisheries

Enforcement Reminders

Contact Information



Dungeness crab
Illustration by Claudia Makoyev

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is providing a summary of important updates and developments affecting the commercial Dungeness crab fishery that includes measures to reduce risk of marine life entanglement of whales and sea turtles.

Updates - DCTF 2024 Recommendations

- Dungeness crab account surplus
- 96-hour
- Transiting a closed area with crab onboard
- Streamlined reporting
- Lost Gear Recovery
- Whales/RAMP
 - Alignment across processes + TRT
 - Funding priorities - line-marking, industry-led surveys



-California Dungeness Crab Task Force-

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

REPORT

TO: Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mike McGuire, Chair
Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, Dawn Addis, Vice Chair
California Fish and Game Commission, Samantha Murray, President
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Charlton Bonham, Director

CC: California Ocean Protection Council, Jenn Eckerle, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission, Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission, Susan Ashcraft, Marine Advisor
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Craig Shuman, Marine Region Manager
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Caren Braby, Sr. Program Manager
Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, Chris Nielsen, Capitol Director

FROM: California Dungeness Crab Task Force

DATE: December 11, 2024

RE: October 2024 recommendations from the California Dungeness Crab Task Force

APPENDICES: (1) [Dungeness Crab Task Force Background and Operations](#)
(2) [October 29-30, 2024 DCTF Meeting Summary](#)
(3) [DCTF Charter - Updated November 2023](#)
(4) [Trap Limit Program Department Accounting through the 2022-23 FY](#)
(5) [Trap Limit Program Department Accounting, March 13, 2014](#)
(6) [December 9, 2021 DCTF Report: October 2021 recommendations from the California Dungeness Crab Task Force](#)
(7) [December 9, 2020 DCTF Report: October 2020 recommendations from the California Dungeness Crab Task Force](#)
(8) [PCFFA Position on Triggers for Management Action in the Dungeness Crab Fishery](#)
(9) [CBD v. Bonham settlement from 2019: Case 3:17-cv-05685-MMC Document 71 Filed 03/26/19 Page 3 line3-7](#)
(10) [November 2023 recommendations from the California Dungeness Crab Task Force](#)

This report provides recommendations from the legislatively mandated California Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (the Legislature), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the Fish and Game Commission (FGC). These recommendations are presented to inform Dungeness crab fisheries management, including future and existing legislation and regulations. Specifically, this report includes recommendations related to the state's management of the Dungeness crab account, fishing practices, reporting, lost gear retrieval, and addressing the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) and marine life entanglements. Additional details on the DCTF's recommendations are available in the full October 29-30, 2024 meeting summary, which is available on the [DCTF's website](#) ([Appendix 2](#)).

5. Follow-up on the DCTF's
2024 recommendations
regarding retrieval of lost
fishing gear.



2025 RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation 5: The DCTF recommends the **Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association (PCFFA) and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) work collaboratively to expand California's voluntary lost-gear retrieval efforts.** The DCTF recommends the industry work with PCFFA and TNC to coordinate the use of a **user-friendly smartphone app** developed by TNC. This app would allow commercial Dungeness crab fishermen and all other boaters to document the latitude and longitude from images taken of lost gear on the water and track retrieval efforts. The DCTF believes that **crowdsourcing lost trap location data will better support a coastwide, voluntary lost gear recovery effort** by the fleet.

The DCTF recommends CDFW, TNC, and PCFFA coordinate immediately to identify an expedited way to incorporate the data collected from the TNC app to satisfy gear retrieval reporting requirements outlined in §132.2, Title 14, CCR. The data collection from the app should eventually replace the monthly reporting outlined in §132.2 and provide more robust and real-time data of lost gear retrieval efforts, including the quantity of Dungeness crab lost gear retrieved from the water. The DCTF requests an update on the progress of this data integration process by the summer of 2025.

6. Marine life entanglements in the California Dungeness crab fishery and the RAMP.



7. Review of sunseting Fish and Game code sections relevant to the California Dungeness crab fishery, including, but not limited to, §8275-8285.



Sunsetting Code Sections

8276.1. Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) and Working Group Authority

8276.2 – Quality control Testing/Soft-Shell Delay Procedures

8276.3. 64-Hour Gear Setting, Northern Fishing District Quality Delay, and Taking & Landing Prohibition During Quality Delay

8276.4. Dungeness Crab Task Force

8276.5. Dungeness crab Trap Limit Program

8279.1. Fair Start Provision

8280.1. Issuance of Dungeness Crab Vessel Permits

8280.2. Dungeness Crab Vessel Permit Renewal and Ownership

8280.3. Dungeness Crab Vessel Permit Transfer Process

8280.4. Revocation of Commercial Privileges if Fishing Without a Dungeness crab Permitted Vessel

8280.6. Dungeness crab vessel permit transfer fees

9002.5. Gear Retrieval Program Authority

Dungeness Crab Fishery Management



Fish & Game Code

(Statute)

Changes made through the CA Legislature

Establishes overall
authority & structure

Foundational
rules of the fishery

Delegate authority to
the agencies



Title 14, California Code of Regulations

(Regulation)

Changes made through CDFW

More detailed
regulations



8276.1. Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) and Working Group Authority

- (a)(1) Establish “California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group”
- (2) Establish “Risk assessment and mitigation program”
- (b) RAMP authority
- (c) Unless otherwise prescribed by regulation, it is unlawful to take or possess Dungeness crab from any waters closed, or otherwise violate any restriction on take imposed, pursuant to this section.

8276.2. Quality Control Testing/Soft-Shell Delay Procedures

- (a) The director may order a delay in the opening of the Dungeness crab fishery after December 1 in Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 in any year. Not later than January 15.
- (b) (1) Authorization to take crab for the purpose of quality testing conducted by, or on behalf of, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- (2) (A) The meat extracted from Dungeness crab tested may be sold and revenues from that sale may be used for purposes of managing the testing program. Revenues in an account managed and overseen by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- (B) Authority to work with Tri-State on quality testing and develop guidelines that include:
 - (i) Management of the funds received from the sale of the crab meat
 - (ii) Guidelines for the testing program.
 - (iii) Guidelines that establish measures to track crab caught for purposes of the testing program.
- (c) Timing of opening and testing + the frequency of testing (every 15 days).
Districts 6, 7, 8, 9

8276.3. 64-Hour Gear Setting, Northern Fishing District Quality Delay, and Taking & Landing Prohibition During Quality Delay

- (a) Quality delay in Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9.
- (b) If there is a quality delay, the opening date shall be preceded by a 64-hour gear setting period, as ordered by the director.

8276.4. Dungeness Crab Task Force

(a) Establish DCTF

(1-3) Identify DCTF appointed membership and voting status

(4) 17 voting commercial permitholders, elected by permitholders for each port complex.

(b) (1) (A-C) Elected members in each port shall represent the following production levels:

(2) Upper and lower production levels shall be determined in relation to the average landing, during the five-year period before the beginning of an election cycle, of valid crab permitholders who landed a minimum of 25,000 pounds of crab during that period.

(c) Elections held every three years in each port, on a staggered basis across ports. Re-election allied and no term limits.

(d) (1-2) Alternates allowed. Alternates can vote. Alternates will fill in a members' seat if it becomes empty until a new election

(e) (1-3) The charge of the DCTF.

(f) Subcommittees are allowed and must report to the DCTF.

(g) OPC may fund CDFW staffing costs, as well as travel costs for DCTF participants

(h) Recommendations shall be forwarded to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, the department, and the commission upon an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting members of the task force.

(i) Provided language to inform what latent meant (It was not explicit and may not be relevant anymore)

8276.5. Dungeness crab Trap Limit Program

(a) Authority to CDFW to establish DCTLTP

(1)(A-G) 7 tiers of Dungeness crab trap limits based on California landings receipts under California permits between November 15, 2003, and July 15, 2008. Trap tiers are 500, 450, 400, 350, 300, 250, and 175.

(2)(A-D) Eligibility to participate in DCTLTP include: Pay up to \$5 for a biennial trap tag. Pay up to \$1,000 for a biennial crab trap limit permit. No leasing a crab trap tags. Ok to transfer tags as part of a purchase of a California permitted crab vessel. All traps should have a tag on the main buoy, and an additional tag provided by the permitholder attached to the trap.

(3) Waivers for inability to fish due to mandatory military service.

(4) No transiting in CA waters without a CA tag. If the traps contain either a valid Oregon or Washington trap tag, no crab species are onboard the vessel, and the traps are not deployed in state waters.

(5) The department shall annually provide an accounting of all costs associated with the crab trap limit program. The department shall use excess funds collected to reduce the cost of the crab trap limit permit fee or tag fee in subsequent years of the program.

6) Replacement tags.Catastrophic loss of tags.

8276.5. Dungeness crab Trap Limit Program (cont'd 2/2)

(b) (1-2)(A-C) Describes penalties for violations

(3) The portion of monetary judgments for noncompliance that are paid to the department shall be deposited in the Dungeness Crab Account created pursuant to subdivision (e).

(c) Explains that a $\frac{2}{3}$ DCTF vote is needed to inform the Legislature on the DCTLTP.

(d) The DCTF has 60 days to review the proposed program from CDFW (*this may not be needed anymore*)

(e) Establishment of the Dungeness Crab Account, which shall be used as follows:

(1) By CDFW for administering and enforcing the program.

(2) In each fiscal year through the 2029 fiscal year, upon appropriation by the Legislature, of the amount remaining in the account after an allocation pursuant to paragraph (1), the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), if available, shall be allocated to the council to support the administration and facilitation of the Dungeness crab task force.

(f) CDFW can borrow money to assist in developing this program

(g) (1) The Legislature wants CDFW, OPC, and the DCTF to discuss and resolve any issues pertaining to moving the fair start line south to the border of California and Mexico.

8279.1. Fair Start

(a)(1-2) A person shall not take, possess onboard, or land Dungeness crab for commercial purposes from a vessel in ocean waters for 30 days after the opening of those waters for the commercial Dungeness crab fishing season, if both of the following events have occurred → a season delay on those waters or fishing in an open area before moving to a delayed area.

(b) Reasons for a delay:

(1) RAMP, quality, or health hazard (i.e., domoic acid)

(2) Delays in Oregon or Washington due to quality, health hazard, or marine life entanglement.

(c) A violation= revoke the Dungeness crab vessel permit

8280.1. Issuance of Dungeness Crab Vessel Permits

- (a) You need an active Dungeness crab vessel permit to take, possess, or land Dungeness crab for commercial purposes.
- (b) A Dungeness crab vessel permit may be issued only pursuant to a renewal or transfer of an existing permit as provided in Section 8280.2 or 8280.3. (*limited entry*)
- (c) A permit issued pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of this section, as this section read on August 1, 2018, or any prior version of that paragraph, shall become immediately null and void upon the death of the permittee.
- (d) A person who fishes without a Dungeness crab vessel permit, or who uses a Dungeness crab vessel permit to fish illegally on another vessel other than the permitted one, shall be subject to a fine up to \$20,000 and, potentially, revoke the person's fishing license for up to 5 years and revocation of the commercial boat registration license for up to 5 years.

8280.2. Dcrab Vessel Permit Renewal & Ownership

- (a) The owner of a Dungeness crab vessel is a person who purchased a vessel and who otherwise meets all other qualifications for a Dungeness crab vessel permit. If a contract is found to be fraudulent or written or entered into for the purposes of circumventing qualification criteria for the issuance of a permit, the applicant shall be permanently ineligible for a Dungeness crab vessel permit.
- (b) A Dungeness crab vessel permit issued to the vessel owner. One permit per vessel.
- (c) A Dungeness crab vessel permit shall be issued only to the owner of a vessel taking crab by traps. A permit shall not be issued to the owner of a vessel using trawl or other nets (unless...). A trawl or other net vessel authorized under this code to take Dungeness crab incidental to the taking of fish in trawl or other nets shall not be required to possess a Dungeness crab vessel permit.
- (d) No Dungeness crab vessel permits stacking or dividing.
- (e) Applications for renewal shall be received, mailed, postmarked, by April 30 of each year. You must purchase the permit annually. You must also have a valid commercial fishing license. Minimum landings of Dungeness crab shall not be required annually to be eligible for a Dungeness crab vessel permit.

8280.3. Dcrab Vessel Permit Transfer Process

(a) Define the term “length overall”

(b) Notwithstanding Article 9 (commencing with Section 8100) of Chapter 1 and except as provided in this section, a Dungeness crab vessel permit shall not be transferred.

(c) (1) You can transfer your permit to another vessel, not more than 5 feet longer in length overall than the baseline length on the permit. You can use the vessel to fish as soon as the permit is transferred (if within the season). You can only transfer a permit between vessels 1x/permit year.

(2) A permit described in subdivision (c) of Section 8280.1 shall not be transferred pursuant to this subdivision.

(d) The owner of a vessel to whom the Dungeness crab vessel permit has been issued may transfer the permit to a replacement vessel of equivalent capacity, except as specified in this section. Thereafter, upon notice to the department and payment of the transfer fee specified in Section 8280.6, the replacement vessel may be used for the taking and landing of Dungeness crab for any and all of the unexpired portion of the permit year and that person is eligible for a permit pursuant to this article for the use of that replacement vessel in subsequent years.

8280.3. Dcrab Vessel Permit Transfer Process (cont'd 2/3)

(e) (1)(A-B) The owner of a permitted vessel may transfer the permit to a vessel of greater capacity but there are restrictions based on vessel length.

(f) (1)(A-E) The department may authorize the owner of a permitted vessel to transfer the permit to a replacement vessel that was owned by the person the permit is to be transferred to on or before April 1, 1996 that is greater than 5 feet longer in length under certain conditions.

(2) A permit described in subdivision (c) of Section 8280.1 shall not be transferred pursuant to this subdivision.

((g) You can only transfer a Dungeness crab permit to a larger vessel **once**. After that transfer, the new (larger) vessel's permit can't be transferred again to another larger vessel. The original vessel can't get a new permit unless another valid permit is later transferred back to it under specific provisions.

(h) (2) If a permitted Dungeness crab vessel is seriously damaged, breaks down, or is lost/destroyed, the owner can *temporarily transfer* the permit to a replacement vessel of similar size (no more than 10 feet longer) for up to six months — with a possible six-month extension — if approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The owner must provide proof (e.g., Coast Guard report or repair estimate), and fraudulent claims void eligibility

8280.3. Dcrab Vessel Permit Transfer Process (cont'd 3/3)

((2) If a permitted vessel is lost, destroyed, or seriously damaged beyond use, the owner can *permanently transfer* the permit to another vessel of similar size within two years of the incident. The owner must show proof of loss/damage and keep the permit current during processing. If no transfer occurs within two years, the permit automatically becomes void.

(i) If a vessel with a Dungeness crab permit is sold, the owner can keep the permit for up to one year in order to transfer it to another vessel (with department approval and payment of fees). If not transferred within one year, the permit becomes void.

(j) If a permit holder dies or becomes incapacitated, the permit can be transferred to the heir, assign, or working partner *along with the vessel*. The estate can renew or transfer the permit within two years of the death listed on the death certificate to keep it valid.

(k) (1) A vessel's *baseline length* on the permit equals the vessel's original overall length as documented when the permit was first issued.

(2) (A) If, by March 31, 2020, the permit holder submitted a licensed marine survey showing a longer current vessel length, that updated length becomes the new baseline length on the permit.

8280.4. Revocation of Commercial Privileges if Fishing Without a Dungeness crab Permitted Vessel

(a) The commission may revoke the commercial fishing license issued pursuant to Section 7852 of any person owning a fishing vessel engaging in the taking or landing of Dungeness crab by traps for which that person has not obtained a Dungeness crab vessel permit, and the commission may revoke the registration, issued pursuant to Section 7881, for that vessel.

(b) This section shall become inoperative on April 1, 2029, and, as of January 1, 2030, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2030, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

8280.5. Dungeness crab vessel permit transfer fees

- (a) Dungeness crab vessel permit fees: \$200 CA resident and \$400 for a nonresident of CA
- (b) Nonrefundable fee of \$200 for each permit transfer.
- (c) A vessel owner shall sign an application for transfer and certify that the information included in the application is true to the best of his or her information and belief.

9002.5. Gear Retrieval Program Authority

(a) Authority to establish a gear retrieval program by June 30, 2019.

(b)(1)(A-C) Provides a framework for the program: You can pull someone else's traps without their permission after the season closes or when the Director delays the season. There will be a retrieval permit and a fee to cover all reasonable administrative and implementation costs to the department of the retrieval program.

(2) Dungeness crab trap recovered under a *retrieval permit* becomes the property of the person or entity holding that retrieval permit.

(3) The retrieval permit holder must notify the original trap owner and offer to return the trap for a *reasonable recovery fee* that covers retrieval and storage costs. If the owner refuses to pay, the department will charge *per-trap fees* to cover administrative, retrieval, storage, and disposal costs, and may reimburse the retrieval permit holder. These fees are adjusted annually

(4) CDFW may share limited *contact information* with retrieval permit holders to facilitate the program, under confidentiality safeguards. Sharing this information does *not* waive privacy protections under the Public Records Act.

(5) CDFW can *deny renewal or transfer* of a Dungeness crab vessel permit if the applicant has unpaid retrieval-related fees.

(6) Before implementation, the CDFW must *submit the retrieval program* to the Dungeness Crab Task Force for review and allow at least 60 days for feedback—unless the task force recommends launching it sooner. (DONE! In T14)

7. Discuss the Executive Order for Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness.



Meeting Agenda – Day 2.

1. Recap of Day 1
2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
3. Revisit discussions from Day 1 (*anticipate voting*)
 - Whales/RAMP
 - Sunsetting codes // general extension of sunset date
 - Quality testing
 - Fair start
 - Trap tag program (fees) // revisit previous recommendation
 - Funding priorities - PAUSE
 - Seafood Competitiveness EO - STRAW POLLS (connection to RAMP)
 - Admin items - CHARTER & EC
4. Review topics for EC discussion
5. Next Steps and Adjourn



Day 2

Thursday, October 16, 2024 at 9:00 AM

Justice Joseph Rattigan Building

50 D St, Santa Rosa, CA

95404



California Dungeness Crab Task Force Meeting.

October 15-16, 2025

DCTF Task Force

supported by the DCTF Admin Team:

Rachelle Fisher, Principal, Strategic Earth

Kelly Sayce, Founder & CEO, Strategic Earth

Priya Shukla, Associate



9. Welcome and Recap of Day 1



DCTF Meeting Agreements.

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2. Stay for the duration of the entire meeting and inform the Administrative Team in advance if this is not possible.
3. Minimize actions that could be distracting to discussions.
4. Participate in a problem-solving approach based on respectful and constructive discussion, where the interests of all participants and the public are considered in developing proposals and recommendations.
5. Listen for understanding and openly discuss issues with others who hold diverse views; acknowledge and seek clarification of others' perspectives; and verify assumptions when necessary.
6. Put yourself on mute when not speaking.
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Day 1 - Recap

- Charter
- Updates
- Follow up on 2024 recommendations - lost fishing gear
- RAMP 2.0 + Marine Life Entanglements
- Sunsetting Fish and Game code sections
- Review Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness



Meeting Agenda – Day 2..

- Recap of Day 1
- Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
- Revisit Day 1 Discussions and vote
 - Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness Executive Order and public comment period.
 - Sunsetting Fish and Game code sections - incl Dungeness crab trap limit program, limited entry, crab quality testing, etc.
 - Whales/RAMP
 - Funding priorities
- Next Steps
- Adjourn



Meeting Agenda – Day 2 (update)

1. Recap of Day 1
2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
3. Revisit discussions from Day 1 (*anticipate voting*)
 - Omnibus bill
 - Trap tag
 - Seafood Competitiveness EO
 - RAMP + Lost Gear
 - Sunsetting codes
 - For Executive Committee
 - Admin items - CHARTER & EC
4. Review topics for EC discussion
5. Next Steps and Adjourn



Meeting Topics – Day 2

- ❑ Omnibus bill
 - ❑ Trap tag
- ❑ Seafood Competitiveness EO
- ❑ RAMP + Lost Gear
- ❑ Sunsetting codes
- ❑ For Executive Committee
- ❑ Admin items - CHARTER & EC



Voting - Final & Straw.



I think this proposal is the best choice of the options available to us.



I can accept the proposal although I do not necessarily support it.



I do not agree

Abstention: Infeasible to weigh in on.

2/3 or 14 thumbs up/sideways = recommendation



12. General Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)

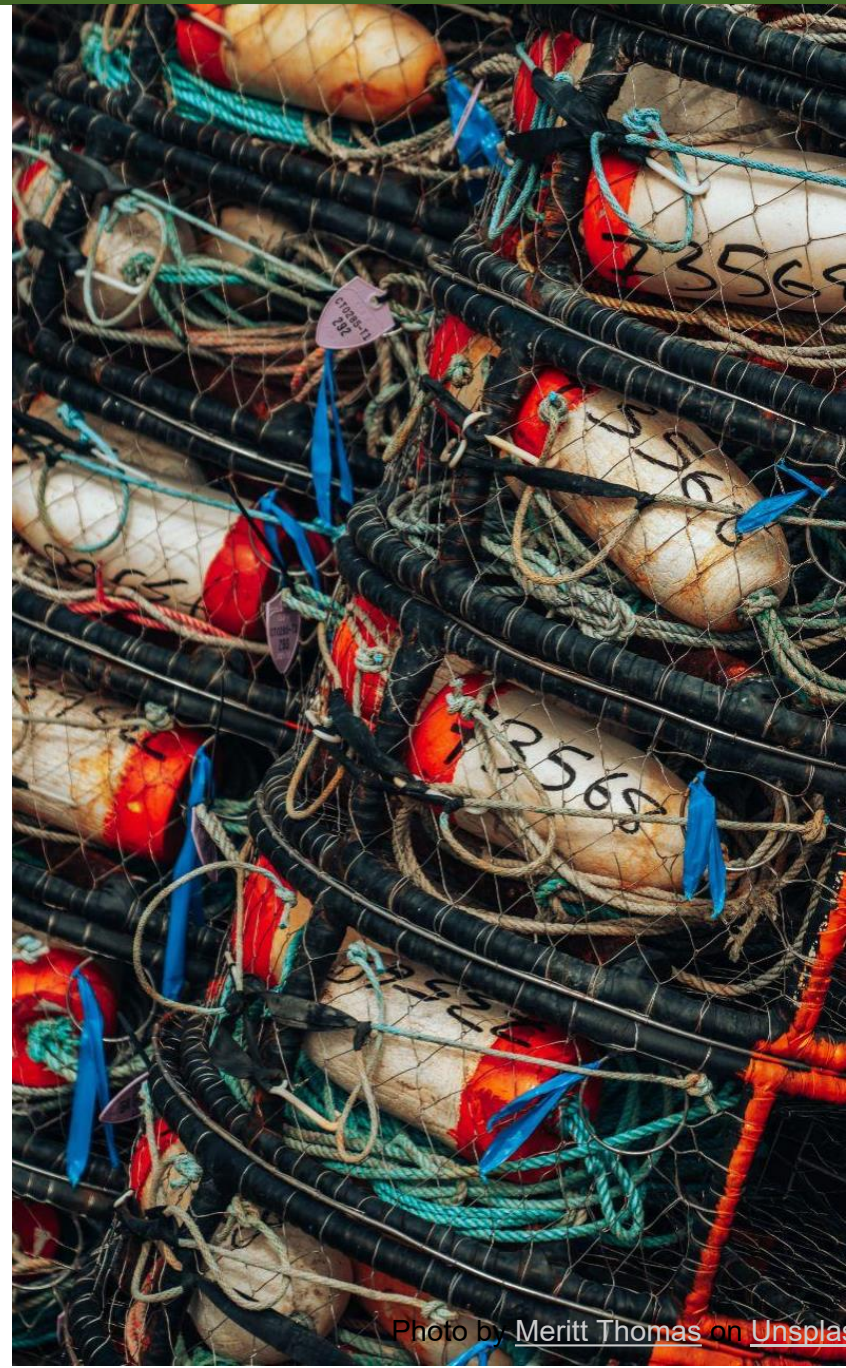


13. Revisit discussions from Day 1



DCTF Executive Committee 2025-26

- Geoff Bettencourt
- Bill Blue (replaced by Richard)
- Mike Cunningham
- Nick Krieger (replaced by Chenzo)
- Dick Ogg
- Zach Rotwein
- Randy Smith
- Troy Wakefield (replaced by Vito)



DCTF Charter - Executive Committee

- Administrative Vote

Updated Members

- Geoff Bettencourt
- Mike Cunningham
- Dick Ogg
- Zach Rotwein
- Randy Smith
- Chenzo Flading
- Vito Pomilia
- Richard Axelson

The DCTF approves the charter.

Omnibus Bill Options

- Extend Sunset to 2039
- Reaffirm DCTF recommendations
 - DCA to PSMFC or reduce fees
 - 96-hour gear servicing
 - Transiting a close area
 - Industry surveys



2024 Recommendation- DCA

Recommendation 1a, Managing the Dungeness Crab Account's Existing Surplus: The DCTF recommends the surplus funds sitting in the Dungeness Crab Account (FGC §8276.5) that continue to accrue in excess of CDFW and the DCTF's expenditures be deposited in an interest-bearing account managed and overseen by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). Any continued surplus in the Dungeness crab account should be deposited to PSMFC biannually. The DCTF expects PSMFC to work in partnership with the DCTF and CDFW to use these funds in a fashion that is in alignment with the DCTF's identified priorities. The funds should not be used without approval from the DCTF and should not be utilized by the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Commission.

If there is no way to distribute the funds to PSMFC or PSMFC cannot work with the DCTF to spend these funds in alignment with the DCTF's priorities, then the DCTF rescinds this recommendation and recommends moving forward with an alternative option outlined in Recommendation 1b.

2024 Recommendation- DCA.

Recommendation 1b, Preventing a Continued Surplus in the Dungeness Crab Account: If the surplus in the Dungeness Crab Account (FGC §8276.5) cannot be managed by PSMFC, then the DCTF recommends amending §132.1 Title 14, CCR to reduce the cost of the biennial permit fees to the fleet thereby eliminating the continued accrual of a surplus in the Dungeness crab account. The DCTF estimates that by reducing the biennial permit fee down to \$600 while continuing to charge \$5/tag, CDFW should be able to cover the costs of the DCTLTP and the DCTF while not continuing to accumulate a surplus.

2024 Recommendation- 96-Hour

Recommendation 2, 96-Hour Gear Servicing Requirement: The DCTF recommends and reaffirms their 2020 & 2021 recommendations to amend the 96-hour (4 days) gear servicing requirement (FGC §9004) to allow no less than a 7-day and up to a 9-day soak time weather permitting for commercial Dungeness crab. This recommendation aligns with §29.80 Title 14, CCR for the California recreational Dungeness crab fishery.

The Dungeness crab fishery has tools in place to address potential concerns related to increased gear loss, including an electronic monitoring mandate to track fishing activity and a lost-gear recovery program that incentivizes recovery of lost gear. The DCTF will work with CDFW to explore the development of additional programs to provide incentives for reducing gear loss (e.g., rewards for fishermen who lose minimal gear each season).

2024 Recommendation- Transiting

Recommendation 3, Transiting a Closed Area: While currently prohibited by law, the DCTF believes it is important to create a legal pathway to allow fishermen to transit a closed management zone with crab onboard. The DCTF recommends that before being allowed to transit a closed management zone while in possession of crab, vessel operators must make a declaration to CDFW's Marine Enforcement Division. Operators must designate the port they are transiting to in their declaration with procedures to follow in case of mechanical failure and/or vessel breakdown during transit. Transiting vessels must continuously transit as defined by federal regulations and the California Code of Regulations. This includes taking a direct, expeditious route without loitering or stopping. Transiting vessels must have a CDFW-approved electronic monitoring system onboard that is fully operational during the transit.

2024 Recommendation- Surveys

Recommendation 9, Funding for Industry-Led Surveys to Support RAMP:

Over the last three fishing seasons, the commercial Dungeness crab industry, with support from TNC, has piloted industry-led, vessel-based surveys to inform the RAMP. The DCTF believes these surveys are a valuable source of marine life concentration data, especially in management zones where no CDFW-approved surveys were conducted to inform risk assessments. The DCTF sees value in continuing these surveys to provide useful data that inform the RAMP and ensure no RAMP Zone is absent of data.

The DCTF recommends the CA Legislature allocate \$900k over three years to support industry-led, vessel-based surveys. The DCTF also recommends that CDFW outline clear data collection reporting standards and expectations so that these surveys are considered an approved data source under RAMP by the CDFW Director when making management decisions. The DCTF recommends that PSMFC coordinate and manage the funds to support the survey program. The DCTF will also seek up to 20% of matching funds via other funding sources to support this effort (e.g., the Dungeness crab account, also see Recommendation 1a, in-kind, etc.).

Omnibus --- Dungeness Crab Account, Straw Poll

Option 1: Transfer funds to Pacific States, reduce bi-annual fees to \$600

(7u, 5s, 5d, 0a)

Option 2: Reduce bi-annual fees to \$500, then \$600 //
no leg change necessary

(7u, 6s, 4d, 0a)

Option 3: Transfer funds to Pacific States, keep \$1k bi-annual fees, no Title 14 change

(6u, 7s, 4d, 0a)

Omnibus --- Dungeness Crab Account, FINAL VOTE

- **Extend Sunset to 2039**
- **Reaffirm DCTF recommendations**
 - **Increase 96-hour gear servicing**
 - **Transiting a closed area**

Option 3: Transfer surplus funds to Pacific States (9u, 7s, 1d, 0a)

Rationale: audit, DCTF guidance, may circle back on fees to prevent surplus in future

Meeting Topics – Day 2.

- ☐ Omnibus bill ☒
- ☐ Trap tag ☒
- ☐ Seafood Competitiveness EO
- ☐ RAMP + Lost Gear
- ☐ Sunsetting codes
- ☐ For Executive Committee
- ☐ Admin items - CHARTER & EC ☒



FINAL PROPOSAL -PASS

The DCTF recommends the state advocate to NMFS to delist Humpback whales (i.e., where populations have increased, no longer endangered) from the ESA.

There is data available to inform this and if the Recovery plan says more information is needed, the DCTF recommends prioritizing funding for research.

The DCTF recommends the state (Leg/CDFW) advocate for NMFS to adjust the triggers to be less stringent for management action in the Dcrab fishery. The DCTF encourages the federal marine mammal/ESA managers to balance the impacts on the fleet with protecting whales. [Reiterate triggers recommendations 2024]

The DCTF encourages fishing associations and other partners to utilize the DCTF's recommendations in their advocacy and discussions with the Executive Branch of the federal govt so we can work together to advance shared goal thriving fisheries and thriving whale populations. (16u,0s,1d,a)

RAMP--> STRAW PROPOSAL

(CDFW can do)(Preset): (RAMP Harvest) The DCTF recommends any delay to a January 1 be adjusted to January 4 (harvest) to accommodate the New Years holidays (i.e., processors are closed on Jan 1). (2u,11s,3d,a)

(Legislature)(Rulemaking Schedule): Ask Legislature to require CDFW to have a rulemaking schedule for CCR, T14 - Informed by DCTF(15u,1s,d,a)

(CDFW can do)(Alt Gear): Allow folks using alt gear in the spring to use the full stack of gear (6u,8s,2d,a)

RAMP--> FINAL PROPOSAL

(Legislature)(Rulemaking Schedule): Ask Legislature to require CDFW to have a rulemaking schedule for CCR, T14 - Informed by DCTF

(16u, s, d, a)

RAMP & Lost Gear→ FINAL

(Lost Gear) The DCTF recommends CDFW determine, when there is a depth restriction in place, a means to authorize vessel(s) to retrieve ***more than*** 6 lost or derelict traps outside the fathom restriction in season. (16u,s,d,a)

Rationale:

Would require rulemaking, could be through a declaration, need to address transiting an open area under RAMP

Meeting Topics – Day 2..

- ☐ Admin items - CHARTER & EC ☒
- ☐ Omnibus bill ☒
 - ☐ Trap tag
- ☐ Seafood Competitiveness EO ☒
- ☐ RAMP + Lost Gear ☒
- ☐ Sunsetting codes
- ☐ For Executive Committee



Quality Testing -- STRAW PROPOSAL

OPTION 1: Eliminate quality testing (0u,6s,11d,a)

OPTION 2: Keep quality testing as-is (1u, 10s, 6d, a)

OPTION: Put a requirement in FGC that PSMFC provide an annual public accounting on the quality funds (u,s,d,a)

OPTION: Delay the season opener because of lack of quality testing no later than January 1. Amend January 15 (u,s,d,a)

Updates to the quality testing program?

- Can't manipulate the system to say a test is not possible
- Testing when moving out of traditional gear (RAMP, April 1) with later spring fishery

Fair Start -- STRAW PROPOSAL

OPTION 1: Status Quo (11u,1s,4d,1a)

OPTION 2: Revise fair start

OPTION 3: Eliminate

14. Review next steps and confirm topics for future discussion by the DCTF and/or the Executive Committee



Meeting Topics – Day 2...

- ☐ Admin items - CHARTER & EC ✓
- ☐ Omnibus bill ✓
 - ☐ Trap tag ✓
- ☐ Seafood Competitiveness EO ✓
- ☐ RAMP + Lost Gear ✓
- ☐ Sunsetting codes ✓
- ☐ For Executive Committee



Topics for Executive Committee Discussion 2026

- Quality testing
 - ~~64-hour~~
- Fair start
- DCTF
 - Production levels
 - Membership
- Trap Limit Program
- RAMP 3.0
 - Flexibility on start if no whales present before Jan 1
 - No whales and open Jan 1 - No reduction? Gear increase?
- Red line sunseting codes

Meeting Topics – Day 2....

- ☐ Admin items - CHARTER & EC ☒
- ☐ Omnibus bill ☒
 - ☐ Trap tag
- ☐ Seafood Competitiveness EO ☒
- ☐ RAMP + Lost Gear ☒
- ☐ Sunsetting codes ☒
- ☐ For Executive Committee ☒



Next Steps



- Elections in 2026
 - 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)

Next Steps.

- Meeting summary
- Report to the JCFA, CDFW Director, FGC - Nov/Dec 2025
- Executive Committee meetings - starting Spring 2026
- Updates DCTF email list
 - Check spam/promotions tab/folder



**Wishing you all a successful
season!**

