



March 16, 2026

Dear California Dungeness crab Commercial Permit Holder,

This letter is to request your nominations for representatives to the California Dungeness crab Task Force (DCTF). Your participation in this process is extremely important to the future of the California Dungeness crab fishery. The representative(s) elected from your home port will communicate your views on the fishery's management and develop recommendations for the California Legislature, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and California Fish and Game Commission (FGC). **Please email or mail the enclosed Nomination Form by April 24, 2026 (details below).**

Fish and Game Code Section 8276.4 requires elections be held to ensure that the Dungeness crab fishery is adequately and appropriately represented in the management of the fishery. DCTF commercial fishing elections are being administered by the California Ocean Protection Council in coordination with CDFW. Commercial fishermen will be elected to the DCTF by their peers to represent their home port complexes. For more information about the composition of the DCTF, please see the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions document.

### **DCTF Election Process and Timelines**

DCTF elections shall be held every three years in each port, on a staggered basis across ports. For 2026, the ports of Eureka, Bodega Bay and Half Moon Bay will be up for re-election as well as the California non-resident permit holder seat. Elections will be carried out with two separate mailings:

**1. Mailing #1: Nomination Form** - All valid California Dungeness crab permit holders will receive a form to nominate individuals, including themselves, for the DCTF. See enclosed Nomination Form for additional details and instructions.

**2. Mailing #2: Ballot** - Ballots will be compiled from the list of nominees for the ports up for re-election in 2026 and all registered permitholders from these representative seats will receive a ballot. Votes tallied from these ballots will determine the members who serve on the DCTF.

Results of the 2026 DCTF elections will be posted on OPC's website and shared via the DCTF email listserv. Please see the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions document and Production Table document for more details.

Your involvement in the election process is extremely important to the future of the California Dungeness crab fishery. To guarantee your participation in the voting process, please email or mail the enclosed Nomination Form no later than **April 24, 2026**. If you have any questions about the DCTF or election process, please contact:

Katie Cieri, Ocean Protection Council

[Katie.Cieri@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Katie.Cieri@resources.ca.gov), 916-287-0387

or Christy Juhasz, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Region

[Christy.Juhasz@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Christy.Juhasz@wildlife.ca.gov), 707-292-2480

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Jenn Eckerle

Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy, California Natural Resources Agency  
Executive Director, California Ocean Protection Council