



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



November 15, 2019

Subject: 2019-20 Commercial Dungeness Crab Northern Season Delay Notification

Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 8276.2 (c) provides the Director with the authority to delay the December 1 commercial Dungeness crab season opening in Fish and Game Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9 (Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties) for a minimum of 15 days due to soft shell or poor quality crab conditions..

Crab quality tests conducted in northern California on November 3, 2019, indicate the crabs will not be ready for harvest on December 1, 2019. Based on these data and the interest in cooperatively managing the interstate Dungeness crab fishery, I am delaying the opening of Dungeness crab season in northern California (Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9) until 12:01 a.m. December 16, 2019. Additional crab testing will be scheduled for completion on or around December 1, 2019 to determine whether crab condition has improved, after which time an additional delay may be necessary.

Pursuant to FGC Section 8276.3 (b), the opening date in Districts 6, 7, 8 and 9 shall be preceded by a 64-hour gear setting period. Therefore, assuming there is no additional delay, crab gear may be set beginning no earlier than 8:01 a.m. on December 13, 2019.

As provided in FGC Section 8276.3 no vessel may take or land crab within Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9 during the closure period. **In addition, FGC Section 8279.1 (a) prohibits a vessel that took, possessed onboard, or landed crab from ocean waters outside of Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9 from participating in the crab fishery in Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9, for 30 days following the opening of those areas.**

Sincerely,

Charlton H. Bonham
Director