



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



June 30, 2016

Dear Dungeness Crab Vessel Permit Holder,

The 2015-16 Dungeness crab season was dramatically delayed due to the unprecedented levels of domoic acid found in crab. When the season finally opened, higher numbers of traps and gear were deployed during the spring months compared with prior seasons. Since then, NOAA Fisheries has reported an increase in whale entanglements with Dungeness crab trap gear.

The season ends south of the Sonoma/Mendocino County line on Thursday, June 30. The Department is reminding Dungeness crab fishermen that all gear must be removed by this date. Dungeness crab traps remaining in the water after this date will be considered in violation of Fish and Game Code section 8276, and may be subject to an enforcement action from the Department's Law Enforcement Division. The same requirement applies to the commercial fishery north of the Sonoma/Mendocino County line after the season closure date on Friday, July 15.

Commercial Dungeness crab fishermen should contact their local Fish and Game Warden or contact the Marine Region Headquarters during business hours at 831-649-2870 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Shuman".

Craig Shuman
Marine Region Manager

ec: David Bess
Chief / Deputy Director
Law Enforcement Division
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Penny Ruvelas
Long Beach Office Branch Chief – Protected Resources Division
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region

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