State of California Office of Administrative Law

In re: Department of Fish and Wildlife

Regulatory Action:

Title 14, California Code of Regulations

Adopt sections: 131 Amend sections: Repeal sections: NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY REGULATORY ACTION

Government Code Sections 11346.1 and 11349.6

OAL Matter Number: 2016-0722-01

OAL Matter Type: Emergency Readopt (EE)

This is the second readopt of an emergency regulatory action by the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the closure of certain areas of the commercial rock crab fishery. This emergency action includes modification of the emergency text to allow partial openings of the affected rock crab fishery. Closures shall remain in effect until the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, in consultation with the Director of the California Department of Public Health, determines that domoic acid levels in these crabs no longer pose a significant risk to public health.

OAL approves this emergency regulatory action pursuant to sections 11346.1 and 11349.6 of the Government Code.

This emergency regulatory action is effective on $\frac{8}{2}$ and will expire on $\frac{11}{1}$ The Certificate of Compliance for this action is due no later than $\frac{10}{31}$.

Date: August 1, 2016

Beverly Deputy

For:

Original: Charlton Bonham Copy: Craig Martz : Debra M. Cornez Director

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PROPOSED TEXT OF REVISED EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

Section 131, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read as follows:

§ 131. Dungeness Crab and Rock Crab Emergency Closure.

(a) Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 7715(a), the director prohibits all take or possession of Dungeness crab (Metacarcinus magister) under a commercial fishing license from any ocean waters of the state north of the Sonoma/Mendocino county line (Latitude 38° 46.1'N) and all rock crab (rock crab, Cancer antennarius, yellow crab, Cancer anthonyi, and red crab, Cancer productus) under a commercial fishing license from any ocean waters of the state north of the Piedras Blancas Light Station (Latitude 35° 40'N). Take or possession of rock crab under a commercial fishing license is also prohibited in ocean waters of the state between Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands within the area bounded by straight lines between the following points in the order listed:

• 34º 7.75' N. lat. 120º 0.00' W long.;

34° 7.75' N. lat. 119° 50.00' W long.;

• 33° 53.00' N. lat. 119 ° 50.00' W long.;

• 33° 53.00' N. lat. 120° 0.00' W long.;

• 34º 7.75' N. lat. 120º 0.00' W long. Pigeon Point, San Mateo County, (37º 11' 00" N lat.

This prohibition is due to domoic acid levels in Dungeness crab or rock crab that pose a significant risk to public health as determined by the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), in consultation with the Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The department shall notify the general public of all season delays or closures via the notification process as follows:

(1) Notification of Closed Waters: The department shall give the public and commercial fishermen immediate notice of any season delay or closed waters pursuant to this Section via a department news release, maintain a list of open and closed ocean waters of the state and update that list on Wednesday of each week by 1:00 pm. It shall be the responsibility of any commercial fisherman prior to taking Dungeness or rock crab to use the telephone number provided below or to go to the department's website at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Health-Advisories to obtain the current status of any ocean water. The number to call for information is (831) 649-2883.

(b) Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 7715(b), the opening of any ocean waters closed under subsection Fish and Game Code Section 7715(a) shall become operative

when the Director of OEHHA, in consultation with the Director of CDPH, determines that a health risk no longer exists and notifies the director with a request to reopen the commercial fishery, and the director complies with notification provisions in this subsection. The director shall notify commercial fishermen and the general public of all re-opened waters via the notification process as follows:

(1) Notification of Re-Opened Waters: The department shall give the public and commercial fishermen no less than seven calendar days' notice of any re-opened waters pursuant to this Section via a department news release and will update the list of open and closed ocean waters in subsection (a)(1) <u>above</u>. The department may coordinate with the commission regarding this seven day notification period to ensure an orderly fishery balancing recreational and commercial participation. It shall be the responsibility of any commercial fisherman prior to taking Dungeness or rock crab to use the telephone number provided below or to go to the department's website at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Health-Advisories to obtain the current status of any ocean water. The number to call for information is (831) 649-2883.

(c) This emergency action supersedes the commercial fishing seasons established by Fish and Game Code sections 8276 and 8282.

(d) This emergency closure constitutes a delay pursuant to state law in the opening of the season for purposes of Fish and Game Code Section 8279.1.

Note: Authority cited: Section 7715, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 7715, 8276, 8279.1 and 8282, Fish and Game Code.