



November 29, 2016

Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When will CDFW open an area that is currently closed due to domoic acid?

A: CDFW will open the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in an area that is closed due to domoic acid when it receives a request to open the fishery from the Director of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment who, in consultation with the Director of the California Department of Public Health, has determined that a health risk no longer exists in an area where an enforceable boundary can be established. CDFW will continue to pursue its goal of opening as much area to commercial crab fishing as quickly as it can.

Q: What will the notification and presoak periods be for the opening in a portion or all of District 7 and a portion or all of the area that is currently closed in District 10?

A: CDFW will use the presoak provisions outlined in CA Fish and Game Code Section 8283 as the basis for the notification period and will provide for additional time, as needed, to ensure the presoak safely begins in the morning during daylight hours. The additional time provided will depend on the timing of receipt of the request from the Director of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to open the fishery. CA Fish and Game Code Section 8283(a) provides for a 64 hour presoak in Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9, and Section 8283(b) provides for an 18 hour presoak in all Districts outside of 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Q: Because of the season delays in Oregon and Washington, would a person who has fished in California waters prior to the opening of those states' seasons be subject to fair start provisions?

A: A person fishing in California waters prior to the opening of the delayed season in Oregon and Washington would be subject to the 30 day fair start provisions set forth in CA Fish and Game Code section 8279.1.

Q: If a person fished the California District 10 opener would they be allowed to participate in the December 2016 opener in Oregon, even though the closure is not a quality closure, but a domoic acid closer?

A: A person fishing in California waters prior to the opening of the delayed season in Oregon and Washington would be subject to the 30 day fair start provisions set forth in CA Fish and Game Code section 8279.1. Section 8279.1 does not differentiate as to the reason for the delay in the opening of the crab season in Oregon or Washington.