



December 20, 2016

Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When does the 18 hr pre-soak time start in the opening section of District 10 (approximately from Salt Point to Gualala), and when can I start pulling my pots?

A: Fishermen may start soaking traps in the remaining section of District 10 beginning at 8:00 AM on the 23rd of December. Fishermen may start fishing (pulling pots) at 2:00 AM on the 24th of December.

Q: When does the 64 hr pre-soak time start in the opening sections of District 7 (approximately from Gualala to Pt. Arena and from Shelter cove to the north jetty at Humboldt Bay Entrance), and when can I start pulling my pots?

A: Fishermen may start soaking traps in the opening sections of District 7 beginning at 8:00 AM on the 23rd of December. Fishermen may start fishing (pulling pots) at 12:01AM on the 26th of December.

Q: When the closed section in District 10 opens (approximately from Salt Point to Gualala) who can fish there and how does fair start apply?

A: Any person may immediately take, possess onboard, or land Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in all open areas in District 10. The fair start provisions of section 8279.1 do not apply as there was no delay in the opening of the season in District 10.

Q: When the northern and southern parts of District 7 open, who may fish there and how does fair start apply?

A: Any person who has NOT previously taken, possessed onboard, or landed Dungeness crab for commercial purposes anywhere in California, Oregon, or Washington would not be subject to the fair start provisions of 8279.1, and may immediately take, possess onboard, or land Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in the open parts of District 7. Any person who HAS taken, possessed onboard, or landed crab in any part of these three states must wait 30 days before they may take, possess onboard, or land Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in the open part of District 7. Any person subject to the 30 day fair start delay for District 7 may not take, possess onboard, or land Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in any part of District 7. Persons NOT subject to the 30 day fair start provision in District 7 who have taken crab from an open area in District 7 can transit and land that crab in any closed area of District 7

Q: When can those subject to the 30 day fair start delay in District 7 start fishing?

A: A person subject to the 30 day fair start delay in District 7 may start fishing at 12:01 AM on the 25th of January, 2017.

Q: When the remaining closed section of District 7 (approximately from Point Arena to Shelter Cove) opens, who may fish there and how does fair start apply?

A: Any person who was able to legally fish the open parts of District 7 may fish the remaining closed section as soon as it opens. Any person who was subject to the 30 day fair start delay in District 7 must wait until 12:01AM on the 25th of January, 2017 to take, possess onboard, or land Dungeness crab in the remaining closed section. If the remaining closed section of District 7 opens after 12:01AM on the 25th of January, 2017, no additional delays apply and any person may fish that section as soon as it opens.

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 prohibited from landing those crab in Oregon or Washington?

A: A person who took, possessed onboard, or landed Dungeness crab for commercial purposes 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, subdivision (c). This provision prohibits a California commercial crab fisherman that has taken, possessed onboard, or landed Dungeness crab anywhere in California from taking, possessing onboard, or landing crab in Oregon or Washington before the 30 day fair start delay has expired. Doing so puts their California permit in jeopardy pursuant to section 8279.1, subdivision (e).