



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
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December 22, 2017

Dungeness Crab Season Delay Notification – Date Revision

Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 8276.2 (c) provides the Director with the authority to delay the December 1 season opening, due to soft-shell or poor quality crab conditions, in Fish and Game Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9 (Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties) to a date no later than January 15, 2018.

A third round of crab quality tests conducted in northern California on December 19, 2017 indicated the crabs would not be ready for harvest on December 31, 2017, and I am further delaying the opening of the Dungeness crab season in northern California (Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9) a final 15 days until 12:01 am January 15, 2018.

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, crab gear may be set no earlier than 8:01 am on January 12, 2018.

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.** For additional information on the quality testing and application of FGC Section 8279.1, please see the [FAQs](#) released by the Department.

Sincerely,

Charlton H. Bonham
Director