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

Conserving California’s Wildlife Since 1870