



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DECLARATION OF FISHERIES CLOSURE
DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT
CAUSED BY ELEVATED LEVELS OF DOMOIC ACID IN ROCK CRAB
Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I find and declare that

I.

On November 8, 2016, the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), in consultation with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommended that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) close the commercial rock crab fishery north of Pigeon Point, San Mateo County due to elevated levels of the neurotoxin domoic acid in rock crab tissue samples. Subsequently, CDFW submitted to the Office of Administrative Law an emergency rulemaking to close the commercial rock crab fishery north of Pigeon Point.

II.

Under authority granted by Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I sequentially opened portions of the closed area from Pigeon point, San Mateo County to Sonoma/Mendocino County line (38° 46.1' N. Lat.), after receiving recommendations from OEHAA on February 10, 2017, January 16, 2018, and March 29, 2018, that rock crab in those waters no longer pose a significant human health risk due to elevated levels of domoic acid,

III.

On April 20, 2018, the Director of OEHAA in consultation with the State Public Health Officer at the CDPH determined that rock crab in waters from the Sonoma/Mendocino County line to near the Mendocino/Humboldt County line at 40° 00.00' N. Lat. no longer pose a significant human health risk due to elevated levels of domoic acid and recommended opening the commercial rock crab fishery in this area.

IV.

THEREFORE, under the authority granted by Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I am opening state waters between the Sonoma/Mendocino County line (38° 46.1' N. Lat.) and 40° 00.00' N. Lat. near the Mendocino/Humboldt County line. The commercial rock crab fishery closure enacted on November 8, 2016, remains in effect in all state waters north of 40° 00.00' N. Lat. to the California/Oregon border.

This closure will remain in place until I am notified by the public health agencies named above, that a health hazard with regard to rock crab no longer exists.

Charlton H. Bonham
Director

4/20/18 12 noon pm

Date/Time