



October 24, 2018

Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery Updates to Vessel Size Restrictions - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When does the new language regarding updated vessel size restrictions go in to effect?

A: The new language is already in effect. [Fish and Game Code Section 8280.3](#) was amended regarding vessel size restrictions for Dungeness crab vessel permits with the passage of urgency bill [SB1310, which was signed by the Governor on September 21, 2018](#). An urgency bill means this new statute goes in to effect right away.

Q: What are the implications of the new amended language regarding the length overall measurement?

A: The owner of a Dungeness crab vessel permit may update the length overall of the permitted vessel by submitting a marine survey conducted by a licensed marine surveyor. This marine survey should state the length overall of the vessel and that the measurement was based on the distance between the forward-most and after-most points on the hull of the vessel and does not include attachments fixed to the stern and bow. Once submitted, the permit will be updated with the new length overall measurement.

Q: Where should I submit the marine survey and how long do I have to submit-it?

A: The survey can be submitted to Ruth Flores at the Department's License Revenue Branch on or before March 31, 2020.

Q: Do I have to submit a marine survey? What are my options?

A: No. If you choose not to submit a survey to update the baseline length overall, it will default to the vessel length that is on record with the Department as the length overall for the vessel for which the permit was originally issued.

Q: If I choose to submit a new survey will I still be allowed a one-time 5-foot vessel length increase on my permit?

A: Yes. If a permit's baseline length overall is updated by a marine survey, the permit can transfer to a replacement vessel not to exceed 5 feet in length overall.

Q: What happens if my marine survey reflects a length overall that is less than what is currently recorded on my permit?

A: The Department will use what is currently on record as the baseline length overall. The permit length will only update with a marine survey that reflects a greater length.

Q: Why did the Department decide to do this?

A: The recent legislation was recommended by the industry advisory group, the Dungeness crab task force (task force), to address inconsistent measurements that were taken on permitted vessels and the lack in some cases of no vessel size being recorded for some permits. Wanting to maintain the vessel size dynamics within the fleet, the task force established overall length as a baseline measurement and a set date when all permits would have to be updated with this length.