



November 1, 2018

2015-16 Crab Fisheries Disaster Relief - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is total amount of money declared for the California 2015 and 2016 crab disaster relief?

A: The total money for this disaster relief is set at \$25,642,484, this was updated in October 2018 from a previous amount following a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA’s) adjustment to state awards.

Q: Where can I find information on the distribution of crab disaster relief?

A: Distribution of funds and rationale for disbursement were described in CDFW’s Spending Plan Proposal sent to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Council (PSMFC), the federal agency responsible for disbursement, on September 7, 2018:
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=161149&inline>.

The following summary shows the proposed distribution of disaster funds to California Dungeness and rock crab fisheries under the direct payment portion of the disaster relief fund:

Total Disaster Funds	\$25,642,484
Mitigation (10%)	\$2,564,248
Direct Payment (89%)	\$22,821,811
PSMFC overhead (1%)	\$256,425

Summary of the direct payment portion to affected crab industry sectors:

Direct Payment	\$22,821,811
Dungeness crab (97%)	\$22,137,156
Fishermen (64%)	\$14,167,780
Processors (Buyers/Receivers) (33%)	\$7,305,262
CPFVs (3%)	\$664,115
Rock Crab (3%)	\$684,654
Fishermen (67%)	\$458,718
Processors (Buyers/Receivers) (33%)	\$225,936

Q: How do I apply for this crab disaster relief?

A: No application is necessary. Funds will automatically be distributed to individuals/businesses using contact information on file.

Eligible owners of permits, vessels and/or business licenses should ensure their contact information is up to date in the CDFW's Automated Licensing Data System (ALDS). They can contact CrabDisaster@wildlife.ca.gov to verify this information or Ruth.Flores@wildlife.ca.gov to update this information.

Q: Am I eligible for crab disaster relief as a Dungeness crab vessel permitholders and how do you determine payment to each permitholder?

A: Owners of a Dungeness crab permit in 2015 and 2016 that also have a recent history of landings activity relative to the disaster season are eligible for disaster relief. Permits that made at least one landing in any of the three fishing seasons prior to the disaster season (2012-2013, 2013-2014 or 2014-2015) or in the two seasons immediately following the disaster season (2016-2017 or 2017-2018) are eligible.

Reimbursement for each owner of a Dungeness crab permit will be equally divided and weighted by the trap tier of their permit so that each owner of a Dungeness crab vessel permit in each tier will receive the same payment.

Q: Am I eligible for crab disaster relief as a Dungeness crab processor/buyer/receiver and how do you determine payment to each business owner?

A: An owner of a fish business that was licensed in 2015 and 2016 and has Dungeness crab receiving history of at least a cumulative total of 1,000 pounds during 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 fishing seasons are eligible.

Reimbursement for each qualifying licensed business owner will be calculated by the cumulative pounds of Dungeness crab received between these three seasons. The distribution of funds will be individually proportioned to each qualifying fish business license owner based on their cumulative pounds relative to the total pounds received by all qualifying licensed businesses.

Q: Am I eligible for crab disaster relief as a commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) owner and how do you determine payment to each vessel owner?

A: An owner of a CPFV license in 2015 and 2016 with at least ten cumulative trips, as determined by CPFV daily logbook entries containing Dungeness crab, between the seasons of 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 is eligible.

Reimbursement for each qualifying CPFV license owner will be calculated by determining the number of cumulative trips a vessel took between these three fishing

seasons and binning the number of logs into one of three activity levels - ≥ 100 , 99-50, and 49-10 trips. Reimbursement will be weighted by overall contribution representative of each group so that all CPFV license owners in each group will receive the same payment.

Q: Am I eligible for crab disaster relief as a rock crab permit holder and how do you determine payment to each permit holder?

A: An owner of a northern or southern rock crab permit in 2015 and 2016 that made a minimum cumulative total landings of 1,000 pounds between 2012 and 2014 in blocks 102-568, 683-691, 706-714 and 1037-1042 is eligible.

Estimated reimbursement for each qualifying owner was determined by taking the cumulative pounds of landings in these affected blocks over these three years and binning them into one of six groups: $\geq 500,000$, 499,999 - 400,000, 399,999 - 300,000, 299,999 - 100,000, 99,999 - 30,000 and 29,999 - 1,000. Reimbursement will be weighted by overall contribution representative of each group so that all owners of a rock crab permit in each group will receive the same payment.

Q: Am I eligible for crab disaster relief as a rock crab processor/buyer/receiver and how do you determine payment to each business owner?

A: An owner of a fish business that was licensed in 2015 and 2016 and has rock crab receiving history with a minimum cumulative total of 1,000 pounds between 2012 and 2014 in blocks 102-568, 683-691, 706-714 and 1037-1042 is eligible.

Reimbursement for each qualifying licensed business owner was based on the cumulative pounds of rock crab received in these affected blocks over these three years and binning them into one of six groups: $\geq 350,000$, 349,999 - 200,000, 199,999 - 150,000, 149,999 - 100,000, 99,999 - 50,000 and 49,999 - 1,000. Reimbursement will be weighted by overall contribution representative of each group so that all owners of a rock crab permit in each group will receive the same payment.

Q: How do I verify my landings/logbook information with the Department?

A: If you are the owner of the permit, vessel or business license, you can request Department landings/logbook information using the following form:
<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=143258>

Q: What is the timeline for disbursement and what steps can I take in the meantime to ensure I receive payment?

A: PSMFC is in the process of preparing documentation to submit CDFW's Spending Plan Proposal, in addition to other Federal West Coast fisheries disaster proposals, to

the NOAA Grants Office. These monies could be made available for disbursement as early as January 1, 2019.

In the meantime, eligible owners of permits, vessels and/or business licenses should ensure their contact information is up to date in the CDFW's Automated Licensing Data System (ALDS). They can contact CrabDisaster@wildlife.ca.gov to verify this information or Ruth.Flores@wildlife.ca.gov to update this information.

Q: What are the criteria for the request for proposals under the mitigation portion of the disaster relief fund and timeline for funding proposals?

A: CDFW's spending plan allocates 10% for mitigation (\$2,564,248 million) with up to 50% of this funding going towards competitive research grants and directed grants with the intention to improve resiliency of the crab fleets to future domoic acid events. Request for proposals could include research topics that support the development of predictive modeling tools, socioeconomic assessments, human dimensions of fleet behavior, as well as the ecological cycling of domoic acid. Consideration of any proposed research will also be weighted by feasibility of conducting work within the four-year timeframe that funding would be available. The remaining 50% of the mitigation funding would be used to improve the state's testing capabilities of crab for domoic acid.

The Department intends to solicit request for proposals as soon as grant funding becomes available on or around January 2019. The Department will establish a stakeholder advisory group to help develop criteria and priorities for use of the mitigation funds.

Any new updates regarding disaster relief will be posted to the following CDFW website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/crab.