



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 DECLARATION OF LIFTING 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 north to the Mendocino/Humboldt County line (40° 00.00' N. Lat.), after receiving recommendations from OEHHA on February 10, 2017, January 16, 2018, March 28, 2018, and April 20, 2018.


III.

On May 23, 2019, the Director of OEHHA in consultation with the State Public Health Officer at CDPH determined that rock crab in waters from near Cape Mendocino, Humboldt County (40° 30.00' N. latitude) to the north jetty at the Humboldt Bay entrance (40° 46.15' N. latitude) including all ocean waters of Humboldt Bay 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 the commercial rock crab fishery in waters from 40° 30.00' N. latitude (near Cape Mendocino, Humboldt County) north to the north jetty at the Humboldt Bay entrance (40° 46.15' N. latitude) including all ocean waters of Humboldt Bay. The closure enacted on November 8, 2016 remains in effect in all waters from the Mendocino/Humboldt County line (40° 00.00' N. latitude) north to Cape Mendocino, Humboldt County (40° 30.00' N. latitude) and from the north Humboldt jetty (40° 46.15' N. latitude) to the California/Oregon border (42° 00.00' N. latitude).

This closure shall 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

May 23, 2019 / 10:57 am pst
 Date/Time