



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Director's Office
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



November 20, 2020

Subject: 2020-21 Dungeness Crab Northern Season Delay Notification

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) for a minimum of 15 days.

Crab quality tests conducted in northern California on October 27 and November 12, 2020, did not meet the minimum poundage for a valid test under the Tri-State testing protocol. Based on the lack of data and the interest in cooperatively managing the interstate Dungeness crab fishery, I am delaying the opening of Dungeness crab season in northern California (Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9) until 12:01 a.m. December 16, 2020. Additional crab testing will be scheduled for completion on or around December 1, 2020 to determine whether a valid sample of crab can be obtained and tested for meat quality.

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, assuming there is no additional delay, crab gear may be set beginning no earlier than 8:01 a.m. on December 13, 2020.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Bonham".

Charlton H. Bonham
Director