



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
DECLARATION RESCINDING FISHERIES DELAY DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH  
THREAT CAUSED BY ELEVATED LEVELS OF DOMOIC ACID IN SPINY LOBSTER

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I find and declare that

I.

On September 22, 2023, the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in consultation with the State Public Health Officer at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) determined that spiny lobster in areas of Los Angeles and Orange counties contained unhealthy levels of domoic acid and recommended delaying the opening of the commercial and recreational spiny lobster fisheries in the affected areas.

II.

On September 22, 2023, under the authority granted by Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I declared a delay of the commercial and recreational spiny lobster fisheries in areas of Los Angeles and Orange counties.

III.

On October 12, 2023, OEHHA in consultation with the State Public Health Officer at CDPH determined that the consumption of spiny lobster from the affected areas off Los Angeles and Orange counties no longer poses a significant human health risk due to elevated levels of domoic acid.

IV.

**THEREFORE**, under the authority granted by Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I am rescinding the delay and opening the commercial and recreational spiny lobster fisheries in the following areas:

- 1) The commercial fishery will open one hour prior to sunrise on Wednesday, October 18 in state waters between the following coordinates: east of 118° 30.00' W. longitude and west of 118° 0.00' W. longitude and north of 33° 40.00' N. latitude and south of 33° 50' N. latitude. Commercial traps set in this area may be baited starting one hour prior to sunrise on Tuesday, October 17.

Until commercial traps are allowed to be baited on October 17, the following requirements and restrictions apply. Commercial vessels shall be allowed to transit through the area with spiny lobster in possession, provided they are continuously traveling through this area without stopping and carrying onboard

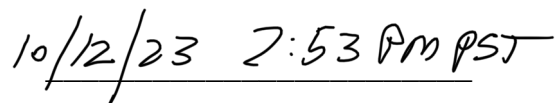
an electronic monitoring system actively recording the vessel's location using GPS coordinates for all fishing trips. Electronic monitoring data must be made available to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife upon request for the duration of the delayed fishing period. Vessels may possess lobsters in the closed area when tied to a dock or slip, or when anchored for emergency purposes.

Commercial traps may be placed within the delay area under the following restrictions:

- a. Traps may be placed within the area only if the doors to such traps are wired open, the trap is unbaited, the buoy remains at the surface of the ocean, and no attempt is made to take spiny lobsters.
  - b. Pursuant to C.C.R. Title 14 section 122.2(d), all traps placed within the area must be serviced at intervals not to exceed 168 hours.
  - c. When servicing traps within the area, no spiny lobster may be on board the vessel or in possession.
- 2) The recreational fishery will open at 6:00p.m. on Friday, October 13 in state waters outside marine protected areas which prohibit lobster take between the northern boundary of the Point Vicente SMCA and the westernmost point of the Long Beach Breakwater. The area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted: 33° 44.800' N. lat. 118° 24.807' W. long.; 33° 44.800' N. lat. 118° 28.931' W. long.; thence southeastward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to 33° 40.384' N. lat. 118° 10.850' W. long.; and 33° 45.640' N. lat. 118° 10.850' W. long.



Charlton H. Bonham, Director



Date/Time