



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DECLARATION OF FISHERIES CLOSURE
DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT
CAUSED BY ELEVATED LEVELS OF DOMOIC ACID IN DUNGENESS CRAB

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

I.

On October 30, 2024, the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment in consultation with the State Public Health Officer at the California Department of Public Health determined that Dungeness crab in state waters from the California/Oregon border (42° 0.0' N. latitude) south to the southern boundary of the Reading Rock State Marine Reserve (41° 17.6' N latitude) pose a human health risk due to elevated levels of domoic acid and recommended closure of the recreational Dungeness crab fishery in the affected area.


II.

THEREFORE, under the authority granted by Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I am ordering a recreational Dungeness crab fishery closure in state waters from the California/Oregon border (42° 0.0' N. latitude) south to the southern boundary of the Reading Rock State Marine Reserve (41° 17.6' N latitude). State waters extend three nautical miles beyond outermost islands, reefs and rocks.

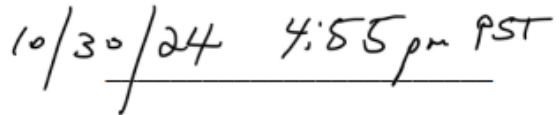
No Dungeness Crab may be taken in the closed area. Recreational vessels may transit through the closed area with Dungeness crab in possession taken from outside the closed area, provided no fishing gear is deployed or placed in the water AND the vessel adheres to the electronic monitoring requirements as follows:

All vessels must have an operational electronic monitoring system affixed to their vessel and must be recording location while transiting through the closed area. Electronic monitoring systems must be capable of tracking and recording vessel location using GPS coordinates at a frequency of no less than once a minute while transiting. Electronic monitoring data shall be made available to the department or authorized agent upon request.

The closure will remain in place until I am notified by the public health agencies named above, that a health hazard regarding Dungeness crab no longer exists.



Charlton H. Bonham, Director



Date/Time