



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Director's Office
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



December 6, 2024

Subject: 2024-25 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 could not be conducted in northern California due to high levels of domoic acid in crab collected at one of the port locations. The Tri-State Testing Protocol states that if test fishing is not able to be completed, the season must be delayed. Without quality testing data and in the interest of cooperatively managing the interstate Dungeness crab fishery, I am delaying the opening of Dungeness crab season in Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9 until 12:01 a.m. December 31, 2024. Additional crab testing may be scheduled for completion around December 15, 2024 to determine whether crab condition has improved, after which time an additional delay may be necessary.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CH Bonham", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charlton H. Bonham
Director