



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.) and from Cape Mendocino (40° 30.00' N. Lat.) north to Humboldt Bay entrance (40° 46.15' N. Lat.) including Humboldt Bay, after receiving recommendations from OEHHA on February 10, 2017, January 16, 2018, March 28, 2018, April 20, 2018, and May 22, 2019.

III.

On April 23, 2025, the Director of OEHHA in consultation with the State Public Health Officer at CDPH determined that the consumption of rock crab taken in waters from the north jetty at the Humboldt Bay entrance (40° 46.15' N. Lat.) to the California/Oregon border (42° 00.00' N. Lat.) no longer poses 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 the north jetty at the Humboldt Bay entrance (40° 46.15' N. Lat.) to the California/Oregon border (42° 00.00' N. Lat.). The closure enacted on November 8, 2016 remains in effect in all waters from the Mendocino/Humboldt County line (40° 00.00' N. Lat.) north to Cape Mendocino, Humboldt County (40° 30.00' N. Lat.).

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

4/24/25 12:30 PM PST

Date/Time