



Gavin Newsom, Governor
Yana Garcia, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Kristina Thayer, Ph.D., Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charlton H. Bonham, Director
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

FROM: Kristina Thayer, Ph.D. 
Director Kris Thayer (Oct 23, 2025 15:17:46 PDT)

DATE: October 23, 2025

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO DELAY THE OPENING OF THE
RECREATIONAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY IN BIOTOXIN
MANAGEMENT AREAS A, B, C, AND D, FROM THE
SONOMA/MENDOCINO COUNTY LINE TO THE CALIFORNIA/OREGON
BORDER (MULTIPLE COUNTIES)

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), in consultation with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), has determined that consumption of Dungeness crab from Biotoxin Management Areas (BMAs) A, B, and D in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties, respectively, poses a significant threat for domoic acid exposure. OEHHA, in consultation with CDPH, therefore recommends that the opening of the recreational Dungeness crab fishery be delayed in state waters from the Sonoma/Mendocino County Line (38° 46.125' N. latitude) north to the California/Oregon border (42° N. latitude) (i.e., BMA's A – D), based on elevated levels of domoic acid in the viscera and meat of Dungeness crab collected from this region and analyzed by state laboratories.

This recommendation also includes state waters in BMA C, an area for which there are no currently available crab data, because it is located between BMAs B and D where recent crab samples contained domoic acid levels that exceed federal action levels. A table presenting the results of domoic acid analysis in crab samples collected from the Northern California coastal region is shown below.

OEHHA strongly recommends that non-commercial shellfish harvesters continue to follow all [CDPH marine biotoxin quarantines and health advisories](#), including those for Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxins. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CDPH, and OEHHA will continue to collect, monitor, and analyze Dungeness crab to determine when the recreational Dungeness crab fishery in BMAs A through D (Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties) can be re-opened safely. If you have questions, please contact me at Kris.Thayer@oehha.ca.gov or Dr. Wesley Smith at Wesley.Smith@oehha.ca.gov. Kristina Thayer

Most Recent Dungeness Crab Sampling Results

BIOTOXIN MANGEMENT AREA (BMA)	PORT	COLLECTION SITE	SAMPLE COLLECTION DATE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	TISSUE TYPE	SAMPLE RESULTS: RANGE DOMOIC ACID (ppm)	AVERAGE LEVEL DOMOIC ACID (ppm)	% OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL*
BMA A	Crescent City	George Reef	9/25/25	6	viscera	7.7 – 100	45	67%
				4	meat	7.7 – 30	16	25%
		Klamath River	9/25/25	6	viscera	3.1 – 31	22	17%
				1	meat	11	nan	0%
BMA B	Trinidad	Trinidad Lagoons	9/24/25	6	viscera	9.7 – 130	35	17%
				1	meat	95	na	100%
		Trinidad Head	9/24/25	6	viscera	10 – 180	58	50%
				3	meat	17 – 79	43	67%
BMA D	Fort Bragg	Manchester Beach	10/15/25	6	viscera	<2.5 – 110	33**	33%

*The action level for viscera >30 ppm and for meat is ≥20 ppm.

**Non-detect (<2.5 ppm) included as zero in the calculation of the average.

na = not applicable

cc: June Weintraub, Sc.D.
 Deputy Director, Center for Environmental Health
 California Department of Public Health
 1500 Capitol Avenue, Suite 520
 Sacramento, California 95814

Charlton H. Bonham, Director

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Melissa Miller-Henson

Executive Director

California Fish and Game Commission

715 P Street, 16th Floor

Sacramento, California 95814