



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

DATE: December 12, 2025

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO OPEN THE RECREATIONAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY IN BIOTOXIN MANAGEMENT AREAS A, C, AND D, FROM THE CALIFORNIA-OREGON BORDER TO READING ROCK AND CAPE MENDOCINO TO THE SONOMA-MENDOCINO COUNTY LINE (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 meat from Biotoxin Management Areas (BMAs) A, C, and D in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties, respectively, no longer poses a significant threat for domoic acid exposure. OEHHA, in consultation with CDPH, therefore recommends opening the recreational Dungeness crab fishery in state waters of BMA A from the California-Oregon border (42° N. latitude) south to Reading Rock State Marine Reserve (41° 17.6' N. latitude), and BMAs C and D from Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N. latitude) south to the Sonoma-Mendocino County Line (38° 46.125' N. latitude).

OEHHA recommends that the recreational Dungeness crab fishery opening delay remain in effect for all waters of BMA B from Reading Rock State Marine Reserve (41° 17.6' N. latitude) south to Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N. latitude) until such time as two consecutive clean sets of samples, collected at least one week apart, show that the closed areas can be opened safely.

These recommendations are based on levels of domoic acid in the viscera and meat of Dungeness crab that were collected from these areas and analyzed by CDPH laboratories. 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. If you have questions, please contact me at Kris.Thayer@oehha.ca.gov or Dr. Wesley Smith at Wesley.Smith@oehha.ca.gov.

Dungeness Crab Sampling Results

BIOTOXIN MANAGEMENT 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%
		Re-test #1 11/15/25	6	viscera	<2.5 – 17	5.9	0%
		Re-test #2 11/28/25	6	viscera	4.7 - 13	6.9	0%
	Klamath River	9/25/25	6	viscera	3.1 – 31	22	17%
			1	meat	11	na	0%
		Re-test #1 11/15/25	6	viscera	4.6 – 19	12	0%
		Re-test #2 11/28/25	6	viscera	3.6 – 56	22	33%
			2	meat	12, 16	14	0%
		BMA B: Trinidad	Trinidad Lagoons	9/24/25	6	viscera	9.7 – 130
1	meat				95	na	100%
Re-test #1 11/11/25	6			viscera	9.5 – 100	40	50%
	3			meat	17 – 34	24	67%

BIOTOXIN MANAGEMENT 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 B: Trinidad	Trinidad Head	9/24/25	6	viscera	10 – 180	58	50%
			3	meat	17 – 79	43	67%
	Trinidad Head	Re-test #1 11/11/25	6	viscera	16 – 33	25	17%
			2	meat	11,12	12	0%
BMA B: Eureka	LP Eureka	11/09/25	6	viscera	5.3 – 42	21	33%
			2	meat	11, 15	13	0%
		Re-test #1 11/29/25	6	viscera	3.0 – 30	12	0%
			1	meat	10	na	0%
	Eel River	11/09/25	6	viscera	13 – 23	18	0%
BMA C: Fort Bragg	Usal	10/23/25	6	viscera	<2.5 – 29	8.8**	0%
BMA D: Fort Bragg	Manchester Beach	10/15/25	6	viscera	<2.5 – 110	33**	33%
			2	meat	4.1, 26	15	50%
		Re-test #1 11/10/25	6	viscera	<2.5 – 6.8	3.9**	0%
		Re-test #2 11/22/25	6	viscera	2.8 - 36	9.9	17%
			1	meat	9	na	0%

*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

Charlton H. Bonham, Director

December 12, 2025

Page 4

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