



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



December 19, 2025

Subject: 2025-26 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 to a date no later than January 15.

Crab quality tests in northern California could not be completed due to elevated levels of domoic acid. 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 am January 15, 2026, pending domoic acid testing requirements being met.

Pursuant to FGC Section 8276.3 (b), the opening date in Districts 6, 7, 8 and 9 shall be preceded by a 64-hour gear-setting period. Therefore, crab gear may be set no earlier than 8:01 am on January 12, 2026, pending domoic acid testing requirements being met.

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 "C. Bonham", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Charlton H. Bonham
Director