



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

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Valerie Termini, Acting Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**FROM:** Kristina Thayer, Ph.D.  
Director

**DATE:** January 8, 2026

**SUBJECT:** RECOMMENDATION TO DELAY THE OPENING OF THE  
COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY IN BIOTOXIN  
MANAGEMENT AREA B FROM READING ROCK TO CAPE  
MENDOCINO (HUMBOLDT COUNTY)

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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 Area (BMA) B in Humboldt County poses a significant threat for domoic acid exposure. OEHHA, in consultation with CDPH, therefore recommends the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery be delayed in state waters of BMA B from Reading Rock State Marine Reserve (41° 17.6' N. latitude) to Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N. latitude).

These recommendations are based on levels of domoic acid in the viscera 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 BMA B 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](mailto:Kris.Thayer@oehha.ca.gov) or Dr. Wesley Smith at [Wesley.Smith@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:Wesley.Smith@oehha.ca.gov).

**Dungeness Crab Sampling Results for BMA B**

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*
Trinidad	Trinidad Lagoons	9/24/25	6	viscera	9.7 – 130	35	17%
			1	meat	95	na	100%
		Re-test #1 11/11/25	6	viscera	9.5 – 100	40	50%
			3	meat	17 – 34	24	67%
		Re-test #2 12/5/25	6	viscera	7.4 - 24	17	0%
		Re-test #3 12/14/25	6	viscera	3.0 – 11	7.0	0%
	Trinidad Head	9/24/25	6	viscera	10 – 180	58	50%
			3	meat	17 – 79	43	67%
		Re-test #1 11/11/25	6	viscera	16 – 33	25	17%
			2	meat	11,12	12	0%
		Re-test #2 12/5/25	6	viscera	12-62	27	33%
			2	meat	7.9, 18	13	0%
		Re-test #3 12/13/25	6	viscera	5.7 – 23	11	0%
		Re-test #4 12/29/25	6	viscera	3.9 – 32	15	17%

PORT	COLLECTION SITE	SAMPLE COLLECTION DATE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	TISSUE TYPE	SAMPLE RESULTS: RANGE DOMOIC ACID	AVERAGE LEVEL DOMOIC ACID (ppm)	% OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL*
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%
		Re-test #2 12/6/25	6	viscera	3.4 - 48	15	17%
			1	meat	11	na	0%
		Re-test #3 12/14/25	6	viscera	6.8 – 20	12	0%
		Re-test #4 12/29/25	6	viscera	3.2 – 12	7.7	0%
	Eel River	11/09/25	6	viscera	13 – 23	18	0%

\*The action level for viscera >30 ppm and for meat is  $\geq 20$  ppm.

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

na = not applicable

cc: June Weintraub, Sc.D.  
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