

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)

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 or Dr. Wesley Smith at 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%

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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 >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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