



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
VALERIE TERMINI, Acting Director



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 DECLARATION OF FISHERIES DELAY
 DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT
 CAUSED BY ELEVATED LEVELS OF DOMOIC ACID IN DUNGENESS CRAB
 Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I find and declare that

I.

On January 8, 2026, the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment in consultation with the State Public Health Officer at the California Department of Public Health determined that Dungeness crab in state waters from the southern boundary of the Reading Rock State Marine Protected Areas (41° 17.6' N. latitude) south to Cape Mendocino (40° 10.0' N. latitude) pose a human health risk due to elevated levels of domoic acid and recommended a delay of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the affected area.

II.

THEREFORE, under the authority granted by Fish and Game Code Section 5523, I am ordering a commercial Dungeness crab fishery delay in waters from the southern boundary of the Reading Rock State Marine Protected Areas (41° 17.6' N. latitude) south to Cape Mendocino (40° 10.0' N. latitude).

1. Except as provided, commercial take and possession of Dungeness crab is prohibited in these waters due to a public health hazard. Vessels shall be allowed to transit through the public health delay area with Dungeness crab in possession, provided they are continuously transiting. For purposes of this section, "continuous transit" is defined as transiting through any closed area on a heading as close as practicable to a direct route, without stopping or delaying, and maintaining speeds greater than three knots at all times during transit. All fishing gear shall be stowed and secured in such a manner that it is rendered unusable, ensuring that traps do not contain bait inside or have bait attached.
2. Pursuant to Section 132.8(g)(3)(A), Title 14, California Code of Regulations all vessels must have onboard a satellite or cellular based electronic monitoring system designed to monitor location and movement of vessels using global positioning system (GPS) coordinates.
3. Vessels may possess Dungeness crab in the delayed area when tied to a dock, slip, permanent mooring, or when anchored for emergency purposes. Commercially harvested Dungeness crab taken legally outside the delay area may be held in receivers inside harbors within the delay area, landed, and sold as long as the receivers are tied or fixed securely to a dock, slip, or permanent mooring.

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The delay will remain in place until I am notified by the public health agencies named above, that a health hazard regarding Dungeness crab no longer exists.

DocuSigned by:

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Valerie Termini, Acting Director

1/8/2026 2:27 PM

Date/Time