

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 23, 2026

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

*David Edwards*  
David Edwards (Jan 23, 2026 12:57:32 PST)  
for Kristina Thayer

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 no longer poses a significant threat for domoic acid exposure. OEHHA, in consultation with CDPH, therefore recommends opening the commercial Dungeness crab fishery 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).

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**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<br>11/11/25 | 6                 | viscera     | 9.5 – 100                               | 40                              | 50%                                  |
|          |                  |                        | 3                 | meat        | 17 – 34                                 | 24                              | 67%                                  |
|          |                  | Re-test #2<br>12/5/25  | 6                 | viscera     | 7.4 – 24                                | 17                              | 0%                                   |
|          |                  | Re-test #3<br>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<br>11/11/25 | 6                 | viscera     | 16 – 33                                 | 25                              | 17%                                  |
|          |                  |                        | 2                 | meat        | 11,12                                   | 12                              | 0%                                   |
|          |                  | Re-test #2<br>12/5/25  | 6                 | viscera     | 12-62                                   | 27                              | 33%                                  |
|          |                  |                        | 2                 | meat        | 7.9, 18                                 | 13                              | 0%                                   |
|          |                  | Re-test #3<br>12/13/25 | 6                 | viscera     | 5.7 – 23                                | 11                              | 0%                                   |
|          |                  | Re-test #4<br>12/29/25 | 6                 | viscera     | 3.9 – 32                                | 15                              | 17%                                  |
|          |                  |                        | 1                 | meat        | 7.5                                     | na                              | 0%                                   |

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|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Trinidad | Trinidad Head   | Re-test #5<br>1/11/26  | 6                 | viscera     | 7.4 – 21                          | 11                              | 0%                                   |
|          |                 | Re-test #6<br>1/18/26  | 6                 | viscera     | <2.5 – 14                         | 6.8                             | 0%                                   |
| Eureka   | LP Eureka       | 11/09/25               | 6                 | viscera     | 5.3 – 42                          | 21                              | 33%                                  |
|          |                 |                        | 2                 | meat        | 11, 15                            | 13                              | 0%                                   |
|          |                 | Re-test #1<br>11/29/25 | 6                 | viscera     | 3.0 – 30                          | 12                              | 0%                                   |
|          |                 |                        | 1                 | meat        | 10                                | na                              | 0%                                   |
|          |                 | Re-test #2<br>12/6/25  | 6                 | viscera     | 3.4 - 48                          | 15                              | 17%                                  |
|          |                 |                        | 1                 | meat        | 11                                | na                              | 0%                                   |
|          |                 | Re-test #3<br>12/14/25 | 6                 | viscera     | 6.8 – 20                          | 12                              | 0%                                   |
|          |                 | Re-test #4<br>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 is &gt;30 ppm and for meat is ≥20 ppm.

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

na = not applicable

cc: June Weintraub, Sc.D.

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Valerie Termini, Acting Director

January 23, 2026

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