



October 22, 2013

Frequently Asked Questions: Trap Limit Regulations

The Dungeness crab trap limit program is in effect beginning with the upcoming 2013-14 commercial Dungeness crab season. Recently added sections 132.1-132.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) outline procedures to participate in the program:

Beginning with the 2013 Dungeness crab season, every Dungeness crab trap aboard a permitted Dungeness crab vessel and fished in California waters shall have a valid tag attached to the Dungeness crab trap and a valid tag assigned to that vessel attached to the buoy (§8276.5 of the Fish and Game Code and §132.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations).

No Dungeness crab permitted vessel shall possess, use, control, or operate any Dungeness crab trap without a buoy tag assigned to that vessel (§132.2, Title 14, CCR).

A Dungeness crab trap used in compliance with this section shall only be used for the commercial take of Dungeness crab (§132.1, Title 14, CCR).

The following answers clarify these regulations and address concerns to remain in compliance with the program:

Can I sport crab from a commercially permitted vessel?

Only with a valid CPFV license and only during the commercial season in the area you are fishing. No other recreational take of Dungeness crab is allowed from a commercially permitted vessel. In Districts 6 and 7 Dungeness crab vessels with a CPFV license may fish under the provisions of their CPFV license until the close of the recreational season.

I have both a Rock crab permit and a Dungeness crab permit, when can I fish?

You are prohibited from setting trap gear for 30 days prior to the pre-soak of the area you are fishing. After the authorized presoak time you may set gear. You may retrieve gear upon the season opening.

Can I take spare traps aboard my boat if I don't use them?

No. You may possess up to six (6) derelict traps aboard your vessel. Derelict traps are traps that have been damaged, abandoned or otherwise found at sea while conducting normal fishing operations.

Do I have to fish all of my traps?

No, but you must purchase all of your allocated buoy tags. You can fish as many traps as you want up to but not exceeding your tier allocation.

Can I contract out for another vessel to set my traps?

You may contract for another “unpermitted” vessel to deploy your traps under the authority of §8280.7 of the Fish and Game Code.