

October 8, 2013

Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Petition to Change the Dungeness Crab Limit on CPFV to conform to Sport Regulation

1) *The substance or nature of the regulation change requested;* Currently, there are two separate rules for limits for recreational anglers for Dungeness Crab. This is confusing to anglers, depending on where they are and who they crab with. There are different size and possession limits for anglers in 5 of 58 counties in California.

2) *The reason for the request:* There is no TAC on crab. Of 58 counties in California, only 5 have a restriction on the number and size of Dungeness crab anglers may take on a CPFV. This is confusing to anglers and creates a financial burden on CPFV operators in those five counties. This also creates a situation where private boaters seek additional passengers to crab with to offset their costs of the day, citing the ability to take 10 on a private boat versus 6 on a CPFV. This also sets up a system where if you can afford your own boat or know someone who has a boat, you are entitled to more of the resource than if you only have access to a charterboat (CPFV). There should be no reason for the conflicting personal limits taken on a charter boat versus a private boat. The size and possession limits for Dungeness crab take under a Sportfishing license should be uniform. It should not depend on whether an angler crabs from a CPFV, or certain county in the state for a private boat. A Dungeness crab taken under a Sportfishing license is a Dungeness crab taken under a sportfishing license.

3) Please amend Section 29.85, Title 14, CCR Crabs. As follows: *See Strike through*

(a) Dungeness crabs (Cancer magister):

(1) Closure: Dungeness crab may not be taken from or possessed in if taken from San Francisco Bay and San Pablo Bay, plus all their tidal bays, sloughs and estuaries between the Golden Gate Bridge and Carquinez Bridge.

(2) Open season:

(A) Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties: From the Saturday preceding December 1 or December 1 when it falls on Saturday through July 30.

(B) All other counties: From the Saturday preceding the second Tuesday in November through June 30.

(3) Limit: Ten, ~~except in Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties, when fishing aboard a commercial passenger fishing vessel required to be licensed pursuant to Section 7881 and/or Section 7920, Fish and Game Code, the limit is six.~~

(4) Not more than 60 crab traps are authorized to be used to take Dungeness crab from a vessel operating under authority of a Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel License issued pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 7920.

(5) Traps and trap buoys by a {add recreational or} commercial passenger fishing vessel to take Dungeness crab under authority of this Section and Section 29.80 shall have the commercial boat registration number of that vessel affixed to each trap and buoy.

Edit to reflect:

1. Prohibit retention of females (presently legal in the sport fishery).
2. Require use of "rotten cotton" on traps (not presently required).
3. Require that pots be labeled with the owner's name and contact information.
4. Prohibit pulling pots (not your own) without the owner's written permission.
5. Conforming the 10-crab limit to all sport anglers. Presently, there is an exception for recreational anglers on Bay Area party boats, who are limited to six crab.
6. The 5.75" minimum size for the recreational fishery would be unchanged.

(6) No vessel that takes Dungeness crabs under authority of this section, or Section 29.80, shall be used to take Dungeness crabs for commercial purposes.

(7) Minimum size: Five and three-quarter inches measured by the shortest distance through the body from edge of shell to edge of shell directly in front of and excluding the points (lateral spines); ~~except in Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties, when fishing aboard a commercial passenger fishing vessel required to be licensed pursuant to Section 7881 and/or Section 7920, Fish and Game Code, the minimum size is six inches~~ measured by the shortest distance through the body from edge of shell to edge of shell directly in front of and excluding the points (lateral spines).

Regards,

Capt Tom Mattusch  
Huli Cat