

October 18, 2013

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President Mike Sutton
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 9th St., 13th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Sutton:

On behalf of my client, the Coastside Fishing Club, this letter is respectfully submitted.

As you know, the Coastside Fishing Club has requested (in a letter to the Commission on October 9, 2013) certain changes to the recreational Dungeness Crab fishery regulations that we would like to see in effect for the start of the season in November, 2014.

Specifically, Coastside requests:

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 commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFVs), who are limited to six crab.
6. Conforming the 5.75" minimum size throughout the recreational fishery. Presently, crab on CPFVs have a minimum size of 6".

Coastside requests that the Commission add this request to the rulemaking calendar for your December meeting. Further, Coastside requests that the Commission direct your staff to work with the Department of Fish and Wildlife staff toward an effective date for the regulatory change of November, 2014 and, if necessary, include the updated regulations in the supplemental regulation booklet published when the salmon regulations are finalized.

With a prohibition of the retention of females and the "rotten cotton" requirement thereby limiting "ghost fishing," Coastside supports this change as a resource conservation effort. And while Coastside knows that it is already against the law to take traps belonging to another, we believe that requiring the owner's name and contact information on the pots will assist enforcement of existing law.

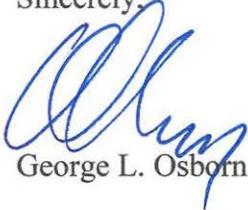
GEORGE L. OSBORN

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And, finally, Coastside asks why there is any inconsistency in recreational Dungeness Crab regulations for fishermen on board CPFVs in Mendocino, for example, and San Francisco? It would seem that while focusing on the resource conservation measures Coastside is proposing, a clean-up of these inconsistent regulations is a relatively simple matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



George L. Osborn

cc: Charleton Bonham, Director, CDFW (by hand delivery)
Craig Shuman (by email to craig.shuman@wildlife.ca.gov)
Peter Kalvass (by email to peter.kalvass@wildlife.ca.gov)
Dungeness Crab Task Force (by email to rachelle@strategiearth.com)