



## Coastside Fishing Club

P.O. Box 5928  
Napa, CA 94581

April 24, 2014

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Charlton H. Bonham  
Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1416 Ninth Street , 12th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Action Needed to Place Sport Crab Regulations on Commission's June Calendar

Dear Director Bonham:

In 2013, the Coastside Fishing Club petitioned the California Fish and Game Commission to revise regulations for the recreational take of Dungeness crab. The Department persuaded the Commission that the proposed changes needed to be run through the Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF). The DCTF has 23 voting members, almost entirely from the commercial crabbing industry. There are two representatives of recreational license holders. Department staff and others serve as non-voting members and advisors.

At its meeting held April 22 and 23, 2014, the DCTF voted unanimously to return Coastside's proposal to the Commission:

- Per the Commission's direction, the DCTF has discussed the Coastside Fishing Club proposal. The DCTF feels strongly that these issues need to be vetted through and decided on by the Commission with input from CDFW and members of the sport fleet.

The DCTF also voted unanimously that the current two-tiered recreational bag limits and minimum sizes should end:

- The DCTF agrees that there should be a uniform bag limit and minimum size for the sport fishery throughout California. However, the details of this should be decided on by the Commission with input from CDFW and the sport fleet.

Currently, there is a different and more restrictive bag limit and minimum size applied to anglers on a commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) from Sonoma to Monterey Counties. These restrictions do not apply to CPFVs north of Sonoma County or to private boaters statewide. There is no resource protection issue whatsoever to justify these varying regulations, which should be eliminated.

Coastside understands that the Commission is prepared to take action on Coastside's proposal provided, however, that the Department requests the matter be placed on the agenda for the Commission's June meeting. This would permit the proposal to be included on the regulatory calendar in August.

Even if the Department and Commission timely act on Coastside's proposal, it will be over a year, November 2015, until the changes take effect. Delaying action, however, would further delay the changes to November 2016 or later.

Coastside Fishing Club thanks the Department for its efforts at the DCTF. We look forward to seeing this matter placed on the Commission's June agenda.

Respectfully submitted,



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cc: California Fish and Game Commission