



**Notice of Proposed
Regulation Changes to
Recreational Dungeness Crab Fishery
and Crab Trap Requirements for seasons:
2015-16 & 2016-17**

**Fish and Game Commission Meeting:
April 8, 2015
Santa Rosa**

**Presented by:
Christy Juhasz,
Environmental Scientist,
Marine Region**



Coastside Fishing Club Proposal

- Request size and bag limits be uniform throughout the state
- Currently CPFVs from Sonoma to Monterey counties limits are:
6 crab per day at a minimum of 6 inches
- All other anglers allowed daily bag: 10 @ 5.75 inches



Coastside Fishing Club
P.O. Box 5928
Napa, CA 94581

October 9, 2013

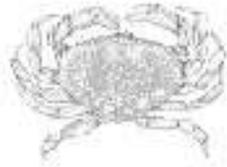
BY HAND DELIVERY

President Michael Sutton
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Sutton:

Coastside Fishing Club asks that the Fish & Game Commission make changes to regulations governing the take of Dungeness crab by recreational anglers. The requested changes are:

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



~California Dungeness Crab Task Force~

<http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/>

Dungeness crab Task Force Meeting

Ukiah, California

April 22-23, 2014

DCTF agrees that there should be uniform bag and minimum size limits for the sport fishery throughout California.

<http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/>



Proposed Changes to be Considered for 2015-16 season

- Remove Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV) from Sonoma to Monterey counties exception language in Section 29.85, Title 14, CCR to read:
§29.85. CRABS.
 - (a) Dungeness crabs (*Cancer magister*)
 - (3) Limit: Ten.
 - (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).
- Technical fix to clarify location of Point Arguello in Santa Barbara County under crab traps



Proposed Changes to be Considered for 2016-17 season

Additional proposed changes to support a more orderly fishery to be effective August 1, 2016:

- Require crab traps to have one destruct device
- Requires crab trap buoys and that each buoy identify the owner with their GO ID number
- Prohibit crab traps from being deployed in ocean waters seven (7) days prior to opening of Dungeness crab season



Proposed Changes to be Considered for 2016-17 season

§29.80. GEAR RESTRICTIONS.

(c) Crab traps:

(1) Crab traps shall have at least two rigid circular openings of not less than four and one-quarter inches...

(2) Starting August 1, 2016, crab traps shall contain at least one destruct device of a single strand of untreated cotton twine size No. 120 or less that creates an escape opening in the top or upper half of the trap of at least five inches in diameter when the destruct attachment material corrodes or fails.



Summary of Recreational Dungeness Crab Fishery Proposed Regulations

- Make size and daily bag limit uniform statewide for 2015-16 season
- Clarify location of Pt. Arguello
- For 2016-2017 season:
 - Require destruct device on crab traps
 - Require buoys that identify the owner of the crab trap with GO ID number
 - Prohibit crab traps from being deployed 7 days prior to Dungeness crab season

Recreational Dungeness crab Rulemaking Calendar

	Date	Location
Notice Hearing	April 8, 2015	Santa Rosa, CA
Discussion Hearing	June 10, 2015	Mammoth Lakes, CA
Adoption Hearing	August 4, 2015	Fortuna, CA



THANK YOU

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