

Crab Straw Proposal

Based on areas of agreement from the previous 'draft bylaws' and the Breakout groups' discussion at the 5/7/08 crab steering committee meeting, here is a straw proposal for the Crab Steering Committee's consideration:

PROCESS

Form a Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee with the following structure

I. Purpose

- a) The harvest of Dungeness crab is one of the largest in volume and value of the state's commercial fishing industry. To maintain this significant contribution to the state's economy, there is need to make regulators aware of the unique economic factors affecting the Dungeness crab fishery, and how these factors could be integrated with appropriate management measures to conserve a sustainable Dungeness crab resource. The activities made possible by the establishment of a Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee will meet this need and further the interests of the industry and the state.
- b) The establishment of a California Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee is necessary to advise and make recommendations to regulators on the conduct and needs of the commercial Dungeness Crab fishery, including maximizing the value of the crab resource, more efficient resource assessment, and effective fishery management regulations.

II. Membership

- a) A California Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee will be made up of voting members that fairly represent the broad interests of Dungeness crab permit holders by geographic area and levels of Dungeness crab production on a port and individual basis.
- b) The committee will also include non-voting members to represent the Department of Fish and Game, scientific expertise, and the public. The Director will appoint these 3 non-voting members to the committee, giving consideration to recommendations made by the committee.
- c) Permit holders will elect committee members from among those persons licensed pursuant to the Fish and Game Code to engage in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery. Based on current estimates of active boats in the fishery, the committee will consist of 19 members in these numbers from the following ports:
 - i. One (1) from California N-R permit holders
 - ii. Four (4) from Crescent City
 - iii. One (1) from Trinidad
 - iv. Three (3) from Eureka

- v. Two (2) from Ft. Bragg
- vi. Two (3) from Bodega Bay
- vii. Two (2) from San Francisco
- viii. Two (2) from Half Moon Bay
- ix. Two (1) from ports South of Half Moon Bay

- d) The above breakdown of seats per port will be re-evaluated every 5 years, and will be adjusted if numbers of active vessels in ports change significantly. Where there are even numbers of member seats from a specific port (that is, two or four), members will be elected to represent both upper and lower tiers of production specific to that port. The tiers will be determined by dividing in half the number of active vessels into upper and lower production levels. In the case of 3 member seats, the number of active vessels will be divided into thirds to reflect upper, middle, and lower production levels. An active vessel is one that has landed an total of 25000 pounds of crab over the past 5 years.
- e) A permit holder receiving the 2nd most votes for any seat is the alternate.
- f) The term of all members, alternates, and appointees on the committee will be two years from the beginning of the crab fishery season in the year of their election. Members may be re-elected or re-appointed.

II. Voting

- a) The committee will advise and make recommendations to the legislature of the State of California, and to the Tri-State Crab Committee, based on its decisions.
- b) Decisions that will have direct impact on economic well-being of fishery participants or on the state of the resource shall be made by a 2/3 majority vote of the full committee (i.e. 13). Administrative and other decisions that do not have a direct impact on the economic well-being of fishery participants shall be made based on simple majority.

MANAGEMENT / SHORT-TERM

In addition to establishing a Dungeness Crab advisory committee, SB 1690 Bill language should specify

- adoption of a control date of July 15, 2008;
- a deadline for evaluating early season management by May 1, 2009.

In the meantime, steering committee participants will work on developing a proposal to the OPC for improved data and research, including the gathering and analysis of economic data