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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 8276.4 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to read:

8276.4.

(a) The Ocean Protection Council shall provide grants, upon appropriation from the legislature, for the development and administration of a Dungeness crab taskforce. The taskforce shall consist of the following:

- (1) two members representing sport fish interests,*
- (2) two members representing crab processing interests,*
- (3) one member representing Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel interests,*
- (4) two ex-officio members representing non-governmental organization interests,*
- (5) one ex-officio representative of Sea Grant, and*
- (6) two ex-officio members representing the department.*
- (7) seventeen members representing commercial fishery interests elected by licensed persons possessing valid Dungeness crab permits in their respective ports to the Taskforce with the following allotment:*
 - (i) Four members from Crescent City.*
 - (ii) One member from Trinidad.*
 - (iii) Two members from Eureka.*
 - (iv) Two members from Fort Bragg.*
 - (v) Two members from Bodega Bay.*
 - (vi) Two members from San Francisco.*
 - (vii) Two members from Half Moon Bay.*
 - (viii) One member from ports south of Half Moon Bay.*
 - (ix) One member who has a valid California Non-Resident crab permit.*

(b) For ports with more than one representative, elected members and their alternates shall represent both the upper and lower and in some cases middle production levels. Production levels shall be determined based on the average landing during the previous five years, of valid crab permit holders who landed a minimum of 25,000 lbs of crab during the same period.

8276.5 *The Dungeness Crab Task Force shall do all of the following:*

(a) Under the guidance of professional facilitator hired by the Ocean Protection Council for this purpose, review and evaluate Dungeness crab management measures with the objective of making recommendations to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Department and Commission no later than January 15, 2010.

(b) The task force shall also make recommendations, including but not limited to, the need for a permanent Dungeness crab Advisory Committee, refining sport and commercial Dungeness crab management, establishment of a Dungeness crab marketing commission, and the need for statutory changes to accomplish task force objectives.

(c) In considering crab management options, the taskforce shall prioritize the review of pot limit restriction options, harvest allocation, current and future sport and commercial fishery effort, season modifications, essential fishery information needs, and short and long term objectives for improved management.

(d)The council may grant funding to cover department staffing costs, as well as taskforce participant travel.

(e) A preferred recommendation would be forwarded with the endorsement of at least two-thirds of the taskforce members.

(e) The task force shall cease to exist on January 1, 2011.

8276.6 Eligibility to take crab in California waters and offshore for commercial purposes may be subject to restrictions, including, but not limited to, restrictions on the number of traps utilized by that person, if either of the following occurs:

(1) A person holds a Dungeness crab permit with landings of less than 5,000 pounds between November 15, 2003, and July 15, 2008, inclusive.

(2) A person has purchased a Dungeness crab permit on or after July 15, 2008, from a permitholder who landed less than 5,000 pounds between November 15, 2003, and July 15, 2008, inclusive.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2011, and as of that date is repealed unless a later enacted statute, which is enacted before January 1, 2011, deletes or extends that date, or is rendered inoperative by commission regulations.